



Central Fire Authority of Sonoma County

Serving the Rincon Valley & Windsor Fire Protection Districts

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Doug Williams, Fire Chief

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARDS OF DIRECTORS OF CENTRAL FIRE AUTHORITY RINCON VALLEY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT WINDSOR FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

October 21, 2014

Station 21 Meeting Room

8200 Old Redwood Hwy, Windsor, California

CALL TO ORDER

Central Fire Authority President Hamann called the meetings to order at 5:30 PM.

Central Fire Authority Directors Present: Magness, Nelson, Hamann, Mead (alternate in Pintane's absence)

Rincon Valley Fire Protection District Directors Present: Briare, Hamann, Mead, Prickett; Pintane absent

Windsor Fire Protection District Directors Present: Ahlin, Brolan, Nelson; Magness

Staff: Chief Williams

PERSONAL APPEARANCES: Captain Morris appeared, stating the minutes of the September 16, 2014 meeting do not accurately reflect the statement he read at that meeting, and he gave a copy of his statement to each director and Chief Williams (attached and made part of these minutes). He emphasized his desire to see the meeting format revised to allow interaction with the specific board conducting business.

Captain MacLean addressed the Board as the president of the Rincon Valley Professional Firefighters Association further expressing the concern of his members with the format of the meeting. He expressed his opinion that Rincon Valley should return to its previous meeting format.

CENTRAL FIRE AUTHORITY

CONSENT CALENDAR: On a motion by Director Hamann, seconded by Director Nelson, the consent calendar was approved. **4/0/0**

- Approve minutes of the September 16, 2014 regular meeting
- Bills and Warrant

ACTION ITEMS:

- Resolution 28—On a motion by Director Nelson, seconded by Director Magness, the Board adopted Resolution 28, giving notice of its intention to implement a fee schedule and calling for a hearing thereon. **4/0/0**

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- Captain MacLean reported that members of the Airport Committee attended a meeting at the airport. One new runway has been certified by the FAA; the other is closed. Planning for triennial airport drill is under way.

SAFETY REPORT: Routine safety training is ongoing.

CHIEF'S REPORT: Chief Williams reported the following:

- Call statistics in packet; nothing unusual noted.
- Moving District accounting from the County to a private bank is pending.
- Sonoma County fire services meetings are underway. Station 23 is the site of the November 5th meeting, commencing at 6:30 PM.
- An arsonist was convicted of setting several fires within the Rincon Valley district and the City of Santa Rosa, the result of a collaborative interagency investigation.
- The Mark West Chamber trade show went well.
- Construction of new fire apparatus is under way and delivery should be in the near future.
- Windsor Fire recently was the beneficiary of the Firemans Fund Day of Sharing program and an Eagle Scout project.
- The open house at Station 23 on October 11 was a success.
- Vic Pozzi passed away October 4; his funeral was Monday, October 13. Everyone stepped up admirably in organizing the fire department portion of his funeral. Vic's family was very impressed and very grateful.
- We have offered our condolences to Director Hamann and Director Plamann on the recent losses of their mothers.

RINCON VALLEY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

President Hamann presided over the Rincon Valley portion of the meeting.

CONSENT CALENDAR: On a motion by Director Mead, seconded by Director Briare, the consent calendar was approved. **4/0/1**

- Approve minutes of the September 16, 2014 regular meeting

- Resolution 880-14—Dry period funding

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

- Update on request for contract with the City of Santa Rosa was provided by Chief Williams. Chief Gossner is working on a draft request for proposal with the intent of engaging a consultant on the project. There will be a meeting on the evening of November 17, at a location to be determined, open to all interested parties.
- Discussion about the format of the meetings was conducted. The consensus was to continue the combined format and to consider some adjustments to the room configuration.

WINDSOR FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

President Nelson presided over the Windsor portion of the meeting.

CONSENT CALENDAR: On a motion by Director Ahlin, seconded by Director Brolan, the consent calendar was approved. **4/0/0**

- Approve minutes of the September 16, 2014 regular meeting
- Resolution 421—Dry period funding

ACTION ITEM

- Resolution 418—On a motion by Director Nelson, seconded by Director Brolan, the Board adopted Resolution 418, honoring Vic Pozzi for 50 years of continuous service to the fire service in Windsor.
- Resolution 420—On a motion by Director Brolan, seconded by Director Ahlin, the Board adopted Resolution 420 appointing Craig Curreri to fill the seat vacated by Director Pozzi.

President Nelson reported the Sonoma County of Board of Supervisors this morning appointed Steve Klick to the Board, to fill a vacancy resulting from insufficient candidates at the time of the nominating period. He and Steve Plamann are scheduled to be sworn in at the December 2014 meeting

DIRECTOR COMMENTS: Director Brolan thanked everyone for the great job done on Vic's funeral.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before the boards, the meeting adjourned at 6:42 PM.

Respectfully submitted,



Douglas A. Williams, Clerk of the Board

October 21, 2014

Rincon Valley Board members,

I am submitting this for your consideration in making it part of the minutes for the October 21, 2014 Rincon Valley Board meeting. I am requesting this, in that the proposed minutes from that meeting, do not correctly reflect my remarks last month's board meeting.

The current minutes state that I have a concern about a compliment made by Windsor's Director Ahlin, and that I felt it could be construed as having a negative impact on my labor group's future negotiations.

My actual concern has nothing to do with the compliment, but rather that Director Ahlin was allowed to make statements that could have been detrimental to maintaining a fair and open atmosphere for our current labor talks.

Instead of restating my opinion regarding this situation, I have attached my statement from last month's meeting.

An additional concern I had was the holding of 3 simultaneous board meetings. I stated that even as an interested observer, these meetings were confusing and seemingly disjointed. In all honesty it is hard to tell when one part ends and another begins. In the situation that occurred last month for example, had someone acted, whose responsibility would it have been to ask Director Ahlin to refrain from making any additional comments that could be detrimental to the ongoing Rincon Valley labor talks? The statements came I believe, during the Windsor portion of the meeting, in which case I expect Chairman Nelson should have acted. But then again, Director Ahlin was talking directly to the Rincon Valley Board so was it Chairman Hamann's responsibility. I hope you can see my point on this issue and give serious consideration to returning the Rincon Valley Board meeting to the more conventional process which had served well for many decades.

Once again, thank you for your time in hearing my concerns.

Respectfully,

Chuck Morris
Captain, Rincon Valley Fire District

Statement made on September 16, 2014

What was thinly veiled as a compliment to the Windsor Firefighters, quickly became a lecture to you on how to conduct negotiations with the Rincon Valley Professional Firefighters and an insult to the premise of maintaining a fair and unbiased negotiation process.

Director Ahlin, having recognized in his own comments, that there were still open negotiations going on with another employee group, continued with his denigration of my group and instructed you in regards to a creating or maintaining a dubious 15% industry standard rainy day fund.

My intent is not to debate the merits of maintaining a surplus, regardless of its size, but rather to point out the folly of holding two separate Fire Districts Board meetings simultaneously. At best it is impossible for the public to follow or you to govern properly.

You obviously have an obligation to represent the public's interests and are ultimately answerable to them. In short, you work for the public. However you also have a responsibility to look out for the rights and well being of all of the District's employees and volunteers that work for you.

Last month, by intent or simply a lack of action, you failed to do that. Director Hamann should have asked Director Ahlin to refrain from making any further statements when it became clear that they were aimed at the ongoing negotiation process. I can only imagine that that would have created an awkward moment for you and your fellow board members, but that comes with the job and is your responsibility.

I ask that you give consideration to the concept that the Rincon Valley District Board meetings be held separately once more within our Fire District as they had been up until recently. The rationale for holding these meetings at the same time was to improve efficiency. The most efficient form of government is a dictatorship. Following all those rules to protect the rights of individuals can get downright troublesome at times. Citing efficiency at the cost of being unable to maintain a Federally mandated fair and open labor relation process is not an acceptable trade off.

Respectfully,

Chuck Morris
Captain, Rincon Valley Fire District