



South Coast Fire Protection District

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

Minutes from the Regular Meeting on July 21, 2022
Location: 39215 Church Street, Gualala, California

1. Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order by Rick O'Neil at 4:42pm.

2. Roll Call:

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

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

Kevin Evans, representing the Gualala Municipal Advisory Council (GMAC), gave a presentation on how Gualala could improve or restore its assets, such as restoration of Bower Park, by capturing the tax revenue that is being generated by our community and is currently going to support Mendocino County operations. GMAC is exploring the following scenarios: 1) Incorporating, 2) Annexation to the city of Point Arena, 3) Creating a special district just for parks. Kevin provided some details on the ramifications of each possible scenario.

Kevin Callanan asked if the possible future expansion of our fire district would be impacted by incorporation, and if incorporation would have negative tax implications for Gualala residents. Mr. Evans said it would not.

Kevin Evans said that the proposed boundaries of the incorporated city of Gualala would roughly match the fire district boundaries. Rick O'Neil asked if the town would then be responsible for maintaining all of the roads within the boundaries. Kevin responded that it would. He said that other benefits of incorporation would be that we could have resources like planning and building departments positioned locally that would improve access to services.

4. Approval of Minutes:

Kevin Callanan motioned to approve the minutes from the regular meeting on June 16th, and the special meeting on June 28th. Chuckie Sorensen seconded the motion. Yeas: Kevin Callanan, Chuckie Sorensen, and Rick O'Neil. Nays: none. The motion passed: 3 Yeas, and 0 Nays.

5. Financial Report:

Jason highlighted changes to the financial report format that the new accountant is producing. The finances of the district are currently in good shape.

6. Old Business: Discussion / Action on Updates

- a) **Grant Update**—The PG&E wildland grant is finishing up and the district should soon see a reimbursement check for approximately \$45,000 come in.
- b) **AT&T Update**—The Regional Representative for AT&T called Kevin Callanan to discuss the notifications issues we have been having with their company. She stated that AT&T was in full compliance with the PUC, and that they do provide the Sheriff's department with information on outages. She stated that the use of Nixel Alerts to notify residents of phone outages is at the discretion of the

Sheriff's department. Kevin wondered why they couldn't provide outage notices independently like PG&E does. Jason wondered if it may be more prudent to pursue getting the Sheriff's department to publish Nixel alerts for AT&T rather than have it done through AT&T. Many residents have already signed up for Nixel alerts through the Sheriff's department, and if AT&T acted independently, they would not have the outreach capability that the MCSO has already established.

- c) **Budget Update**—All posting requirements have been met for the proposed budget, and no changes have been made. The budget is ready for approval by the board.

Kevin Callanan motioned to approve the budget. Chuckie Sorensen seconded the motion. Yeas: Kevin Callanan, Chuckie Sorensen, and Rick O'Neil. Nays: none. The motion passed: 3 Yeas, and 0 Nays.

- d) **Insurance Update**—Jason said he gave notice to FAIRA on June 30th regarding discontinuing using them for our liability and vehicle insurance needs. Per the contract, they will still be carrying us through the end June 2023. He said he intends to give FASIS, our workmen's comp carrier, notice at the end of the policy period in February. Based on last year's numbers, he said Golden State Risk Management Authority should be about \$20,000 less than what we were charged by FAIRA and FASIS.

7. New Business: Discussion / Action

- a) **Surplus Equipment—7572, old skis.** As soon as the used type-1 engine is put in service, Jason wants to surplus out 7572. He also wants to surplus the two older jet skis that have significant mechanical issues. The type-3 engine will be listed with a brokerage that estimated its value starting at \$30,000.
- b) **Chuckie motioned to place 7572 and both old jet skis in surplus equipment. Kevin seconded the motion. Yeas: Chuckie Sorensen, Kevin Callanan, and Rick O'Neil. Nays: none. The motion passed: 3 Yeas, and 0 nays.**
- c) **Chief's Salary—Kevin motioned to increase the Fire Chief's salary by \$10,000 per annum. Chuckie seconded the motion. Yeas: Kevin Callanan, Chuckie Sorensen and Rick O'Neil. Nays: none. The motion passed: 3 Yeas, 0 Nays.**
- d) **Capitalization Thresholds**—Jason met with one of the county's government accounting agents who gave Jason a sample of a capitalization threshold resolution. He recommended a threshold of \$5,000, and with that, an estimate of useful life of 30 years for buildings and improvements, and 10 years for vehicles and equipment. The board members concurred with the accounting agent's recommendations.

Kevin motioned to approve the resolution to adopt a capital asset and appreciation policy to establish the capitalization threshold of, and estimate the useful lifespan of SCFPD's assets. The threshold will be set at \$5,000; and useful life span of buildings and improvements at 30 years and 10 years for vehicles and equipment. Chuckie seconded the motion to adopt the resolution. Yeas: Kevin Callanan, Chuckie Sorensen, and Rick O'Neil. Nays: none. Yeas: 3, Nays: 0. The motion passed.

8. Chief's Report:

- a) Picked up the type-1 engine in Colorado and it should be in service soon.
- b) Fire season is upon us, strike teams are out, and we've had a few mutual aid calls.
- c) Dozer training with CalFire has been going very well. We've had very positive feedback from CalFire personnel about our program.
- d) Jason has attended several road association and community meetings regarding address sign posting and defensible space and evacuation preparations. The district received a \$10,000 donation from one of the community members attending one of the meetings.
- e) We've received a lot of calls about fire insurance from residents. Many are dealing with the rising cost of insurance as well as not being able to renew their policies.
- f) Our most recent ISO review maintained our rating as a "5". Jason said that this rating is a good achievement for a rural, volunteer department.

9. Directors Comments: Kevin said that he received a communication from a spokesperson of the Enchanted Meadows Safety Committee. The committee has taken initiative in seeking to address emergency communications among group members, and fire and evacuation preparedness.

Kevin also mentioned that he was at the station one day when Chris was the only staff member at the station and was meeting with someone over the phone. Kevin said he heard someone gently tapping on the door and answered the door. A community member was there seeking information. Had he not been there, Chris may not have heard her knocking and all the apparatus bays were closed so she could not have entered the building herself. He suggested that the station be equipped with a smart doorbell that could be answered remotely, if need be, to give residents better access.

10. Closed Session: Employee Evaluations

None.

11. Open Session after Closed Session:

Not applicable.

12. Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 5:36pm. Next Meeting is on August 18, 2022