

Ross Valley Fire Board Meeting
Wednesday, May 08, 2013
Ross Valley Fire Station 19
777 San Anselmo Ave.
San Anselmo

Board Members: Weinsoff, Reed, Shortall, Berto, Kroot, Small, Hoertkorn; McInerney absent

Staff: Stutsman, Meagor, McCarthy, Hanson, Stasiowski

Call to order: 6:30pm by President Kroot

Open time:

1. **Board requests for future agenda items, questions, comments to staff, staff miscellaneous items:** Chief Meagor informed the board about the Marin County Survivor celebration and spoke on the call that RVFD was involved in that occurred at Fairfax Lumber, Craig Carroll, Helene Drumm, Brian McCarthy, Aaron Read, as well as a bystander. Celebration will be at the Jewish Community Center.
2. **Consent agenda:** M/S Weinsoff/Berto to approve all ayes.
3. **Monthly call report and out of jurisdiction report:** Month of April: Chief Meagor reviewed the report and the year to date totals. OES engine responded to So Cal last Friday and returned on Sunday. Member Small asked when the Hazard inspection program begins, Chief Meagor replied within the next few weeks. It takes approximately a month to complete the initial inspections process; Member Small asked for a list of the properties that were cited for noncompliance to have the public works departments assist in getting the property cleared. She is concerned that there is no follow-up or compliance from property owners. The Chief explained that there was a follow up process and he also went through and discussed the compliance rate over the past few years. We receive very good compliance from property owners. The Chief will review the list with the Town Managers and discuss the properties with them and any follow up that is needed.
4. **Current financial report:** Chief Meagor reviewed the current financial report. All numbers are where we expect them to be.
5. **Review of the Proposed FY 13/14 Annual Budget:** Chief explained the changes to the budget document and the recommendation is for the board to discuss and provide recommendations to staff for final budget document for approval at the June board meeting. He then went through and reviewed the budget and changes to revenues and expenditures. Proposed budget is \$8,347,188, with an increase of 1.85%; Member Hoertkorn suggested having the Board Stipend removed from the budget. Member Small spoke on the Apprentice Program and said that the previous town manager used one time funds to balance the budget, so now with increases in costs and investment losses, the Town would not be in the black if the program is funded. The council is split on the discussion and they will be discussing the program at the May 23 council meeting. On the Apparatus Fund, they would like to make it even versus having it start small and then have it increase over the years. If there is a way to have that work or if they need to

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do it internally. Chief responded that the reasoning for that was due to the current lease payments that still have two years remaining on them for the prior authority members. Member Hoertkorn spoke on the Apprentice Program and that there aren't the funds in the budget to fund the program. They would have a deficit budget if they funded the program. Member Shortall responded that he appreciated that they started the program and appreciates their issues with their budget. He stated that there is a lot of value in the program and suggests maybe reevaluating how the program works. Maybe have an apprentice work over the four stations, and evaluate the program over the years, that way the program doesn't die, keeps future hires for the department. And that the stationing of the person would be at the discretion of the chief and for the benefit of the department. Asked if there can be discussion at the next meeting.

Chief Meagor spoke on the changes to the apprentice program and that a single apprentice would be a different program. Having three apprentices would be a better program. He will bring back an analysis on the changed apprentice program.

Member Berto spoke on the responses of the department and how having four stations and two personnel on the engine work well for medical emergencies and how in a fire situation the system works very well because the equipment and personnel arrive in a timely manner to fight the fire.

Executive Officer Stutsman said that the cost increases were about as much as the San Anselmo finances could handle. She added that Town Manager Toy of Fairfax also commented to her that the increase was as much as the Fairfax finances could handle.

Chief Meagor added, in response to Member Berto's comments, that in 2005 the Department did a Standards of Cover survey that was completed and that our stations are located where they should be; however the response times were a concern. Stations are placed for fire and medical and staffed more for medical and are understaffed to handle the fires. Even on medical emergencies they are becoming more of a challenge, they are requiring more staffing to successfully respond and handle those calls.

Next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, June 12, 2013, at Ross Valley Fire Department, 777 San Anselmo Ave., San Anselmo.

Minutes respectfully submitted,



JoAnne Lewis
Administrative Assistant