

MINUTES

FIVE CITIES FIRE AUTHORITY BOARD MEETING FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 2022

CALL TO ORDER:

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

FLAG SALUTE:

FCFA Firefighters, led the Flag Salute.

ROLL CALL:

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

FCFA Staff Present: Chief Stephen Lieberman, General Counsel Dave 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 amended agenda of the Five Cities Fire Authority's by a voice vote.

AYES: White, Storton, Lee

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

COMMUNITY COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS:

Jeff Lane, Local 4403, requested the current Board pass along to their successors the current status of Five Cities Fire Authority. This information includes increasing call volume, as well as the need for additional staffing and funding.

CLOSED SESSION:

General Counsel Hale announced the closed session items. He clarified that the second item is a redo of the actions taken on September 27, 2022 regarding the Fire Chief and those previous actions will be nullified. The Board adjourned to a Closed Session at 9:07 a.m. concerning the following items:

- 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

- b. **Public Employee Performance Evaluation, Gov. Code Section 54957**
Position: Fire Chief/Executive Officer

RECONVENE TO OPEN SESSION:

General Counsel Hale called the meeting back to order at 9:53 a.m. with no reportable action.

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 Special Board Meeting of October 14, 2022.

2. Consideration of Cash Disbursement Activity.

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

CONTINUED BUSINESS:

None.

NEW BUSINESS:

- c. Consideration of a Salary Adjustment and Approval of an Amendment No. 5 to the Employment Agreement for Stephen C. Lieberman as Fire Chief/Executive Officer.** General Counsel Hale presented the staff report regarding Amendment No. 5 of the Chiefs contract, requesting the Board determine if the Fire Chief will receive a salary adjustment. Treasurer Valentine reported that an increase of 3.92 percent would bring the Fire Chief to the top step of his salary range. No public comment was received.

Action: Board Member Storton moved, and Vice Chair White seconded the motion to void the action taken on September 27, 2022 for Chief Lieberman's contract and take a new action today to approve Amendment No. 5 to the Fire Chief/Executive Officer's employment agreement to place his salary at the top step. 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. Five Cities Fire Authority (FCFA) recently interviewed twenty applicants for two Firefighter positions. Eight will be invited to Chief interviews.
- b. Staff will visit Pierce in Florida in January to complete the final inspection of the new Type 3 Engine.
- c. FCFA will be participating in both Arroyo Grande and Grover Beach holiday parades.
- d. Chief Lieberman updated the Board on his ongoing discussions with the city managers and information he presented to them regarding the current status of FCFA.
- e. Chief Lieberman thanked the outgoing Board Members for their service to FCFA.

GENERAL COUNSEL ITEMS:

General Counsel Hale thanked the Board for their service.

BOARD COMMUNICATIONS:

Vice Chair White expressed her thanks and enjoyed working with everyone. Board Member Storton shared his appreciation for public safety workers and thanked FCFA staff. Chair Lee also thanked everyone, including each community for their commitment to FCFA.

ADJOURNMENT:

Chair Lee adjourned the meeting at 10:38 a.m.

/s/ Charles Varni, Chair

ATTEST:

/s/ Tricia Meyers, Clerk to the Board

(Approved at Board Meeting on 02/17/2023)