

ROSS VALLEY FIRE DEPARTMENT

Minutes of the Ross Valley Fire Board Meeting of June 12, 2024

Note: These are summary action minutes only. The zoom recording can be accessed by clicking [here](#). The passcode is Rvfd061224#

RVFD BOARD MEETING MINUTES

1. 6:30pm Call to order.

Board Present: Kircher, Robbins, Burdo, Finn, Hellman, Cutrano

Board Absents: Colbert, Shortall

Staff Present: Mahoney, Zuba, Lim

Town Managers Present: Donery, Johnson

Agenda – June 12, 2024

2. Chief Report – Verbal Update by Interim Fire Chief Mahoney

Captain Rick Addicks Memorial Service: Chief Mahoney recognized everyone who attended Captain Addicks' Memorial Service. A picture was shown of the wreaths - the purple wreath was from the Fire Board. The service was a good recognition and send out. Thank you to everyone.

Firefighter Paramedic Recruit Update: Since the last Board meeting there have been two separate rounds of interviews, with three conditional job offers made. All three recruits are going through the on-boarding process now. Updates will be provided in the coming months.

Emergency Command Center (Dispatch Center) Grand Opening: There was a good turn out. Chief Mahoney would be happy to take people on a personal tour of the space if they're interested. The first day in service is tomorrow, Thursday, June 13, 2024.

Human Resources Support: Future agenda item that will be brought back in July or August. The Department does not have a designated human resources officer that specializes in human resources functions. We're currently exploring the idea of a contract with the Town of San Anselmo, similar to our finance contract.

Incidents Over the Last Month:

Pavement Grinder - Rolled into Marin Municipal Water District Pump House. Knocked down power lines. Grinder operator was able to jump off the machine before it rolled off the embankment. Lots of stakeholders involved. The incident lasted for 5 days. Good showing of teamwork to mitigate the situation with no injuries and minimal environmental impact.

Tesla Battery Fire in Woodacre - Vehicle accident with two occupants trapped inside while the lithium ion battery was burning. Dumped about 17,000 gallons of water on the battery. Crews and engines had to do extensive decontamination due to the heavy metal exposure in the smoke.

Oak Avenue San Anselmo Structure Fire - Detached unit above a two story garage. Hose extended 150 feet up the driveway. No occupants in the building. The fire spread was contained to the origin building.

Update on Fairfax Structure Fire in April - Crews arrived on scene and found a medical emergency, not a fire. The patient was in cardiac arrest and was revived. The patient is doing very well and visited the fire station to thank the firefighters for their services.

Directors Burdo, Cutrano, and Kircher all had questions that stemmed from the Tesla car battery fire incident. Burdo asked if there have been any discussions about how to deal with these types of fires and

what the best approach is. Cutrano asked if there is a way to cultivate or develop information that can be included on RVFD's website and shared with local officials, so they know how to respond to residents if asked. Kircher asked if it would be possible to generalize on the relative risk in terms of ignition between a gas vehicle versus an electric vehicle. Chief Mahoney responded that we are still in the learning phase and an After Action Review is currently being done on the incident. The approach for a lot of agencies is to let it burn because it's so difficult to put out. In terms of the risk of ignition between gas and electric vehicles, it depends on the type of accident.

No public comment.

- 3. 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.**

No public comment.

M/S Hellman/Cutrano to approve consent agenda – roll call vote, six ayes: Kircher, Robbins, Burdo, Finn, Hellman, Cutrano

- 4. Receive Report and Consider the Creation of a New 40-Hour-Per-Week Battalion Chief Position with a Funding Start Date of July 1, 2024 and a Command Vehicle Purchase Funded through Undesignated Reserves – Interim Fire Chief Mahoney**

Chief Mahoney summarized the Staff Report.

Director Burdo asked what the fiscal impacts would be for the 40-Hour-Per-Week Battalion Chief going forward, beyond Fiscal Year 2024-2025. Chief Mahoney stated the 40 Hour Battalion Chief position is tied to the Battalion Chief MOU which ends at the end of FY 24/25. The cost will depend on future negotiations. Chief Mahoney also noted the fully burdened cost of the new 40-Hour-Per-Week Battalion Chief is distributed between Member Agencies based on each agency's share into the JPA.

Director Robbins asked for clarification about the 103 hours of administrative leave. Administrative leave was negotiated through the Battalion Chief MOU as a result of the Battalion Chief's giving up their overtime rights.

Director Cutrano asked if we would be able to maintain our flexibility in regards to shared service discussions with Central Marin Fire Department if we move forward with the 40-Hour-Per-Week Battalion Chief. Chief Mahoney replied yes.

The Board passed and approved the 40-Hour-Per-Week Battalion Chief Side Letter with direction to Staff to create a formal resolution for tracking purposes that would be presented at the July Board meeting.

No public comment.

M/S Burdo/Kircher to approve the Side Letter together with a request that a full resolution be created for adoption at the next Board meeting with respect to the creation of the new 40-Hour-Per-Week Battalion Chief position with a funding start date of July 1st, 2024 and a command vehicle purchase funded through undesignated reserves. – roll call vote, six ayes: Kircher, Robbins, Burdo, Finn, Hellman, Cutrano

- 5. Receive Report and Consider Approval of the Fire Chief Employment Agreement with**

**Daniel Mahoney and a Command Vehicle Purchase Funded through Undesignated Reserves
– Executive Officer Dave Donery**

Executive Officer Donery summarized the Staff Report.

No comments or questions from the Board.

No public comment.

M/S Burdo/Cutrano to approve the Fire Chief Employment Agreement with Chief Mahoney and a Command Vehicle Funded through Undesignated Reserves – roll call vote, six ayes: Kircher, Robbins, Burdo, Finn, Hellman, Cutrano

6. Announce adjournment to Closed Session:

Conference with Legal Counsel

No public comment.

7. Announce action in closed session, if any:

No action to report.

No public comment.

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

The Board agreed to move Item 8 ahead of Item 6 - Closed Session

Director Cutrano requested an update on the Disaster Preparedness Coordinator position. The Fairfax Community Preparedness Committee is looking forward to the position being filled.

Director Burdo extended his appreciation and gratitude to the firefighters for responding to a bomb threat the Town of San Anselmo received for the Mayor's residence and the Town Council Chambers.

Director Hellman requested Assembly Bill 2408: Firefighter Personal Protective Equipment be added as a future agenda item and that the Board write a letter in support of AB 2408. There is also a documentary called "Burned," which goes into a lot of detail related to the science and the findings related to these chemicals in PPE. If the bill passes, PPE with PFAS will need to be replaced by 2026.

No public comment.

9. 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.

The Board agreed to move Item 9 ahead of Item 6 - Closed Session

Todd Greenberg - Request for RVFD Fire Board to notify the Town of Fairfax of the fire hazards that are being created by the Town Council's actions related to gas powered garden equipment and the homeless encampment at the Fairfax Pavilion.

10. Adjourn

The next meeting is scheduled for July 10, 2024, San Anselmo Town Council Chambers, at 525 San Anselmo Ave. San Anselmo, CA 94960, and via Zoom.

Respectfully submitted,
s/Samantha Stettler
Administrative Assistant