

ROSS VALLEY FIRE DEPARTMENT

Minutes of the Ross Valley Fire Board Meeting of February 9, 2022

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

1. 6:34 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, Marinelli, Zuba, Miller

Town Managers Present: Politzer, Donery, Johnson

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2. 06:35 pm: Announce Adjournment to Closed Session.

No public comment concerning this item

3. 7:05 pm: Announce action in closed session, if any.

None

4. 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

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

Dir. Greene followed up with last month's Board discussion regarding the SAFER Grant. He added that the Town of San Anselmo Council discussed it as well, and are looking for funding options should the Department receive the grant.

Dir. Goddard asked if rejecting the SAFER grant would put us at a disadvantage in any future applications. Chief Weber responded that he would cover it on his report.

Dir. Brekhus asked for a report regarding insurance cancellation and what citizens can do to prevent it.

Dir. Hellman asked about the formation of the Labor Subcommittee. Chief Weber responded that the Labor-Management Subcommittee was formed already, but tonight the President would appoint one member from each JPA member agency to serve on the Subcommittee.

Dir. Shortall reminded everyone that sta21 is not the Sleepy Hollow fire station, and that most of the emergency calls go to either San Anselmo or Fairfax and that it is an important consideration when discussing future cost.

No public comment concerning this item.

6. Chief Report – Verbal Update by Chief Weber

Insurance Cancellation: Chief Weber said that the Department does not have reports regarding cancellations or non-renewal and that the only way for us to know is if the residents reach out to us directly. However, we can help by sending an inspector to the property to do an inspection, write a letter stating they meet the fire code requirements, and that the structure is safe. Further Chief Weber mentioned that we had a presentation last year at a Board meeting, and that he would reshare it with the Board, so they can provide it to their constituent. He also said that the presentation could be updated and presented at the next Board meeting.

Emergency Preparedness Coordinator: Chief Weber introduced our new Emergency Preparedness Coordinator Miranda Miller.

Miranda Miller introduced herself to the Board and said that she is excited for the opportunity and provided her contact information.

FIRE Foundry Program: Chief Weber reported that the equity-based program to do wildfire prevention work is up and running. As previously mentioned, 12 recruits were selected (five women and seven men), and they will be working and also attending classes to obtain their associates and Firefighter I certification.

MWPA: Chief Weber reported that lots of evacuation route work is being done and that lots of core projects have been completed and we will soon start with local projects.

SAFER Grant: Chief Weber reported that we submitted the application and are now waiting to hear back from FEMA, and when we get a response, we will come back to the Board for direction. Further, Chief Weber said that FEMA specifically says that rejecting the grant won't affect us, but we can look more into it.

JPA's to Member Agencies: Chief Weber reported that the JPA amendments were distributed to all JPA member agencies; it was presented to San Anselmo, and it will now go to the other two Municipalities and Fire District before the next Fire Board Meeting.

San Diego Pilot Program: Dir. Hellman asked about the grant article she shared with Chief Weber. Chief Weber gave a brief description about the grant and said that we will monitor the

process for when it becomes available to the Marin County area. San Diego working with FEMA will fund the \$100M project to grant up to \$40k per household to make their homes more resistant to wildfire. For further information about the grant, visit the [wildfiretoday](http://wildfiretoday.com) website or wildfiremitigation.caloes.ca.gov for the application process. Dir. Goddard asked about the grant amount.

Dir. Burdo joined the meeting at 7:17 pm.

No public comment concerning this item.

7. 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. Goddard asked for clarification on Item 7d – Meeting Minutes regarding the SAFER Grant. Goddard asked for the minutes to be corrected to reflect that we did not withdrawal the application. Chief Weber clarified that the Department was not awarded the grant nor did we withdrawal the application and that the correction will be done.

M/S Greene/Burdo – roll call vote, seven ayes, one abstained. Approved with the amended meeting minutes.

No public comment concerning this item.

8. Approve Resolution 22-05 Midyear Budget Report

Deputy Director Yeager thanked San Anselmo’s Finance Director Jeff Zuba and the BCs that worked on the report.

Finance Director Zuba summarized the staff report for the mid-year budget review that was adopted in June 2021. Zuba went over some of the budget line items for the adopted and revised totals for adjustments to the revenues and expenditures.

Dir. Hellman asked about the worker’s comp reimbursement and Zuba explained that since we have some staff members out due to work related injuries, the Department was reimbursed for it. Zuba also clarified some errors on the calculations for the minimum staffing.

M/S Greene/Brekhus – roll call vote, seven ayes, one abstained.

No public comment concerning this item.

9. Appoint Board Members from each JPA Member Agency to the Labor-Management Subcommittee – Chief Weber

Chief Weber explained why the Board needed to appoint one member from each JPA member agency to the Labor-Management Subcommittee. Dir. Kuhl asked for clarification regarding the Board's action for this item. Chief Weber responded that the President had the authority to appoint Board members to the Subcommittee. Kuhl asked if there were other members previously appointed and Chief Weber responded yes.

Dir. Burdo volunteered to serve for San Anselmo; Dir. Shortall recommended that Dir. Finn serves for Sleepy Hollow; Dir. Hellman volunteered to serve for Fairfax; and Dir. Kuhl volunteered to serve for Ross. Dir. Greene recommended Burdo. Therefore, the appointments are as follows:

Kuhl for Ross, Burdo for San Anselmo, Finn for Sleepy Hollow, Hellman for Fairfax.

No public comment concerning this item.

10. Select Labor Contract Negotiator and Authorize Fire Chief to enter into an Agreement with the chosen Legal Firm - Chief Weber

Chief Weber explained that labor contract negotiations are about to start with our two represented unions; therefore, Staff recommends hiring outside counsel to manage the contract negotiations and work with the Board to reach an agreement before the current contract expires in June 30, 2022. Additionally, Chief Weber provided the rates for the three recommended firms as well as a brief summary of qualifications. The estimated total cost shall not exceed \$39k.

The Board did not have any questions, but they did have a discussion about the three options and each member provided their selection. Hellman asked about the firms' years of experience and Chief Weber provided information about their areas of expertise.

The Board selected County Counsel, County of Marin – Stephen Raab.

M/S Goddard/Brekhus – roll call vote, seven ayes, one abstained.

No public comment concerning this item.

Dir. Goddard thanked Fairfax Interim Town Manager Adam Politzer for his service and hard work since this was his last meeting.

11. Adjourn

The next meeting is scheduled for March 9, via zoom video conferencing.

Respectfully submitted,

s/Mariana Gonzalez
Administrative Assistant