

ROSS VALLEY FIRE DEPARTMENT

Minutes of the Ross Valley Fire Board Meeting of July 10, 2024

Note: These are summary action minutes only. The zoom recording can be accessed by clicking [here](#). The passcode is Rvfd071024#

RVFD BOARD MEETING MINUTES

1. 6:34pm Call to order.

Board Present: Kircher, Robbins, Colbert, Burdo, Finn, Hellman (Remote), Cutrano (Remote)

Board Absents: Shortall

Staff Present: Mahoney, Zuba

Town Managers Present: Johnson, Abrams

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2. Chief Report – Verbal Update by Fire Chief Mahoney

Emergency Preparedness Coordinator Update: Draft job description is almost complete. Currently evaluating the compensation and benefits for similar positions in the County.

Incidents Over the Last Month:

- Forbes Avenue Structure Fire (San Anselmo) - Crews performed an aggressive fire attack, saving contents from the 1st floor. Family of four inside was able to escape unharmed. No firefighter injuries.
- Caleta Avenue Structure Fire (San Anselmo) - Exterior garage fire that extended into the interior structure. When crews arrived on scene, one resident was still inside. Central Marin PD assisted with rescuing the resident. No firefighter injuries.
- San Anselmo Avenue Fire (San Anselmo) - Small fire in a building that crews were able to extinguish with one engine company. The fire was deemed to be arson. Shortly after, Central Marin PD located and arrested the suspect.
 - Director Burdo asked why arson was suspected. Chief Mahoney said there were witnesses that stated they had seen the suspect in the area when the fire occurred.
- Cardiac Arrest Save from May - We were contacted by a survivor who wanted to meet the firefighters and paramedics (Photo shown on screen). He was shocked a number of times before regaining pulses and was transported to the hospital where he was provided more care. He is fully recovered at this time.
 - President Finn requested Chief Mahoney notify the RVPA about the save, so the person's name can be added to the survivors lunch or dinner.

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 Robbins/Burdo to approve consent agenda – roll call vote, seven ayes: Kircher, Robbins, Colbert, Burdo, Finn, Hellman, Cutrano. Absent: Shortall.

4. Receive an Update on Assembly Bill 2408 and Provide Direction to Staff as Necessary – Fire Chief Mahoney

Chief Mahoney summarized the Staff Report.

Director Burdo asked what the current pricing is for a set of turnouts. Chief Mahoney stated the pricing depends on the company we purchase from, but ranges between \$4,000 to \$5,000 a set, with the more expensive sets lasting longer. Fully PFAS free turnouts are not expected to have the same longevity and are still being field tested. Currently, fully PFAS free turnouts are only being used for training purposes, which Sid Jamotte is looking into for us. If we were to purchase 72 sets of almost PFAS free turnouts today, it would cost between \$288,000 and \$360,000. It's unknown what the supply and demand will be when all Marin fire agencies are required to replace turnouts with fully PFAS free ones. Chief Mahoney noted that we're also looking into different uniforms because the Class B uniforms also contain PFAS. Director Burdo expressed the importance of having discussions with RVFD personnel to get their opinion on turnout options.

Director Hellman reiterated that the origin of her request was to get this information out into the community and to set expectations that this will be something we have to plan for financially. A group is working on putting together a viewing of the documentary "Burned" to help bring more awareness to this issue. She also thought a letter of support for the bill was going to be presented at the meeting.

Discussion was had amongst Board members on writing a letter of support for the proposed bill and the majority felt it is too premature to issue a letter of support at this stage. However, they did express general support of the bill, as well as, concern for the health and wellness of the firefighters. Chief Mahoney will continue to monitor the process and status of the bill and will update the Board accordingly.

The Board discussed future funding options if the bill does go into effect. Chief Mahoney stated there are a number of ways we can finance the purchase with minimal impacts to the budget. One way would be through Undesignated Reserves or possibly a FEMA grant.

Chief Mahoney emphasized that RVFD has done a number of things over the years to prioritize the health and wellness of personnel. An additional \$25,000 was added to the health and wellness budget line item for this year's budget for increased cancer screenings. The Department has also recently approved a Post-Fire Gross Decon Policy.

Director Cutrano asked if there's a lobbyist who is tracking AB 2408 along with anything related to wildfire and firefighting in Marin County. Chief Mahoney stated IAFF has their own means of tracking and that he reached out to the Cal Chiefs Association and got information back from their legislative tracker on the status of the bill. Director Colbert shared that Marin County does have a lobbyist and offered to put Chief Mahoney in contact with this person.

No public comment.

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

No comment concerning this item.

6. 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.

No public comment.

7. Adjourn

The next meeting is scheduled for August 14, 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