

MINUTES

FIVE CITIES FIRE AUTHORITY BOARD MEETING FRIDAY, APRIL 15, 2022

CALL TO ORDER:

Chair Lee called the in-person Five Cities Fire Authority (FCFA) Board meeting to order at 09:00 a.m.

FLAG SALUTE:

Chief Lieberman led the Flag Salute.

ROLL CALL:

FCFA Board: Chair Jeff Lee, Vice Chair Karen White and Board Member Keith Storton.

FCFA Staff Present: Fire Chief Stephen Lieberman, General Counsel Molly Thurmond and Clerk to the Board Tricia Meyers.

AGENDA REVIEW:

Action: Vice Chair White moved, Board Member Storton seconded, and the motion passed unanimously to approve the Five Cities Fire Authority's Agenda by a voice vote.

AYES: White, Storton, Lee
NOES: None
ABSENT: None
ABSTAIN: None

COMMUNITY COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS:

Jeff Lane, member of Local 4403, provided public comment in regards to the status of Five Cities Fire Authority. Union members are committed to serving the communities, but they asked the community members and councils to provide financial stability to the fire department. Mr. Lane stated that the lack of funding is reducing the response capabilities of the firefighters, including fire station closures.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Action: Board Member Storton moved, and Vice Chair White seconded the motion to approve the Consent Agenda. No public comment was received. The motion passed on the following roll call vote:

AYES: Storton, White, Lee
NOES: None
ABSENT: None
ABSTAIN: None

1. Consideration of Approval of Minutes.

Action: Approved minutes of the Board Meeting of March 18, 2022.

2. Consideration of Cash Disbursement Activity.

Action: Received and filed the listing of cash disbursements for the period of March 1, 2022 through March 31, 2022.

PUBLIC HEARINGS:

None.

CONTINUED BUSINESS:

None.

NEW BUSINESS:

- a. **Consideration of a Resolution Authorizing Adoption of the FCFA Annual Fiscal year 2022-23 Budget and Appropriation of Revenue.** Chief Lieberman presented the staff report for the Five Cities Fire Authority(FCFA) budget for FY 2022-23. This is the third year reflecting the terms of the 3rd Amendment to the Joint Powers Agreement. The contribution amounts from each community remains fixed. Chief Lieberman noted that the costs for dispatch and fuel costs have increased. Additional expenditures included in the budget are vehicle replacement and assumptions for labor negotiations for FCFA Local 4403. The fund balance will be impacted by these rising costs. No public comment was received.

Action: Board Member Storton moved, and Vice Chair White seconded the motion to approve a resolution adopting the FCFA annual fiscal year FY 2022-23 Budget and appropriation of revenue. The motion passed on the following roll call vote:

AYES: Storton, White, Lee
NOES: None
ABSENT: None
ABSTAIN: None

BOARD MEMBER ITEMS:

None.

FIRE CHIEF ITEMS:

- a. Chief Lieberman reported that Reserve Firefighter Paul Kalata is retiring. This brings the Reserve Firefighter program to an end. Cambria is dissolving their reserve program as well.
- b. FCFA is facing recruitment and retention issues. A recent Firefighter candidate did not accept the position because the salary was too low and two current employees are interviewing with an agency that pays more.
- c. Truck 6645 is out of service due to a head gasket leak. Purchasing a replacement truck is critical. A new truck takes two years to build after the order is received. The approximate cost is two million dollars.
- d. FCFA staff will attend the Oceano town hall meeting.
- e. Chief Lieberman is working on call volume projections. FCFA call volume is up 19% compared to the same time period in 2021.

GENERAL COUNSEL ITEMS:

None.

BOARD COMMUNICATIONS:

Jeff Lee announced that a new development project is moving forward in Grover Beach on 4th Street and Grand Avenue. The city made sure to have adequate fire protection requirements met. Vice Chair White reported that a new apartment housing project will be going in on Belridge in Oceano. Board Member Storton shared that the City of Arroyo Grande council has approved their parklet program.

CLOSED SESSION:

The Board adjourned to Closed Session at 9:35 a.m. concerning the following item:

- a. **CONFERENCE WITH LABOR NEGOTIATORS** pursuant to Government Code Section 54957.6:

Agency Negotiators: Che Johnson – Law Firm of Liebert Cassidy Whitmore
Nicole Valentine – Accounting Manager – Arroyo Grande
Karla Mattocks – Human Resources Coordinator-Grover Beach
Tashina Ureno – Human Resources Manager-Arroyo Grande

Represented Employees: International Association of Fire Fighters (IAFF) Local 4403

RECONVENED TO OPEN SESSION:

General Counsel Thurmond called the meeting back to order at 9:52 a.m. with no reportable action.

ADJOURNMENT:

Chair Lee adjourned the meeting at 9:52 a.m.

/s/ Jeff Lee, Chair

ATTEST:

/s/ Tricia Meyers, Clerk to the Board

(Approved at Board Meeting on 05/10/2022)