

ROSS VALLEY FIRE DEPARTMENT

Minutes of the Ross Valley Fire Board Meeting of September 14, 2022

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

6:32 pm Call to order.

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

Board absent: Shortall

Staff present: Weber, Zuba, Miller, Black

Town Managers Present: Donery

Agenda – September 14, 2022

- 1. 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.

- 2. Board requests for future agenda items, questions, and comments to Staff, staff miscellaneous items.**

None.

- 3. Chief Report – Verbal Update by Chief Weber**

- **MWPA**

Cedar's textile and arts program between San Rafael, San Anselmo and Marin County is a success. Residents being served are disabled, with significant evacuation and shelter in place challenges. The Cedars group and homeowners around are extremely thankful. This was accomplished without a lot of community outreach around the project. There are still a number of residents that aren't aware of the program. As electives, please encourage them to participate, understand the scope of work and justification. Cedar's textile and arts program is impressive and exactly what MWPA was created for, to have a safer environment for evacuations and keep homes safe. Information on this project will be added to town newsletters as your tax dollars at work per Director Hellman.

- **Dispatch Services**

The Sheriff's Office do not want to mitigate fire calls anymore. 911 calls are answered for the communities of Fairfax and Ross in their Dispatch Center. The Sherriff's office mitigates calls for fire, medical transport and 911. Fire agencies are working together

on a fire Centric Dispatch Center. Once these notices are official additional information will be provided.

- **Fire Season**

There have been many fires as of recent. Ross Valley Fire Department has two engines committed for state of emergency services. All Ross Valley Fire Stations are fully staffed with ample reserve equipment. On September 13, 2022 Ross Valley Firefighters were in the Forest Hill area saving homes. Know, that the rest of the state will be there when we need their services.

Director Greene / Director Burdo – roll call vote, all aye

4. Authorize the Fire Chief to Enter into a Professional Services Agreement with Local Motion Solutions for the Leadership / Governance Study. -Chief Weber

3 companies: City Gate, Local Motion Solutions and Matrix responded to the RFP.

management team consisting of fire executive staff including Director Shortall reviewed three proposals. The group has recommended to move forward with Local Motion Solutions with a total cost not to exceed \$60,000.

The other proposal costs were City Gate \$90,000 and Matrix \$59,500.

Local Motion was chosen because the consultants provide and have an understanding of local fire services in the county, along with smaller town municipal services. Fire Chief Jim Irving is one of the fire consultants who spent his career in Southern Marin. Fire Chief Jim Irving was also part of many annexation consolidation. He is responsible for bringing the Sausalito Fire Department under the Southern Marin Fire District.

Adam Politzer spent some time as the acting city manager of Fairfax and has a long career in city management. Adam has an extensive career in municipal government and understands the county well.

Matrix lacked an understanding of what the RFP does.

This will be a very inclusive process with consistent check ins to the board.

RVFD will not be hiring a consultant to make a recommendation to us. RVFD will be hiring a consultant to review options to bring back to the board for policy level discussion and decision.

A host of options will be provided for leadership and governess.

Director Burdo stated that Local Motion owners were staffed to this board a number of years ago and staffed to one of the member agencies. Director Burdo Supports the

recommendation. Director Burdo feels good about hiring someone that understands our County. Was there any discussion about any perception issue when making the decision?

Chief Weber stated, the discussion was had with the group. The group based its decision on this being a public process with lots of public engagement. The community really needs to be included and informed thus Local Motion really has the ability to do that.

Director Goddard verbalized how wonderful it is to see Adam and Jim pop up. Jim is a neighbor she trusts. With the relationship that already exists, RVFD and the Board are going to be very well served. Director Goddard is happy to support the recommendation.

Goddard/Greene -roll call vote, all ayes except director Hellman who dropped off the call.

There will not be an August meeting.

No public comment concerning this item.

5. **Adjourn 6:56pm**

The next meeting is scheduled for September 14, via zoom video conferencing.

Respectfully submitted,

X Monique Black
s/Monique Black
Temporary Administrative Assistant