

ROSS VALLEY FIRE DEPARTMENT

Minutes of the Ross Valley Fire Board Meeting of December 8, 2021

Note: These are summary action minutes only. The zoom recording can be accessed by clicking [here](#)

1. 6:30 pm Call to order. Announce action in closed session, if any.

Board Present: Hellman, Kuhl, Shortall, Finn, Goddard, Burdo, Greene, Brekhus

Board absent:

Staff present: Weber, Yeager

Town Managers Present: Politzer, Donery, Johnson

Agenda – December 8, 2021

2. Open time for Public Expression: The public is welcome to address the Board on matters not on the agenda. Please be advised that pursuant to Government Code Section 54954.2, the Board is not permitted to take action on any matter not on the agenda unless it determines that an emergency exists and that the need to take action arose following the posting of the agenda.

None

3. Board requests for future agenda items, questions, and comments to Staff, staff miscellaneous items.

Dir. Goddard would like a discussion surrounding dangerous wood-burning devices for heating purposes and different types of generators to guide residents. Chief Weber responded that we could provide additional resources to the Towns.

No public comment concerning this item.

4. Chief Report – Verbal Update by Chief Weber

Emergency Preparedness Coordinator: Chief Weber reported that we have extended an offer to one of the candidates and are going through the background process. This person will be working with all the Towns and Fire District.

MWPA: Chief Weber reported that we have are making significant progress with the evacuation projects and have hired a retired Battalion Chief as a project manager to work as the liaison for the Department and the residents. Chief Weber mentioned that the countywide MWPA grant program with about \$500k funding available would go live on December 13, 2021. He also talked about the \$1.1M CALFire grant for fuel reduction work in Fairfax, San Anselmo, and Ross.

Goddard asked about the area where the projects are, and Chief Weber responded it would be the access and egress roads.

No public comment concerning this item.

- 5. Consent Agenda: Items on the consent agenda may be removed and discussed separately. Discussion may take place at the end of the agenda. Otherwise, all items may be approved with one action.**

Dir. Brekhus and Greene requested to have *item d* removed.

5d. Approve Minutes of the November 10, 2021, Board meeting

Brekhus asked if the minutes could be sent as a separate pdf to make any changes if needed and then send it to the RVFD Administrative Assistant to avoid going over them during the Board meeting. Greene and Brekhus requested some grammatical changes to the minutes. Additionally, Brekhus requested to have individual pdfs for each item, and Greene responded that he prefers the packet and that all the pages are numbered. Perhaps this item could be agendized to discuss any changes needed.

No public comment concerning this item.

M/S Burdo/Brekhus – roll call vote, all ayes approved with the corrections as stated by Brekhus and Greene.

6. Review of draft JPA Amendments and Labor Side Letter related to the Ross Fire Station, provide direction to Staff

***For detailed information regarding this item, please refer to the zoom video recording and staff report. ***

Chief Weber summarized item six and the creating process. The goal was to keep it as simple as possible and reflect what the Board decided at the November 10 meeting. Chief Weber asked the Board to review the documents to ensure they reflect the Board's decision from the previous session. The item contains the JPA amendments and a side letter for Labor; these two documents would come back to the Board for ratification after being reviewed by each Town's and Fire District's council.

Dir. Burdo had some questions regarding the timing and the process for the shared cost for stat19 (anticipated budget). Chief Weber responded that the RVFD Board does not take any actions for this item and that the Board has to agree that the documents reflect the Board's discussions and decisions. Chief Weber added that there is no rush in finalizing this item right away, but Staff would prefer to have the current Fire Board decide since they have been involved in the process

from the beginning. Regarding the anticipated budget question, Chief Weber responded that they would be focusing more on that process in the upcoming month to add more details.

San Anselmo Town Manager Dave Donery explained the process to determine the shared cost for sta19 once sta18 closes and staff moves West. Greene asked if Donery and Johnson had spoken about when the process would start and when the budget would be formulated and approved. Donery responded that they had not had that discussion yet.

Brekhus said that after speaking with Christa Johnson (Ross Town Manager) and Dir. Kuhl, they did not have enough time to review and discuss this item and would like more details regarding the 27% shared cost for sta19 and the savings portion of the amendments. In addition, Brekhus would like to have more time to review it with their city attorney. Greene agreed with Brekhus regarding her request for more time.

Greene asked for feedback from the other Board members. Goddard asked what section six meant. Greene responded that it means that the documents do not have to be signed by everybody at the same time in the same place. Goddard also agreed with Brekhus requesting time to consult with their attorneys. Further, Greene and Brekhus talked about Brekhus's request for more details and data for the shared cost.

Greene and Donery talked about San Anselmo's council members rotation coming up in January, and Kuhl added that Ross will not be making any rotations until July. Additionally, Greene recognized the effort staff is putting into completing this item.

Burdo reminded the Board that they are reviewing a document reflecting the decision made at the November 10 Board meeting, and they are not looking to make any changes. He added that the document reflects what the Board had voted unanimously and agreed to. Goddard asked if they could vote to put it on the record. Greene responded that he would ask for a motion, and Brekhus responded that the item was not agendized for action but as direction for Staff.

Chief Weber added that the Fire Board does not have the authority to amend the JPA and that the documents presented tonight reflect the discussions from the previous meeting. Therefore, the Board's action is to direct Staff to move forward with the JPA amendments process. However, the side letter does require action from the RVFD Board since it is under the Board's authority.

7. **Adjourn**

The next meeting is scheduled for January 12, via zoom video conferencing.

Respectfully submitted,

s/Mariana Gonzalez
Administrative Assistant