

SCOTTS VALLEY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

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MINUTES OF THE SCOTTS VALLEY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORS REGULAR MEETING OF August 14, 2024

1. Opening Business

1.1 Call to Order

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors of the Scotts Valley Fire Protection District (SVFPD) was held on Wednesday, August 14, 2024 at the City of Scotts Valley Council Chambers. President Parker called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m. and provided a teleconferencing notice for Director Hurst.

1.2 Pledge of Allegiance and Moment of Silence

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

1.3 Roll Call

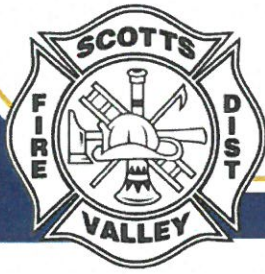
Director(s) Present:	President Joe Parker (JP) Vice President Adam Cosner (AC) Director Russ Patterson (RP) Director Daron Pisciotta (DP)
Director(s) Virtual at Alternate Location:	Director Kris Hurst (KH)
Director(s) Absent:	N/A
Fire District Staff:	Chief Correira Battalion Chiefs McNeil and Stubendorff Administrative Services Manager Rodriguez

2. Special Presentations and Introductions

2.1 Promotion and Badge Pinning Presentation: Captain Neil Cahir

Chief Correira spoke at the board meeting to honor Neil Cahir's recent promotion. After a rigorous promotional process that included written exams, interviews, and fire simulations, Neil excelled, scoring the highest across all exam sections. Chief Correira praised the collaborative spirit among the candidates, noting that all six participants worked together and supported one another. Neil's performance, leadership, and dedication made the final decision an easy one.

Neil has been with the district since 2014, advancing through various roles such as firefighter-paramedic, engineer, and acting captain, while earning numerous certifications. Chief Correira highlighted Neil's leadership on the hazmat team and his work on public safety and mental health initiatives. Neil's approachable nature and strong counsel have made



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him a trusted figure in the department. His badge was proudly pinned by his son Gus at the meeting.

Neil expressed gratitude for the opportunity, stating he is excited for the next phase of his career and proud to work alongside the dedicated professionals at Scotts Valley Fire, calling it a special place.

3. Public Comment (GC §54954.3)

- Becky Steinbruner discussed the Santa Cruz County Clean Water and Wildfire Protection Act, a ballot measure proposing an \$87 per parcel tax, excluding some agricultural and timberland properties. She noted that the Santa Cruz County Fire Chiefs Association opposes the measure, as it lacks guarantees for wildfire protection projects or funding for agencies involved in wildfire prevention. Steinbruner also highlighted the release of a 360-page countywide fire agency assessment by LAFCO, which recommends creating an independent countywide fire agency with a new governance structure, a topic scheduled for discussion by the Board of Supervisors on August 27.

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

- The Board removed Consent *Item 5.4- Surplus of District Owned Property* and added the item to Action/Discussion section as Item 11.3

5. Consent Calendar

5.1 Minutes: Approve Regular Board Meeting Minutes of July 10, 2024

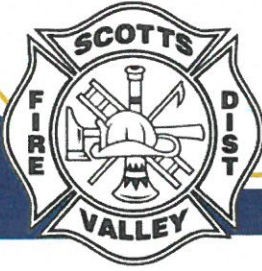
5.2 Approve SVFPD Claims Disbursements for the Month of July 1, 2024 through July 31, 2024 in the Amount of:

Payroll and Benefits:	\$ 2,394,374.08*
General Fund:	\$ 176,502.87**
Capital Outlay:	\$ 36,131.25
SCHMIT:	\$ 2,631.02
TOTAL:	\$ 2,609,639.22

* Includes CalPERS unfunded actuarial liability (UAL) lump-sum prepayment \$1,209,214 and Workers Compensation Insurance payment \$539,390 Board approved 7/10/2024

**Includes McNeil and Company District Insurance payment \$62,904 Board approved 7/10/2024

5.3 Approve Intergovernmental Agreement for Motor Vehicle Repairs with the Central Fire District of Santa Cruz County



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Board Comment/Questions: None
Public Comment: None

Motion to Approve the Consent Calendar as revised with Items 5.1-5.3

Move: RP

Second: AC

Roll Call Vote: 5-0

6. Discussion Items

6.1 La Madrona Fire Station Planning

Chief Correira provided an update on the La Madrona Fire Station planning, detailing several options for the Board to consider regarding the next steps. The focus is on whether to proceed with architectural drawings and permitting now or delay until after the upcoming election. He outlined a timeline for the project, noting that delaying until after the election could cause the district to miss the 2025 construction window and potentially push the project to 2026, with increased costs.

Three main options were presented: (1) delaying until after the election to avoid financial risk, (2) proceeding with full architectural drawings now to maintain the 2025 build window but risking up to \$80,000, or (3) proceeding with drawings and permitting for just the fire station, postponing administrative buildings until after the election, reducing financial risk but increasing overall project costs. Chief Correira emphasized that no action was required at this meeting, but the Board's consensus on the approach was inquired.

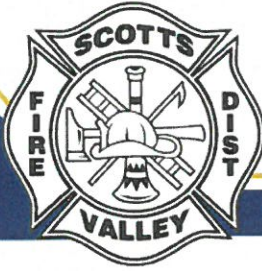
RP: Expressed support for moving forward with the La Madrona Fire Station project despite the financial risk. RP emphasized that delaying the project could lead to significant cost increases, with over 20% compounding annually, potentially amounting to millions of dollars. While acknowledging the risk, RP believes that proceeding now is essential to avoid further cost escalation.

DP: Agreed that delaying the La Madrona Fire Station project would prolong the process further. DP acknowledged the associated risk but emphasized the need for the Board to decide on an option they are comfortable with, to avoid extending the project any further.

AC: Inquired about the different options for the La Madrona Fire Station project, specifically asking whether the Board was interested in including the Administration building in the current phase of planning and construction.

KH: After considering all the information, KH shared support for Option C. KH expressed the Board should wait until after the election to proceed with the Administration building portion of the La Madrona Fire Station project.

JP: Asked for clarification regarding Option D, specifically inquiring what the "not to exceed" dollar amount would be for the La Madrona Fire Station project.



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By the end of the discussion on the La Madrona Fire Station planning, the Board reached a consensus in favor of Option C, which involves proceeding with the architectural drawings and permitting for the fire station while postponing the administration building until after the election. No action was taken at the meeting, but the Board's preference for Option C was noted.

7. Public Hearing/Action Items – Discussion/Action

7.1 Scheduled Public Hearing for the SVFPD Final Budget for Fiscal Year 2024/2025:

685010	General Fund:	\$15,675,347
685030	Capital Outlay Zone A:	\$ 2,287,035
685040	SCHMIT:	\$ 707,850

Chief Correira presented the final budget adjustments, highlighting several key changes from the preliminary budget as followed:

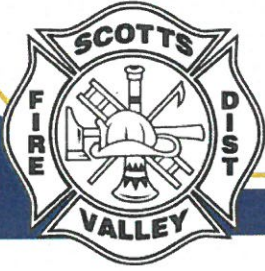
- General Fund budget was increased by \$784,199 due to updated revenue projections, including affirmed fund balances and additional unexpected revenue.
- Capital Outlay Zone A was reduced by \$128,142.
- Schmidt Fund was increased by \$43,893.
- Specific budget changes include:
 - Group health insurance costs updated to reflect actual increases.
 - Workers' compensation payments made based on actual costs.
 - Office equipment maintenance adjusted for unexpected increases.
 - Added iPads to office expenses.
 - Increased general counsel budget by \$10,000 for potential legal actions and contract negotiations.
- Capital Zone A Adjustments:
 - Added costs for computer connection API for station alerting systems.
 - Included design work costs for the Administration building not originally part of the budget.

7.2 Receive Public Comment and Adopt Resolution 2024-11: Resolution Adopting Final Budget for Fiscal Year 2024/2025 and Addressing Account Adjustments Post-Consolidation of Branciforte Fire Protection District

At 6:27 p.m. President Parker opened the public hearing.

Public Comment:

- Becky Steinbruner: Expressed concern about the \$30,000 allocated for a demographic study related to district-based elections, arguing that it may be insufficient compared



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to a similar study done by the Central Fire Protection District, which cost \$35,000 to \$40,000. She requested more information on the scope of the \$30,000 bid and expressed worry that the budget might not fully cover the study. Steinbruner also reaffirmed her intention to take legal action to ensure the transition to district-based elections and noted the absence of discussion about the Barnes Family Trust funds in relation to the Branciforte Service Zone and Measure T funds, calling for clarification. She provided related documents for the Board's consideration.

Chief Correira responded to Becky Steinbruner's comments by clarifying several points. He noted that a quote from the National Demographic Service for the study totals \$33,500. He explained that the cost difference compared to the Central Fire Protection District's study could be due to the differing complexities of the districts, with their study being more extensive due to serving a larger population and area. The Chief also provided documentation, including the scope of work, the preliminary and final budget details, and the Fire Chief's Work Plan, which includes the study as part of the fourth-quarter activities. He assured that the district remains committed to moving forward with the study as planned unless directed otherwise by the Board.

At 6:32 p.m. President Parker closed the public hearing.

Motion to Approve Resolution 2024-11: Resolution Adopting Final Budget for Fiscal Year 2024/2025 and Addressing Account Adjustments Post- Consolidation of Branciforte Fire Protection District as presented

Move: RP

Second: AC

Roll Call Vote: 5-0

8. Public Hearing II/Action 8.1-8.2

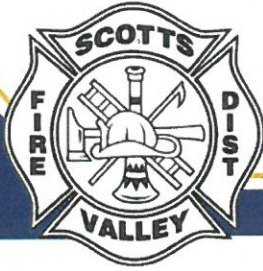
8.1 Scheduled Public Hearing for Ordinance 2024-1: Weed Abatement

Chief Correira presented the public hearing for Ordinance 2024-01 on weed abatement. He explained that the ordinance aims to enhance the current weed abatement program, which primarily involves sending multiple letters to offenders but lacks enforcement power. The proposed ordinance would allow the Fire District to send notices, post the property, and if necessary, abate the hazard using a contracted firm. The costs incurred would be placed on the property owner's tax rolls to be paid the following year. Chief Correira noted that the ordinance follows similar programs in California and has received positive feedback from the community, who see it as a necessary tool to address fire risks.

8.2 Receive Public Comment and Adopt Ordinance 2024-1: Weed Abatement

At 6:34 p.m. President Parker opened the public hearing and with no public comment, the public hearing was closed.

Motion to Approve Ordinance 2024-1: Weed Abatement as presented



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Move: AC

Second: DP

Roll Call Vote: 5-0

9. Closed Session: Government Code §54957

9.1 Closed Session Conference with Legal Counsel – Threatened/Anticipated Litigation

At 6:40 p.m., President Parker announced the Board would be going into Closed Session for the purpose to discuss item listed in 9.1.

10. Open Session: Government Code §54957.1

10.1 Report on closed session

At 7:01 p.m., the Board reconvened to Open Session and President Parker reported on Item 9.1. Information was received, and direction was given. No action taken.

11. Action Items – Discussion/Action

11.1 Resolution 2024-12 Sending Notice Terminating the Weist Law and CalMuni Professional Services Agreements and Ratifying the CFG Finances and Stradling Law Professional Services Agreement

Board Comment/Questions: None

Public Comment: None

Motion to Approve Resolution 2024-12 Sending Notice Terminating the Weist Law and CalMuni Professional Services Agreements and Ratifying the CFG Finances and Stradling Law Professional Services Agreement as presented

Move: AC

Second: DP

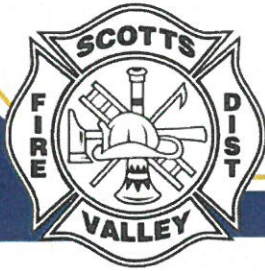
Roll Call Vote: 5-0

11.2 Appointment of Ad Hoc Committee For Labor Negotiations

Chief Correira informed the board that the IAFF Union 3577 is in the process of rewriting its bylaws, potentially including other Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) groups within the organization for union representation. One key recommendation was for the board to appoint an ad hoc committee for labor negotiations to handle any forthcoming negotiations, especially if a formal request is received from the union. The board was advised to appoint two members to the committee to prepare for any required meetings or discussions with the union. Although current MOUs with the district's groups do not expire until June of next year, this committee would address the potential changes proactively.

The Board agreed to appoint Directors Cosner and Hurst as the Ad Hoc Committee to address the potential changes in the labor group prior to negotiations.

11.3 Surplus of District Owned Property



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Chief Correira presented the surplus list, noting several IT-related items identified by BC Stubendorff. Additionally, a camper shell was added to the list as it will be replaced on a command vehicle. Approval of the surplus list would allow the district to auction these items on GovDeals.com.

Motion to Approve the disposal of the items on the surplus list of District owned property as presented.

Move: DP

Second: RP

Roll Call Vote: 5-0

12. Board of Directors and Administrative Reports – Information/Discussion

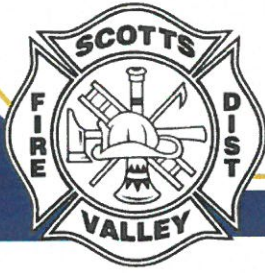
12.1 Board of Directors Report – Directors

- Director Russ Patterson announced that this would be his last regular board meeting. He mentioned he has one more Facilities Committee meeting with the PR firm in two weeks before officially submitting his resignation, effective September 3rd, as he prepares to move out of the area. He reflected on his 8 years of service, expressing that it has been enjoyable.

The board expressed their appreciation for Director Russ Patterson's eight years of service and presented him with a gift in recognition of his contributions.

12.2 Administrative Report – Chief Officers

- Administrative Services Manager Rodriguez informed the board that the county is transitioning to Workday as their new payroll system. Over the next two years, the district will work on integrating their current payroll system into Workday. The expected go-live date is tentatively March 2026.
- Chief Correira provided several important updates. He began by announcing the resignation of Engineer Paramedic Dan Pedemonte, effective August 18, who has accepted a full-time position with the Central Fire District of Santa Cruz County. Chief Correira also recognized the positive outcome of a recent community outreach meeting in Branciforte, where they discussed Measure T, the potential bond measure, and response times, noting great engagement from attendees. He then shared his attendance at a Santa Cruz County Democrats meeting to express the Fire Chiefs' opposition to the Clean Water and Wildfire Resilience Act. Chief Correira explained that the act, originally well-intended, has been revised 36 times and now diverts significant funding from wildfire resilience to other unrelated community programs. He emphasized concerns that the act could pull about \$7 million from a parcel tax for county-managed projects, with little accountability or guarantee of use for fire-related services. This act also competes with local bond measures from Scotts Valley, Zayante, and Central Fire, which are vital for fire services.



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Chief Correira provided an update on the Park Fire, noting that a crew swap had occurred, and they now have five members assigned to the fire. He praised Battalion Chief Lofranco for his heroic actions at a refuge area, where he rescued a dozer operator in danger of being burned by driving him to safety.

Lastly, Chief Correira personally thanked Director Russ Patterson for his eight years of distinguished service on the board, recognizing his long career in public service, including his role as a police captain and emergency manager, and recalling their first meeting. He expressed gratitude for Patterson's commitment to the community.

13. Correspondence

- 13.1 Incident Follow-Up: Thank you card from the Chates Family
- 13.2 Email dated July 10, 2024 from Becky Steinbruner
- 13.3 Thank you drawing from Isabelle Hackworth- 5 years old
- 13.4 Incident Follow-Up: Thank You Email from Jeff Maxwell, Fire Chief, Zayante Fire Protection District

The Board received and filed the correspondence.

14. Request for Future Agenda Items

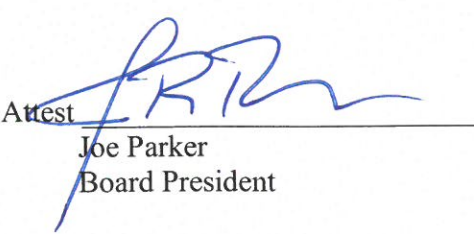
- Address the Board seat vacancy at the September meeting.

15. Adjournment

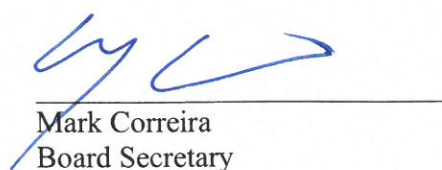
The meeting was adjourned at 7:19 p.m.

Next Regularly Scheduled Board Meeting: Wednesday, September 11, 2024 at 6:00 p.m.

Attest



Joe Parker
Board President



Mark Correira
Board Secretary