

## MINUTES

### FIVE CITIES FIRE AUTHORITY BOARD MEETING FRIDAY, MAY 21, 2021

Due to the County of San Luis Obispo's Executive Order to shelter at home and Pursuant to the Governor's Executive Order N-25-20, members of the Board and staff participated in this meeting via teleconference. Members of the public were invited to participate in the meeting by listening in and could comment electronically by submitting public comments to the Clerk to the Board at [tmeyers@fivecitiesfire.org](mailto:tmeyers@fivecitiesfire.org).

#### **CALL TO ORDER:**

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

#### **FLAG SALUTE:**

Chair Storton led the Flag Salute.

#### **ROLL CALL:**

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

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

#### **AGENDA REVIEW:**

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

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

#### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

##### **Consideration of Approval of Minutes**

**Action:** Approved the minutes of the Board Meeting on April 16, 2021 with a roll call vote.

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

#### **COMMUNITY COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS:**

None.

**CONSENT AGENDA:**

**1. Consideration of Cash Disbursement Activity.**

**Action:** Received and filed the listing of cash disbursements for the period of April 1, 2021 through April 30, 2021. No public comment received.

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

**PUBLIC HEARINGS:**

None.

**CONTINUED BUSINESS:**

None.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

- a. Consideration of a Resolution Declaring Weeds and Vegetation on Certain Properties to be Seasonal and Recurring Public Nuisances and Providing for Weed Abatement Consistent with Health and Safety Code Sections 14875, Et Seq.** Chief Lieberman presented the Board with a list of properties that were found in violation of the weed abatement health and safety code. Property owners will have an opportunity to protest their property being on the list at the Five Cities Fire Authority board meeting in June. No public comment was received.

**Action:** Vice Chair Lee moved, and Board Member White seconded the motion to adopt a Resolution declaring weeds and vegetation on certain properties to be seasonal and recurring public nuisances and providing for weed abatement consistent with Health and Safety Code sections 14875, Et Seq. The motion passed on the following roll call vote:

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

**b. Consideration of Authorization to Lease Purchase a Replacement Type III Wildland Fire Engine.**

Chief Lieberman presented the staff report for the Type III Wildland Engine, with a cost of \$451,051.11. Chief Lieberman explained that the wildland engine is designed for off-road use and is an invaluable tool within Five Cities Fire Authority's (FCFA) jurisdiction. The current wildland engine was purchased in 1999. It is 22 years old and needs to be replaced. Chief Lieberman convened an in-house working group to develop the specifications for the replacement engine. After much consideration, the working group recommended purchasing an engine from Pierce Manufacturing. The build-time for a new engine is 14 months. Chief Lieberman also recommends PNC Equipment Finance as the financial service provider for the loan. Annual lease payments will be \$52,124.14 over ten years. Vice Chair Lee asked why the lease payment option is recommended. Chief Lieberman explained that spreading the cost over ten years at an interest rate of 2.72%, is the preferred methodology by the members of the Joint Powers Authority. Chair Storton asked what the timing will be with the member communities approval. Chief Lieberman stated that Grover Beach and Arroyo Grande have the lease payments projected in their two year budgets. FCFA will not place the order for the wildland engine until the member communities adopt their budgets. No public comment was received.

**Action:** Board Member White moved, and Vice Chair Lee seconded the motion to adopt a Resolution for the following:

- 1) Authorize the Fire Chief to execute a purchase order, not to exceed \$451,051.11 to Pierce Manufacturing, Inc. for the purchase of one Type III Wildland Engine, contingent upon approval of member community two-year budgets in June 2021;
- 2) Adopt a cost sharing methodology for the purchase;
- 3) Authorize the Fire Chief to solicit a Lease/Purchase Financing Agreement for this purchase with PNC Equipment Finance;
- 4) Adopt a Resolution of Intent and Affirming Prior Board Approval of the Purchase and Financing for a Replacement Type III Wildland Fire Engine.

The motion passed on the following roll call vote:

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

**c. Consideration of Fiscal Year 2021-22 Budget.** Chief Lieberman started off his report by stating that the final approval of the FCFA budget is contingent upon the member communities approving their budgets. The funding for the proposed FCFA budget for FY 2021-22 remains fixed in agreement with the 3<sup>rd</sup> Amendment to the Joint Powers Authority.

**Action:** Vice Chair Lee moved, Board Member White seconded the motion to adopt a Resolution approving the Fiscal Year 2021-22 Budget and appropriation of all revenues with a roll call vote.

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

**BOARD MEMBER ITEMS:**

None.

**GENERAL COUNSEL ITEMS:**

None.

**FIRE CHIEF ITEMS:**

- a. Chief Lieberman reported that FCFA received remittance advice from CAL FIRE in the amount of \$243,000 for cover assignments from last summer. Essentially, FCFA staff were placed on local "strike team" assignment in CAL FIRE stations in San Luis Obispo County during a busy fire season.
- b. FCFA will be working with Human Resources for promotional opportunities for Captain, Engineer and Firefighter positions.
- c. FCFA employees continue to participate in training courses, including local county drills.
- d. Chief Lieberman will be attending Liaison Officer class next week to complete his certification for the Area Command Team.
- e. Chief Lieberman was honored to present former Board Member Bill Nicolls with a recognition award.
- f. Friends of Five Cities Fire has purchased a forcible entry door prop used for training.
- g. Chief Lieberman will be meeting with the city managers to present findings of financial analyses regarding operational costs for multi-station departments.
- h. Chief Lieberman will be attending an urban interface drill today at Camp Roberts.

**BOARD COMMUNICATIONS:**

Vice Chair Lee expressed his condolences for the loss of Luca Benedetti. Luca was a police officer for the City of San Luis Obispo and lost his life this week in the line of duty. Chair Storton shared those sentiments and was proud to see the outpouring of support for Officer Benedetti's family.

**CLOSED SESSION:**

The Board adjourned to a Closed Session at 09:59 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

**RECONVENE TO OPEN SESSION:**

Chief Lieberman called the meeting back to order at 10:17 a.m. with no reportable action.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

Chair Storton adjourned the meeting at 10:17 a.m. The next Board meeting is scheduled for June 18, 2021, at 9:00 a.m. via teleconference.

/s/ Keith Storton, Chair

ATTEST:

/s/ Tricia Meyers, Clerk to the Board

(Approved at Board Meeting on 07/16/2021)