



South Coast Fire Protection District

P.O. Box 334 Gualala, California 95445 (707)884-4700

Minutes from the Regular Meeting on May 19, 2022

Location: 39215 Church Street, Gualala, California

1. Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order by Pete Slunaker at 4:30pm.

2. Roll Call:

Present: Chair, Pete Slunaker; Directors Chuckie Sorensen, Kevin Callanan, Rick O'Neil, and Flavia de Oliveira

3. Public Expression: 3 – minute limit person, 10 - minute total subject.

None.

4. Approval of Minutes form last meeting:

Chuckie Sorensen motioned to approved the minutes from the last meeting. Flavia de Oliveira seconded the motion. Yeas: Pete Slunaker, Kevin Callanan, Chuckie Sorensen, Rick O'Neil, Flavia de Oliveira. Nays: None. The motion passed: 5 yeas, 0 nays.

5. Financial Report:

Jason Warner gave the financial report. Maureen Carr was absent. Jason said that the 7% of our annual has been put into our reserves and we are currently standing at about \$457,000. We will be receiving one more check in August from benefit unit assessments. Approximately \$35,000 should be arriving shortly from TOT. We will also be receiving reimbursements soon from some grants.

The transition to an accounting/bookkeeping firm that specializes in governmental accounting will take place around June 1st. Maureen Carr's position will be eliminated, however she said she would be happy to help with the transition if we needed her. Patricia Swindt, CPA, is the name of the new business. Initially they said it would be about \$1,200 a month to get set up, and then they anticipate that our monthly cost would be about \$500 a month. They will not have a representative at the board meetings, but Jason said that they would put together a report and Jason would present it to us.

Pete Slunaker asked how they would handle the audits. Jason said he wasn't sure.

6. Old Business: Discussion / Action on Updates

- a) **Grant Update**—We have been spending the \$45,000 grant that we received from PG&E. We have submitted a grant through Calfire called the Rural Fire Capacity Grant, and we are continuing to work on our mapping grant. We are also seeking grant funding to purchase a commercial grade extractor.
- b) **Apparatus Update**—The dozer and transport are in service and available for response. We just signed an Assistance By Hire contract with Calfire for that equipment if they need it. Kevin Callanan asked if the contract was broken down to rates for each piece or if it was for the entire package. Jason said that the per diem rate was for the whole package. It could be loaned out “dry,” with no operator, or “wet,” with one operator or two operators, or two operators plus the dozer tender which is the fuel and one firefighter. Their dry hire rate is \$171 an hour. Their rate for the dozer and one operator is \$211/hr., and two operators

is \$250/hr. If the dozer tender and another firefighter is also hired, it comes out to \$7,636 per 24-hour period. However, he would like to strike a balance between hiring it out and keeping it here for our needs. Jason updated the board on the changes in the ABH and OES hiring agreements as well as the new rates.

- c) **AT&T Outages Update**—Kevin read the letter that we are sending to the President of AT&T, the County Supervisors and the CPUC about the recent extended and widespread outages that were experienced here without any notification from AT&T. The entire 911 system was out as well, and Jason suggested that Kevin include that in his letter. Kevin said that he would amend the letter to include Jason’s suggestion. The result we are hoping for is that we will receive notification of such extensive outages so we can roll out our emergency plan. **Chuckie Sorensen motioned to approve the letter that Kevin addressed to the President of AT&T. Rick O’Neil seconded the motion. Yeas: Kevin Callanan, Pete Slunaker, Chuckie Sorensen, Flavia de Oliveira, and Rick O’Neil. Nays: None. The motion passed, 5 yeas, 0 nays.**
- d) **Preliminary Budget Approval**—Jason went over the proposed budget. He noted that insurance went up 238%. Fuel is up substantially from last year. He explained how he approached strike team payroll taxes. **Rick O’Neil motioned to approve the preliminary budget. Kevin Callanan seconded the motion. Yeas: Rick O’Neil, Kevin Callanan, Pete Slunaker, Chuckie Sorensen, Flavia de Oliveira. Nays: None. The motion passed, 5 Yeas, 0 nays.**

7. New Business Discussion / Action

- a) **Mutual Aid Agreements**—Jason is proposing initiating a mutual aid agreement with Lake County so we can get reimbursed for responding to their incidents.
- b) **Elections**—Jason said that the district has paid the election costs of candidates that have run for a board position. Even if a board member has been reappointed there is a fee. Rick said that he would be open to reimbursing the successful candidate’s election costs, rather than paying for all of the candidates’ costs. The rest of the board members agreed. Pete said he would look into what the current election costs are, and if there is a fee involved for the board members whose term is up but wish to serve another term. Both Pete and Flavia’s terms will be up for re-election/extension next November.

8. Chief’s Report:

- Call volume has been going up
- The fire/engineer position has commenced and is working out well
- Jason was rear-ended by a distracted driver at a motor vehicle accident he had responded to. There was roughly \$15,000 of damage to the Chief’s rig, but Jason said he wasn’t hurt. The collision occurred at the beginning of the incident before they had gotten set up. Jason said all his warning lights were on. The driver of the vehicle that hit him admitted he was not paying attention. The vehicle was totaled, but the driver was uninjured.
- The credit line we applied for last year is up for renewal.
- Jason talked about Measure B, which is about extending a half cent sales tax which is due to expire this year. Jason attended the county supervisor’s meeting where they discussed the possibility of extending the sales tax and splitting it among various agencies. The measure would be on the ballot for the voters to decide in November.
- Jason is looking into establishing an employee’s assistance program to help our employees deal with some of the more emotionally challenging calls.

9. Directors Comments:

None.

10. Closed Session: Gann Update

No action taken during closed session.

11. Open Session after Closed Session:

The meeting was re-opened

12. Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 5:34pm. Next Meeting is on June 16, 2022