



Sonoma County Fire District Board of Directors
Regular Board & Public Hearing Minutes
Tuesday December 12, 2023 12:00 PM
Location: Fire Station 1 - 8200 Old Redwood Hwy. Windsor

CALL TO ORDER

Tognozzi called the meeting to order at 12:00
Present for Staff: Chief Heine, Bolduc, Washington
Present for Counsel: Adams

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL

President Tognozzi- present
Vice President Treanor-present Secretary/Treasurer So-absent Director Klick-present
Director Briare-present Director Hamann-present Director Weaver-present

ACTION ITEMS

1. **ELECT PRESIDENT, VICE PRESIDENT AND SECRETARY/TREASURER; COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS**

Pursuant to Health & Safety code section 5784.7, the Board will elect officers (President, Vice President and Secretary/Treasurer), and make committee assignments.

Tognozzi nominated Frank Treanor for President, director Hamann agreed. Director Weaver nominated Frank Treanor for President, Steve Klick for Vice President, and Bob Briare for Secretary/Treasurer. The nomination was unanimous.

All Directors agreed to wait until January to make committee assignments.

OPEN TIME FOR PUBLIC EXPRESSION

None

AGENDA ADJUSTMENTS

None

SONOMA COUNTY PROFESSIONAL FIREFIGHTERS' ASSOCIATION PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Dennis Rutkowski spoke about the tax measure which was just assigned Measure H. The Toys for Kids campaign is in full swing.

DIRECTOR REPORTS

An opportunity for Directors to report on their individual activities related to District business.

None

FIRE CHIEF'S REPORT

Chief Heine reviewed the activities of the crews and events over the month. He discussed; important upcoming dates for meetings and events; 1/5/24 grand opening at Medic headquarters; next regular BOD meeting on 1/11/24; finance meeting on 1/30/24; EOA headquarters is up and running; 75 % staffed; Medic is now a member of the Santa Rosa Chamber of Commerce; Medic took



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staff to Disney Leadership in Excellence; we currently are having open recruitment for FF/Medic; Blood drive is happening in December and January; many community outreach events.

CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS

A motion by Briare and a second by Tognozzi approved the minutes from the November 21, 2023, regular meeting, meeting and the bills and payables from November 2023. 6-0-1.

ACTION ITEMS

2. **ADOPT ORDINANCE 2023-01**

The Board will consider adopting Ordinance 2023-01, an ordinance of the Sonoma County Fire District amending the District schedule of Emergency Medical Service Fees.

A motion by Weaver and seconded by Hamann adopted Ordinance 2023-01. 6-0-1, a roll call was taken.

PUBLIC HEARING

Public hearing opened at 12:23

ORDINANCE 2023-01, AN ORDINANCE OF THE SONOMA COUNTY FIRE DISTRICT AMENDING THE DISTRICT SCHEDULE OF EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICE FEES

Public hearing closed at 12:24

3. **ADOPT ORDINANCE 2023-02**

The Board will consider adopting Ordinance 2023-02, an ordinance of the Sonoma County Fire District amending the District schedule of Fire Prevention Services Fees. Presentation by Courtney Ramos, Vice President of Matrix Consulting Group.

Courtney Ramos gave a presentation about the new fees and how the study was done. Ms. Ramos was available to answer any questions.

A motion by Klick and seconded by Briare adopted Ordinance 2023-02. 6-0-1, a roll call was taken.

PUBLIC HEARING

Public hearing opened at 12:44

ORDINANCE 2023-02, AN ORDINANCE OF THE SONOMA COUNTY FIRE DISTRICT AMENDING THE DISTRICT SCHEDULE OF FIRE PREVENTION SERVICES FEES

Public hearing closed at 12:45

4. **RESOLUTION 2023-24 SET BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING DATE, TIME AND LOCATION FOR 2024**

The Board will consider adopting Resolution 2023-24, setting the date, time and location of regularly scheduled 2024 meetings of the Board of Directors.



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A motion by Hamann and seconded by Tognozzi adopted Resolution 2023-24. 6-0-1, a roll call was taken.

5. **PUBLIC PROVIDER GROUND EMERGENCY MEDICAL TRANSPORTATION INTERGOVERNMENTAL TRANSFER PROGRAM (PP-GEMT IGT)**

The Board will consider authorizing the Fire Chief or his designee to execute certifications regarding the transfer of public funds to participate in the State of California, Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) Public Provider Ground Emergency Medical Transportation Intergovernmental Transfer Program (PP-GEMT IGT).

A motion by Klick and seconded by Weaver authorized the Fire Chief or his designee to participate in the DHCS PP-GEMT IGT program. 6-0-1.

6. **APPROVAL OF ADDITIONAL CELL SITE FOR STATION 8**

The Board will consider approving the addition of a new cell site at station 8 and execute a contract amendment to our existing contract with Verizon.

A motion by Weaver and seconded by Klick approved the addition of a new cell tower at Station 8. 6-0-1, a roll call was taken.

7. **RATIFICATION OF MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING WITH GRATON FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT**

On November 21, 2023, the Board of Directors approved the MOU with Graton FPD by a 3-2 vote. However, actions of the Board require a majority of the total membership of the Board, which is at least 4 votes. The Board is requested to consider ratification of the approval of the Graton MOU, with an effective date of November 21, 2023.

A motion by Hamann and seconded by Weaver approved the MOU with the Graton FPD. It was discussed that it is not an MOU that we wish to do or continue to do with other Districts. Board members discussed that mutual aid is how the fire service has worked for decades. It was also expressed that allowing this payment feels like extortion. 4-2-1, a roll call was taken.

8. **EMS BILLING HARDSHIP/COMPASSIONATE CARE APPLICATIONS 22-154436, 21-497136, 20-638240**

The Board will consider approving the staff recommendation to reduce an ambulance transport bill and offer a no interest payment plan, waive an ambulance transport bill, and deny an application; requesting patient to assist with insurance information/data.

A motion by Tognozzi and seconded by Briare approved the staff recommendations for the hardship/compassionate care applications. 6-0-1.



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COMMITTEE REPORT

1. Standing Committee: Finance Committee- **n/a**
2. Ad Hoc: Facilities- **n/a**

FINANCIAL REPORTS

Enclosed

COMMUNICATIONS

Enclosed

CLOSED SESSION- Staff entered closed session at 1:15

1. Conference with Legal Counsel – Exposure to Litigation (Govt Code section 54956.9(a):
AMR West v. County of Sonoma; Sonoma County Superior Court Case No. SCV-272948
2. Anticipated Litigation (two cases) (Government Code section 54956.9(b)).

REPORT OUT ON CLOSED SESSION

Board and staff ended closed session at 2:05. Instruction given to staff; no reportable action taken.

ADJOURNMENT

2:05


Kathy Washington- Secretary to the Board