

**MINUTES**

**FIVE CITIES FIRE AUTHORITY  
SPECIAL BOARD MEETING  
FRIDAY, JULY 26, 2019  
CITY OF ARROYO GRANDE COUNCIL CHAMBERS  
215 EAST BRANCH STREET  
ARROYO GRANDE, CALIFORNIA**

**CALL TO ORDER:**

Chair Nicolls called the Five Cities Fire Authority (FCFA) Special Board meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

**FLAG SALUTE:**

Vice Chair White led the Flag Salute.

**ROLL CALL:**

FCFA Board: Chair Barbara Nicolls, Vice Chair Karen White and Board Member Keith Storton.

FCFA Staff Present: Fire Chief Stephen Lieberman, General Counsel David P. Hale 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, Nicolls  
**NOES:** None  
**ABSENT:** None  
**ABSTAIN:** None

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

**Consideration of Approval of Minutes (MEYERS)**

**Action:** Approved the minutes of the Special Board Meeting of June 14, 2019 by a voice vote.

**AYES:** Storton, White, Nicolls  
**NOES:** None  
**ABSENT:** None  
**ABSTAIN:** None

**COMMUNITY COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS:**

None.

**CONSENT AGENDA:**

None.

**PUBLIC HEARINGS:**

- a. **Public Hearing and Consideration of Resolution Confirming Weed Abatement Cost Accounting Report Consistent with Health and Safety Code Section 14905 ET SEQ.** Chief Lieberman presented the staff report to the Board regarding the final process for the yearly weed abatement program. A list of properties abated, including the cost, was presented to the Board with the report. The Resolution was approved. Therefore, the information will be submitted to the County to be assessed on the property owner's tax bill. Twenty-six properties were abated. Chair Nicolls asked if anyone would like to protest their property being on the list. No public comment or protest was received on this item.

**Action:** Board Member Storton moved and Vice Chair White seconded the motion to approve the Resolution confirming weed abatement costs.

**AYES:** Storton, White, Nicolls  
**NOES:** None  
**ABSENT:** None  
**ABSTAIN:** None

**CONTINUED BUSINESS:**

None.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

- a. **Consideration of Approval of a Resolution for Acceptance of a Donation from the Grover Beach Community Foundation for Purchase of Nozzles and Training Equipment, Appropriation of the Donation.** Chief Lieberman presented the staff report to the Board. He reported on the generous donation from the Grover Beach Community Foundation to purchase nozzles and a smoke generator for training purposes. This donation will allow the purchase of a full complement of nozzles for one fire engine.

**Action:** Vice Chair White approved the Resolution to accept the donation in the amount of \$12,679.98 from the Grover Beach Community Foundation and appropriate the funds. Board Member Storton seconded the motion.

**AYES:** White, Storton, Nicolls  
**NOES:** None  
**ABSENT:** None  
**ABSTAIN:** None

- b. **Consideration of Approval of a Resolution for Acceptance of a Donation from the San Luis Obispo County Emergency Medical Services Fund for the Purchase of Replacement CPR Training Manikins and Related Equipment.** Chief Lieberman detailed the proposed donation for CPR Manikins and related equipment in the amount of \$2,967.20.

**Action:** Board Member Storton approved the Resolution to accept the donation in the amount of \$2,967.20 from SLO County Emergency Medical Services Fund. Vice Chair White seconded the motion.

**AYES:** Storton, White, Nicolls  
**NOES:** None  
**ABSENT:** None  
**ABSTAIN:** None

- c. **Fire Chief Report-Annual Weed Abatement Program and County of San Luis Obispo County Grand Jury Report “Fire Risk Management-Cities Do It-Why Not the County”?** Chief Lieberman shared with the Board a Grand Jury report that Five Cities Fire Authority received and he will be responding to regarding weed abatement. The County is evaluating options for a weed abatement program. His presentation to the Board included the challenges that Five Cities Fire Authority has faced with their current weed abatement program. The Chief suggested that the Board may want to consider modifying the current program. He explained the focus should move towards clear fire threat areas, rather than “neighborhood blight”. Chief Lieberman asked the Board to review the Grand Jury report and he will bring back a draft response for Board review. Board Member Storton suggested to bring the current weed abatement program back for review to discuss more effective options. No public comment received.

- d. **Consideration of Approval of a Resolution to Adopt the Five Cities Fire Authority Fire and Life Safety Requirements for Cannabis Cultivation, Manufacturing and Laboratory Facilities.** Chief Lieberman presented for adoption the Fire and Life Safety Requirements for Cannabis Cultivation, Manufacturing and Laboratory Facilities requirements for Five Cities Fire Authority.  
**Action:** Board Member Storton approved a Resolution adopting Five Cities Fire Authority Fire and Life Safety Requirements for Cannabis Cultivation, Manufacturing and Laboratory Facilities. Vice Chair seconded the motion.

**AYES:** Storton, White, Nicolls  
**NOES:** None  
**ABSENT:** None  
**ABSTAIN:** None

**BOARD MEMBER ITEMS:**

None.

**FIRE CHIEF ITEMS:**

- a. Job offers have been extended to Jeff Lane, Joe Rawson and Aaron Hunt for Firefighter positions.
- b. The last three Reserve Firefighter positions are now working out of Station 3.
- c. Chief Lieberman shared a draft document with the Board regarding fire department staffing and overtime. This document is meant to illustrate the difference in staffing models for fire departments.
- d. Truck 5 has returned and will be put back into service after the annual ladder testing has been performed.
- e. Chief Lieberman reported that only routine calls were received during the time period of June 22<sup>nd</sup> to July 8<sup>th</sup>. Nothing significant during the 4<sup>th</sup> of July holiday. There appeared to be an increase in the use of illegal fireworks this year.

**BOARD COMMUNICATIONS:**

None.

**CLOSED SESSION:**

The Board adjourned to a Closed Session at 10:58 a.m. concerning the following items:

- a. **Public Employee Performance Evaluation, Gov. Code [Section 54957](#).**  
**Position: Fire Chief/Executive Officer**
- b. **Conference with Legal Counsel—Existing Litigation**  
**Consistent with Paragraph (1) of subdivision (d) of California Government Code [Section 54956.9](#).**  
**Name of case: Boyer v. Five Cities Fire Authority, City of Arroyo Grande, Steve Lieberman 18CV-0438**

**RECONVENE TO OPEN SESSION:**

General Counsel Hale called the meeting back to order at 11:15 a.m. with no reportable action.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

Chair Nicolls adjourned the meeting at 11:15 a.m. The next Board meeting is scheduled for August 16, 2019, at 10:00 a.m. at the City of Grover Beach Council Chambers, 154 South Eighth Street, Grover Beach, California.

/s/ Barbara Nicolls, Chair

ATTEST:

/s/ Tricia Meyers, Clerk to the Board

(Approved at Special Board Meeting on 10/25/19)