

**NORTH CENTRAL FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
REGULAR BOARD MEETING  
THURSDAY, MAY 20, 2021  
5:30 P.M.  
MINUTES**

*Per Executive Order N-25-20, which allows local and state legislative bodies to hold meetings via teleconference and to make meetings accessible electronically,” this Regular Meeting will be held via conference call and can be accessed as follows:*

**Please call: (669) 900-6833. Follow all prompts. To access the call, you will need to enter the ID number 883 4443 1274 and passcode 905869. The public may participate in the meeting as otherwise permitted under the Brown Act by calling into this number.**

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

District Board Chair Mr. Ken Abrahamian called the meeting to order at 5:36 p.m.

**Roll Call**

**Board Members Present:** Mrs. Cheryl Belluomini, Mr. Michael Foglio, Ms. Amanda Souza, Mr. Ken Abrahamian and Mr. Rusty Nonini.

Also present were Fire Chief Tim Henry, Deputy Chief Jacob McAfee, Mr. Ken Price and Mr. Joe Barcelos.

**2. INVOCATION**

The invocation was led by Mr. Barcelos.

**3. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

There were no public comments.

**4. CONSENT AGENDA**

**A. Consideration and Approval of Disbursements List for April 2021**

**B. Review and Acceptance of Monthly Financial Reports**

- 1) Fresno County: Cash Balances – All Funds**
- 2) Budget Variance Report: YTD Expenses Compared to Budget**
- 3) Revenue and Reimbursement Report**
- 4) PG&E Report**

Mr. Abrahamian asked the District Board and members of the public if there were any items on the Consent Agenda they would like to pull from the agenda for discussion or questions.

There were no questions so Mr. Abrahamian called for a motion to adopt the Consent Agenda.

**Motion:** To approve the Consent Agenda as presented.

**Moved by:** Mr. Nonini, second by Mrs. Belluomini.

Mr. Abrahamian: Mrs. Belluomini: Mr. Foglio: Mr. Nonini: Ms. Souza: Vote:  
Aye                      Aye                      Aye                      Aye                      Aye                      5/0

**5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**A) Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of, April 22, 2021.**

There were no questions or comments.

**Motion:** To approve the minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of April 22, 2021 as presented.

**Moved by:** Mr. Foglio, second by Mrs. Belluomini.

Mr. Abrahamian: Mrs. Belluomini: Mr. Foglio: Mr. Nonini: Ms. Souza: Vote:  
Aye                      Aye                      Aye                      Aye                      Aye                      5/0

**6. FIRE CHIEF REPORT**

**A) Fire Incident/Fire Prevention Reports for April 2021**

Chief Henry went through the reports for incident calls and the fire investigations report and asked the District Board if they had any questions. There were no questions.

**7. PUBLIC HEARING FOR WEED ABATEMENT AND LIST OF ABATEMENT NOTICES.**

**A) Action item – Conduct the Public Hearing.**

Mr. Abrahamian opened the floor for the Public Protest Hearing for public comments on the 2021 weed abatement season at 5:44 p.m.

Mr. Beberian the property owner of 3447 W Dudley addressed the District Board. He received a “Notice to Destroy Weeds” but asked for a 20-day extension. During his discussion with the District Board he asked several questions about the entire process. Chief Henry answered his questions and after a few minutes of continued discussion, it was the consensus of the District Board to allow the 20-day extension which would be June 10<sup>th</sup> and delegate Chief Henry and staff to oversee the progress of the abatement on this property.

There were no more members from the public waiting on the phone to address the District Board so Mr. Abrahamian closed the floor for the Public Protest Hearing for the 2020 weed abatement season at 5:56 p.m.

**B) Review the List of Notices - Information only.**

The District Board reviewed the list of notices.

**8. RESOLUTION NO. 21-05 – AMENDING THE 2020-2021 FINAL BUDGET**

**A) Action item – Consider and adopt Resolution No. 21-05 amending the 2020-2021 final budget.**

Mr. Barcelos called the District Board’s attention to Resolution 21-05 to amend the 2020-2021 final budget. Mr. Barcelos stated there are four expense categories needing to be amended; turnout, training, other professional services and utilities.

Mr. Barcelos went through the amounts of increases for each of the categories. He reported when the 2020-2021 final budget was adopted last August, the District had not received notification regarding the award the District received for the SAFER grant. The SAFER grant award added twelve (12) new firefighter positions. The District purchased two new sets of turnout for all the new firefighters. The training budget was also affected by the SAFER grant award in that the District conducted three firefighter academies to fill vacancies and for the twelve (12) new firefighter positions.

Mr. Barcelos stated there are two major reasons for the increase in other professional services, one being the start of the records retention schedule. District staff went through many of the District’s old records per the retention policy and the cost for scanning the old records was not included in the final budget when it was adopted. The other expense affecting the increase in other professional services is the hiring of Lexipol, a consultant firm that reviews District policy to determine if the policies comply with government regulations and ensures the District is not missing any required policies per state and federal regulations.

Mr. Barcelos stated the utilities line item needs to be increased due to some repairs needed on solar panel inverters at all of the District stations. Due to COVID, the parts for the inverters took several months to arrive and so the District’s solar panels did not work as efficiently as they normally would causing higher than normal utility costs.

Mr. Barcelos answered a couple questions from the District Board and after the questions, called for a motion.

**Motion:** To adopt Resolution No. 21-05 amending the 2020-2021 Final Budget as presented.

**Moved by:** Mr. Nonini, second by Ms. Souza.

Mr. Abrahamian: Mrs. Belluomini: Mr. Foglio: Mr. Nonini: Ms. Souza: Vote:  
Aye                      Aye                      Aye                      Aye                      Aye                      5/0

**PUBLIC COMMENT** - Before Closed Session. Mr. Abrahamian stated the District Board will be moving into closed session and asked if any members of the public would like to make a comment on the Closed Session item. There were no comments.

## 9. CLOSED SESSION

### A) CONFERENCE WITH LABOR NEGOTIATORS – Government Code section 54957.6

*Agency designated representatives:* Chief Tim Henry and outside negotiator Che Johnson Liebert Cassidy Whitmore

*Employee organization:* North Central Professional Firefighters Association

*Unrepresented employee:* All employees not represented by an association/bargaining unit

Report from Closed Session: No action to report from Closed Session.

## 10. CITY OF FRESNO SERVICE AGREEMENT

### A) Action item – City of Fresno Service Agreement Proposal: Determine if the District Board wants to continue with the City of Fresno Service Agreement or make notification that all renegotiations efforts are complete so that both parties have sufficient time to complete a transition of Services as defined in Section 2 of the current agreement.

**Summary:** Chief Henry stated he would like to go through the timeline of the renegotiations for the Service Agreement with the City of Fresno. He stated the Service Agreement has a three year term that started on July 1, 2019, to cover the District's metro area in the District's Bullard and West area. The current service agreement is due to expire on June 30, 2022. In the agreement it asks that all renegotiations that extend the agreement would occur prior to the last year twelve (12) months of the agreement.

In October I reached out to Chief Donis with the City of Fresno with a proposal of a three year extension of the current service agreement. The proposal to extend the agreement was basically a three year extension with a proposed initial payment of \$1,098,462 with an annual three percent increase which is the same increase being used in the current agreement. Chief Donis responded to this proposal stating the City's depth of response and standby time in the District's metro area is worth more than the proposed \$1.1 million dollars. Chief Donis made a counter proposal of a first year payment of \$2,075,731 with an annual three percent increase. The formula Chief Donis used to calculate the City's proposal, which is her theory of the true costs, was to divide Fresno Fire Department's total annual budget of \$72 million by the population of the City of Fresno which is 540,000 to come up with a per citizen cost of \$133. Taking this per citizen cost of \$133, Chief Donis then multiplied it by the population of the District's metro area which is 15,607 to come up with the \$2,075,731. Chief Henry stated during his discussion with Chief Donis, the fire department's \$72 million annual budget includes all their administration costs, fire prevention costs, the costs to operate their fire shop and other costs for services the City does not provide in the service agreement. Chief Henry asked Mr. Barcelos to go over the ten-year budgetary impact and sustainability spreadsheet.

Mr. Barcelos stated the spreadsheet reflecting a ten-year look at the budgetary impact of the City of Fresno's proposal has two sections. The top section shows the budgetary impact and sustainability if the District accepted the City's proposal and the bottom section shows the budgetary impact and sustainability if the District declined the proposal and provided the service for the District's station 59 area.

**Top section – accepting the City's proposal:** Mr. Barcelos began by going over the top section which is accepting the City of Fresno's proposal. He pointed out the cost categories and described all of them. The categories are:

- Salary and benefits – full staffing (currently, full-staffing is sixty-four personnel)
- Services and Supplies - which are basically all operational costs other than salary and benefits.
- City of Fresno's service agreement proposal – initial payment is \$2,075,731
- Annual Capital Contribution
- SAFER grant funding – reimbursement of salary and benefits for twelve positions.

Mr. Barcelos explained salary and benefits, services and supplies, and the service agreement payment increase each year by a three percent cost of living increase. The annual contribution to capital remains constant all ten years. Mr. Barcelos stated in FY 2022-2023 the District will be in year two of the SAFER grant funding so the spreadsheet reflects the projected funding the district will receive from the SAFER grant. The District's projected annual revenue is reflected on the next line and it also increases annually three percent. The bottom line or projected net revenue over projected expenses in the first year shows that even with the \$1 million SAFER grant funding, expenses exceed revenue by \$170,000. Moving forward to year two, the expenses exceed revenue by over \$400,000 and in the remaining eight years the expenses exceed revenues by over \$1 million after the District stops receiving SAFER grant funding.

**Bottom Section – choosing to reject City's proposal and for the District to provide services:** Mr. Barcelos called the District Board's attention to the bottom section of the ten-year report showing the budgetary impact and sustainability. This section shows the impact and sustainability if the District chooses to not renew the service agreement with the City of Fresno and for the District to provide the services in the District's metro area by opening and staffing station 59. The top two cost categories are the same as the top section reflecting current full staffing of sixty-four (64) personnel and services and supplies. The next category shows the costs to provide additional staffing to staff District station 59. The last two categories in the costs section are the annual contribution made to capital which is \$900,000 annually and the last category shows the funds received from the SAFER grant.

Annual projected revenue on the next line is also the same projections in the top section and increases by three percent each year. The bottom line or net revenue

exceeds expenses by a little over \$1 million the first year. Net revenue goes down in year two because the SAFER grant funding is for nine months in the 2023-2024 fiscal year because grant funding ends in March of 2024. In the remaining years, the net revenue goes down for a few years and then steadily begins to increase. In all ten years, revenue exceeds expenses.

Chief Henry asked Chief McAfee to go over the operational impact and how the District can manage providing services in the District's Bullard and West metro area.

**Operational Impact:** Chief McAfee stated station 59's area is 5.2 square miles. Annually this area experiences a six-year average of about 650 emergency calls. All fire calls account for four percent of total calls and less than 1 percent of fire calls are structure fires and fifty (50) percent of the structure fires required more than one engine to contain the fire. With the budgetary figures Chief Henry and Mr. Barcelos just presented, the opening of station 59 would require two fire apparatus with a total of six personnel per day which would include a four-person engine company and a two-person squad. This staffing level would allow the District to provide in this metro area a four-minute response time over ninety-eight (98) percent of the time and that two percent of the time, the District is only missing the four-minute mark by a few seconds. The four-person engine company and two-person squad would allow the District to keep the two-in two-out OSHA requirement to conduct a fire operations and rescue for structure fires. In addition, with the additional squad responding to medical aid calls, this leaves our fire engine in station to allow the District to absorb any of the overlapping calls to respond to with Station 59's engine company.

Chief McAfee called the District Board's attention to the map that shows the District's four-minute area or the four-minute response time from station 59. The map also shows the five-mile area from station 59 which is looked at for the District's ISO ratings and the map shows the ratings will not be affected in this area. Chief McAfee went over the next attachment which provided all the call incident data for the District metro area showing a breakdown of incident categories as well. Chief McAfee mentioned current incident call data is showing similar amount of calls and the same four percent of calls being fire calls.

Chief McAfee answered a couple questions from the District Board regarding the incident data in the District's metro area. Chief Henry and Chief McAfee discussed the District's deployment strategy on fire calls and the scenario models District staff ran. Depending on where in the metro area the fire incident occurs, the station 58 engine company can respond within eight to ten minutes, and the station 56 engine company can respond within ten minutes. This puts four effective firefighting apparatus on scene within 12 minutes which is an acceptable response for any County Fire District.

Mr. Abrahamian stated last month the Ad Hoc Committee asked District staff to present this report that looked at the budgetary impact and sustainability of the City of Fresno's service agreement proposal. He stated looking at the report, it does not look like the District can sustain the City's proposal but after hearing tonight's presentation, it does look like the District can provide the service for the District's metro area. Mr. Abrahamian asked if there was any one from the public that would like to make a comment on this item but there were no comments.

Mr. Abrahamian stated a decision does need to be made tonight and after a few comments from the District Board, he called for a motion.

**Motion:** To authorize District Board Chair to notify the City of Fresno in writing of the decision to not renew the Service Agreement for the Metro Area with the City of Fresno after it expires on June 30, 2022.

**Moved by:** Mr. Abrahamian, second by Mr. Foglio.

Mr. Abrahamian:	Mrs. Belluomini:	Mr. Foglio:	Mr. Nonini:	Ms. Souza:	Vote:
Aye	Aye	Aye	Aye	Aye	5/0

#### 11. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS/REPORTS

A) Report from Ad Hoc Committee

There were no comments or reports from the Ad Hoc Committee.

#### 12. ANNOUNCEMENTS

A) **Next Special Board Meeting: Thursday, June 10, 2021 at 5:30 p.m.**

#### 13. ADJOURNMENT

**Motion:** To adjourn the meeting at 8:23 p.m.

**Moved by:** Mr. Nonini, second by Mr. Foglio

Mr. Abrahamian:	Mrs. Belluomini:	Mr. Foglio:	Mr. Nonini:	Ms. Souza:	Vote:
Aye	Aye	Aye	Aye	Aye	5/0

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Amanda Souza, Board Secretary  
North Central Fire Protection District

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Date