

**NORTH CENTRAL FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
REGULAR BOARD MEETING
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 2020
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 559 878 4530 and passcode 4550. 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 Vice-Chair Mr. Rusty Nonini called the meeting to order at 5:41 p.m.

Roll Call

Board Members Present: Mrs. Cheryl Belluomini, Mr. Michael Foglio, Ms. Amanda Souza and Mr. Rusty Nonini. Mr. Ken Abrahamian arrived a few minutes after roll call.

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

2. INVOCATION

The invocation was led by Pastor Dan Minkler.

3. PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments

4. CLOSED SESSION

A) CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL – ANTICIPATED LITIGATION

Significant exposure to litigation pursuant to paragraph (2) of subdivision (d) of section 54956.9: (number of cases 1).

Report from Closed Session: There was no action to report out of closed session.

Mr. Abrahamian arrived at the beginning of the closed session and took the chair position.

5. CONSIDERATION OF CLAIM AGAINST THE DISTRICT

A) Action item – Consider claim by Kyle Crivello brought under Gov. Code section 910 *et seq.*

Mr. Abrahamian asked the District Board and members of the public if they had any comments to make for this item. There were no comments so he called for a motion.

Motion: To reject the claim brought by Mr. Crivello against the District.

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

6. CONSENT AGENDA

A. Consideration and Approval of Disbursements List for August 2020

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 items pulled so Mr. Abrahamian called for a motion.

Motion: To approve the Consent Agenda as presented.

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

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

7. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A) Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of August 27, 2020.

There were no questions or comments.

Motion: To approve the minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of August 27, 2020 as presented.

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

Mr. Abrahamian: Mrs. Belluomini: Mr. Foglio: Mr. Nonini: Ms. Souza: Vote:
Aye Abstain Aye Aye Aye 4/0

8. FIRE CHIEF REPORT

A) Fire Incident/Fire Prevention Reports for August

Chief Henry asked the District Board if they had any questions but there were none.

B) Fire Season and OES Deployment Update

Chief Henry went through the memo listing all the Strike Teams deployed from the District to help with the fires going on throughout the state. Chief Henry described all of the fires and their locations and then updated the District Board about the Creek Fire near Shaver Lake.

9. SAFER GRANT NOTICE OF APPLICATION APPROVAL

A) Action item – Consider and authorize Chief Henry to accept the SAFER Grant award of \$3,132,324 federal funding on behalf of the District.

Chief Henry reported the District applied for several AFG grants this year and the SAFER grant was one of them. Last week, the District received notice that we have been awarded the SAFER grant. We based the SAFER grant on getting the District from fourteen (14) on-duty staffing which is what it is today to reach the NFPA standard for an affective firefighting force which is eighteen (18) on-duty each day. Currently we make that happen through mutual aid and auto-aid agreements. This grant will give us the opportunity to make sure the District is at least moving in that direction. We will be putting a focus group together to look at our data and statistics to determine what the best positioning would be of the four additional people in the district on a daily basis. The bottom line is on a normal day, if we don't have anybody off on sick leave, we will have eighteen (18) people on duty.

Chief Henry stated when the District applied for this grant, the typical match is seventy-five (75) percent federal funds, twenty-five (25) percent district funds for the first two years. In the third year of the grant, federal funds go to thirty-five (35) percent and the district portion of funds goes to sixty-five (65) percent. The District was prepared to cover the District's portion and had a financial plan to make sure we had funds available. The same day the District submitted the application, we received notification from FEMA that the CARES Act would cover the District's match all three years. The \$3.1 million-dollar award will all be federal funding covering all three years, the district will not have to pay our \$1 million match that we anticipated over the three years.

Chief Henry answered a few questions from the District Board about the timeline and the recruiting and hiring process.

Mr. Abrahamian asked if there were any more questions or comments from the District Board or the public. There was none so Mr. Abrahamian called for a motion.

Motion: To authorize Chief Henry to accept the SAFER Grant award on behalf of the District.

Moved by: Mrs. Belluomini, second by Ms. Souza

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

10. ENGAGEMENT AGREEMENT WITH LIEBERT CASSIDY WHITMORE FOR LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT LEGAL SERVICES

A) Action item - Consider and authorize Chief Henry to enter into an Engagement Agreement with the firm of Liebert Cassidy Whitmore for labor and employment legal services.

Mr. Price stated as you know I serve as general counsel for the District however I would strongly recommend specialty counsel to serve in the capacity to provide advice on labor and employment matters for the district. I have invited here Mr. Che Johnson of Liebert Cassidy Whitmore who provides these services. I would recommend authorizing entering into an Engagement Agreement with the law firm of Liebert Cassidy Whitmore. Mr. Price asked the District Board if they had any questions.

Mr. Abrahamian asked what the term of this agreement would be. Mr. Price replied it's similar to mine, it's an open term right now of I would say at least probably six months to a year. The District Board can re-evaluate at any time in a relationship with its consultants. The contract can be canceled at the Board's discretion. I have reviewed the agreement and it is a standard law firm agreement.

There were no more questions or comments from the District Board or the public so Mr. Abrahamian called for a motion.

Motion: To authorize Chief Henry to enter into an Engagement Agreement with Liebert Cassidy Whitmore for labor and employment legal services.

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

11. AMENDMENT OF THE DISTRICT' CONFLICT OF INTEREST CODE

A) Action item – Consider and adopt District Resolution No. 20-09 amending the District's Conflict of Interest Code.

Mr. Barcelos reported the Clerk to the Board of Supervisors requests that local districts review their conflict of interest codes every other year. County Counsel also reviews all the districts conflict of interest codes and County Counsel found a minor change that needs to be made to the district's code. The change is on the first page where it states the Business Manager will electronically file with the Clerk to the Board of Supervisors but it is only the Board and Fire Chief that are required to file electronically. This is the only amendment the district needs to make. After the adoption of Resolution No. 20-09, staff will send the adopted resolution amending the District's Conflict of Interest Code to the Clerk to the Board of Supervisors and the amended code will go before the Board of Supervisors for their approval.

Mr. Barcelos asked if there were any questions. There were no questions or comments so Mr. Abrahamian called for a motion.

Motion: To adopt District Resolution No. 20-09 amending the District's Conflict of Interest Code as amended by County Counsel.

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

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

Aye

Aye

Aye

Aye

5/0

12. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS/REPORTS

Mrs. Belluomini wanted to thank all the firefighters for all they have been doing to fight the fires throughout the state.

13. ANNOUNCEMENTS

A) Next Regular Board Meeting: Thursday, October 22, 2020 at 5:30 p.m.

14. ADJOURNMENT

Motion: To adjourn the meeting at 6:53 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

These minutes were approved telephonically
Amanda Souza, Board Secretary
North Central Fire Protection District

10/22/2020
Date