



SCOTTS VALLEY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

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MINUTES OF THE SCOTTS VALLEY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORS REGULAR MEETING OF May 8, 2024

1. Call to Order

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors of the Scotts Valley Fire Protection District (SVFPD) was held on Wednesday, May 8, 2024 at the City of Scotts Valley Council Chambers. President Parker called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.

1.1 Pledge of Allegiance and Moment of Silence

President Parker called for the Pledge of Allegiance and a Moment of Silence to follow.

1.2 Roll Call

- A. Directors Present: Directors Hurst, Parker, Patterson (*via teleconference*) and Pisciotta
- B. Directors Absent: Director Cosner
- C. Fire District Staff: Chief Correia, Battalion Chief Stubendorff and Administrative Services Manager Walton

2. Public Comment (GC §54954.3)

No Public Comment.

3. Agenda Amendments (GC §54954.2) – Discussion/Action

No Agenda Amendments.

4. Consent Calendar

4.1 Minutes: Approve Regular Board Meeting Minutes of April 10, 2024

4.2 Approve SVFPD Claims Disbursements for the Month of April 1, 2024 through April 30, 2024 in the Amount of:

Payroll and Benefits:	\$519,678.20
General Fund:	\$ 96,109.70
Branciforte Service Zone:	\$ 5,883.00
Capital Outlay:	\$ 25,120.50
SCHMIT:	<u>\$122,118.02</u>
TOTAL:	\$768,909.42

4.3 Approve Policy 1609: Fire Safety Donations

On motion of Director Hurst seconded by Director Pisciotta to Approve the Consent Calendar Items 4.1-4.3 was approved by the following vote:

- AYES: Hurst, Parker, Patterson and Pisciotta
- NOES: None
- ABSENT: Cosner
- ABSTAIN: None

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5. Discussion Items

5.1 Felton Fire Request Update

Chief Correira reported that the Felton Ad Hoc Committee met on 4/10/2024 and 5/2/2024. The Interim Fire Chief Dan Walters completed his time on 4/26/2024 and Felton Fire has promoted a new Interim Fire Chief. At the 5/2/2024 meeting, Felton Fire was presented with SVFPD scope of services and proposed cost. The next Ad Hoc Meeting is scheduled for 5/14/2024.

Director Hurst inquired if Felton Fire wanted to expand beyond volunteers and what was their current staffing model.

Chief Correira stated that Felton Fire has a part time Admin shared with Ben Lomond, a daytime Fire Chief who responds to calls, limited day staff and volunteers. Felton Fire is planning on a ballot measure to fund 7-day 2.0 staffing, which is not possible to fund with their current budget.

Director Pisciotta stated that each meeting has been different so this is a moving target and more information will be presented once it has been determined.

Director Hurst inquired about the goal of the next meeting. President Parker stated that hopefully Felton Fire has had some discussions at their Board Meetings and will have a decision moving forward, which will be brought back to the full SVFPD Board for discussion.

6. Action Items – Discussion/Action

6.1 Branciforte Service Zone Measure T Collection

Chief Correira stated that a memo was included in the Board packet. At the last Branciforte Advisory Commission Meeting, it was recommended to let the Measure T Special Tax (Measure T) sunset. Measure T was amended in 2016, generates approximately \$170,000 per year and was designed to cover capital costs and building expenses. Some reasons discussed to let Measure T sunset included: good will to community, there are no other area specific parcel taxes in the SVFPD, response to the Branciforte area is from the SVFPD stations, funds for capital needs are covered through Capital Outlay/Zone A and Measure T funds can be transferred to cover cost if needed. The 2024-25 Preliminary Budget was designed with letting Measure T sunset and if the Board decides to move forward, a resolution will be presented at the June Board Meeting to formalize the process.

On motion of Director Hurst seconded by Director Pisciotta to *Let the Branciforte Service Zone Measure T Collection Sunset to Move the Process Forward* was approved by the following vote:

AYES: Hurst, Parker, Patterson and Pisciotta
NOES: None
ABSENT: Cosner
ABSTAIN: None

6.2 Adopt Resolution 2024-7: Adopting Preliminary Budgets for Fiscal Year 2024-25

685010 General Fund:	\$14,891,148
685015 Branciforte Service Zone:	\$ 961,708
685030 Capital Outlay/Zone A:	\$ 2,415,117
685035 Branciforte Measure T:	\$ 783,304
685040 SCHMIT:	\$ 663,957

Set public hearing for adoption of the final budget for the August 14, 2024, Regular Board Meeting: 6:00 P.M.

Direct staff to publish a public hearing notice and make the budget available for public review

Chief Correira stated that a memo was included in the Board packet and handed out a slideshow presentation with a revised SCHMIT Budget. Chief Correira reviewed the revenue, expenditures and highlighted the following items for each fund:

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685010 – General Fund

- Addition of expenses for Branciforte
- \$119,000 reduction in overtime
- \$10,000 for Mental Wellness
- \$30,000 for SVFPD Election Demography Study
- \$10,000 for Financial Consulting Services
- Establishing carryover training hours and leave bank equal to the remaining balance of the ETO budget
- Develop a debt management strategy
- Merge and dissolve the Branciforte Service Zone during the final budget process

685030 – Capital Outlay/Zone A

- Elections Costs
- Election Marketing and Outreach
- Small Tools and Equipment including portable radio chargers, LIFEPAK 1000 AEDs, LUCAS CPR Device or LIFEPAK 15 depending on County funding and hose testing cart
- Fixed asset including Extractor (carry forward from 2023-24 FY), Branciforte Community Room with funds from the Barnes Family Trust (\$250,000), Assistance to Firefighters Grants (AFG) vehicle cost match and station alerting (Erba Lane)
- Merge and dissolve Measure T during the final budget process

685040 – SCHMIT

- 20% revenue increase
- iPad replacement
- Increased team member reimbursement
- Fixed assets including SCBA Packs, Bottles and Entry Kits
- On going discussions with the JPA for a long-term plan for the SCHMIT Program

Becky Steinbruner stated that she was happy to see that the Board is going to let Measure T sunset. Becky suggested inquiring about Prop 172 funds for SCHMIT and requesting funding from LAFCO for the Election Demography Study.

On motion of Director Pisciotta seconded by Director Hurst to Adopt Resolution 2024-7 Preliminary Budgets for Fiscal Year 2024-25, Set Public Hearing for August 14, 2024 and make the Budget Available for Public Review was approved by the following vote:

AYES:	Hurst, Parker, Patterson and Pisciotta
NOES:	None
ABSENT:	Cosner
ABSTAIN:	None

6.3 La Madrona Fire Station Planning

Chief Correira reported that last year, the La Madrona Fire Station ballot measure failed by 12 votes. In February, there was discussion about going back to the voters in November 2024. At the FDAC conference, we learned that Assembly Constitutional Amendment #1 (ACA1) will align with School Bond Laws and require a vote in the even election years. We can still run a bond or other measure in 2025 but it will require a 66.67% threshold versus 55%. We have confirmed that if ACA1 passes in November 2024, the Board will need to submit additional documents to apply the 55% threshold. A seismically safe fire station is number one priority and if we wait to go to the voters until 2026, building won't start until 2027. The 2024-25 Preliminary Budget includes election costs to run a bond measure in November 2024.

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The Board discussed the challenges of a November 2024 Bond Measure including: going back to the voters so soon after the failed bond measure, potentially competing with the SV School District and/or other ballot measures and what is the current level of community support.

Chief Correira stated that we would work with a polling company to gauge community support and a consultant to present various funding options. To place a measure on the November 2024 ballot, the Santa Cruz County Elections office must be notified by August 2024.

Becky Steinbruner stated that there will be other measures on the ballot in November 2024 including the Climate Resiliency Measure (\$87 per parcel) and a Transportation Measure.

6.4 Approval of Geotechnical Investigation – Design Phase Services for the La Madrona Fire Station site

Chief Correira stated that there is a memo in the Board packet. The soils report that was done in the past is too old to use and the services are necessary for engineering and design to continue with the Fire Station project.

Becky Steinbruner inquired why this project was not put out to bid. President Parker stated that the services had been discussed prior but due to a cost increase and threshold for approval, the item was brought back to the Board.

On motion of Director Pisciotta seconded by Director Hurst to Approve Geotechnical Investigation Design Phase Services for the La Madrona Fire Station Site was approved by the following vote:

AYES:	Hurst, Parker, Patterson and Pisciotta
NOES:	None
ABSENT:	Cosner
ABSTAIN:	None

7. **Board of Directors and Administrative Reports – Information/Discussion**

(No action will be taken on any questions raised by the Board at this time.)

7.1 Board of Directors Report – Directors

President Parker stated that the Planning and Finance Committee met to review the Preliminary Budget. In addition, several Board Directors attended the annual FDAC Conference.

Director Pisciotta stated that the Organization and Personnel Committee met to discuss a few issues.

7.2 Administrative Report – Chief Officers

Battalion Chief Stubendorff reported that Captain Grigg, Deputy Fire Marshal Collins and Engineer Cahir have done a lot of work to complete the investigation for the fatality fire and the final report is pending completion.

Chief Correira stated that the administrative report was included in the Board Packet and added the following:

- A conditional offer has been made to a remarkable candidate to fill the Office Supervisor position. She has wide array of public sector experience and is married to a firefighter. The Board will be provided her name and resume after the job offer conditions have been satisfied and she has notified her employer.
- The Organization and Personnel Committee interviewed legal firms and selected Atkinson, Andelson, Loya, Ruud and Romo (AALRR). They provide legal counsel to multiple fire districts and an agreement will be brought to the Board for approval.
- Thank you to all who attended the Blue and Gold event to recognize Admin Services Manager Walton as the Firefighter of the Year.

8. **Correspondence**

8.1 Thank You Letter – Marti Ainsworth and Tom Reilly

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8.2 Email Received 5/1/2024 from Becky Steinbruner

The Board received and filed the correspondence.

9. Request for Future Agenda Items

No future agenda items.

10 Closed Session: Government Code §54957

10.1 Real Property Negotiations for Price and Terms of Payment

Real Property Transaction: 6000 La Madrona Drive

Negotiators: Fire Chief Mark Correia and the Scotts Valley Water District

At 7:04 p.m., President Parker announced the Board Closed Session for the purpose listed in Item 10.1.

11. Open Session: Government Code §54957.1

11.1 Report on Closed Session

At 7:20 p.m., the Board reconvened to Open Session and President Parker reported that the Easement Purchase Agreement with the Scotts Valley Water District was accepted with the following edits:

- Revised site plan drawings once completed
- Removal and update of the temporary construction easement language

On motion of Director Pisciotta seconded by Director Hurst to *Approve the Easement Purchase Agreement with the Scotts Valley Water District once the two Revisions Listed Earlier have been met, and Authorize the Fire Chief to Sign* was approved by the following vote:

AYES: Hurst, Parker, Patterson and Pisciotta

NOES: None

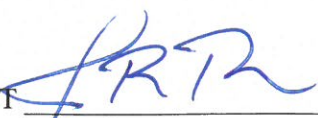
ABSENT: Cosner

ABSTAIN: None


12. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:22 p.m.

ATTEST



Joe Parker
Board President



Mark Correia
Board Secretary