

Minutes of the Capay Valley Fire Protection District Commissioners

Monday 13 February 2023

The regular meeting of the Capay Valley Fire Protection District Board of Commissioners was opened and called to order at 6:33 PM by: Board Chair, Judith Redmond

Board Members Present: Wyatt Cline, Dawnmarie Eason, Mark Burns (late arrival @ 6:40), Caleb Sehnert, Judith Redmond

Absent:

Others Present: Michael McDonald, Anne McDonald, Pam Welsh, Moira Fitzgerald

Chief/Dist. Secretary: Jesse Capitanio

Association Members: Robert Hines, Jason Crowe

Motion to approve the September regular meeting minutes:

Motion: Dawnmarie Eason

Second: Caleb Sehnert

Ayes: Wyatt, Dawnmarie, Caleb

Nays: None

Absent: Mark

Approved: Yes

Public Comment: None

Correspondence: On advice of County Counsel Chief Capitanio responded to the Freedom of Information act request informing the sender that CVFPD had no responsive records and that our scope does not include permitting.

Old Business:

1. Joint Operating Agreement (JOA) Update

Jesse reports that good progress is being made on the joint personnel policy project, also reported on an offer by Lexipol to provide policies and SOP's free of charge as their services are part of our YCPARMIA membership. Jesse is gathering more information and will inform the board at the March meeting.

2. Benefit Assessment Tax Process

Judith reviewed the BAT process for the benefit of the public. Wyatt provided background into the proposition 172 issue and how it ties in with this topic. Jesse explained that the timeline proposed by SCI is intended to complete the BAT process in time for the next tax roll, but seems to be flexible if we are willing to miss that deadline. Jesse further explained that the Chiefs' Association will be meeting in two days and discussing this topic – many agencies are hesitant to move forward with a vote until the County clarifies their position in relation to sustainable County funding for the FPD's.

Ms. Welsh commented that the process seems convoluted with a public hearing not occurring until after the ballots are mailed, and wondered if each ballot would list the expected costs of the recipient.

Mr. McDonald supports waiting to act until the County clarifies their position in regard to funding. He asked also what the budget for this engineer's study would cover and Jesse explained that it would cover current operations, maintenance cost for the facilities and apparatus, some additional training, as well as the current level of staffing plus one full-time firefighter 40 hrs. a week.

Mr. McDonald asked if it is appropriate to charge for agricultural and range land due to our District being in the SRA (state responsibility area) – SCI’s position on this is that our Mutual Aid status to Cal Fire is reflected in the assessment.

Jason commented that the District could be educating the voters to try to raise popular opinion for 172 funding

3. Financial Sustainability/Prop 172

Jesse reports that the contract to receive one-time funding is in draft form, but is intended to require Districts to bring a BAT to vote as a condition of eligibility. During the last meeting of the Fire Sustainability Ad Hoc committee and working group the Supervisors agreed that sustainable funding needs to be found for the Districts, but would not commit to the County providing it.

4. Update on Co. Rd #41 Capay Valley Exit Route

Judith reports that the rains created a new washout and downed a number of trees – the road is functionally inaccessible.

The board will keep this item on the agenda for review and updates at the next meeting.

5. CVERA update

Moira reports that CVERA is collaborating with Yolo Resource Conservation District (RCD) on a Cal Fire Wildfire Prevention Grant which will hopefully provide funds and equipment for vegetation management projects in the Capay Valley. Team Rubicon had been scheduled to work on some fuel reduction projects for us prior to the storms, but they are now engaged in flood recovery efforts and will postpone our projects until later. CVERA is also working with the Red Cross to provide free CPR training for the community as well as the citizens of Esparto and the entire senior class of Esparto High – dates TBD.

The board will keep this item on the agenda for updates at the next meeting.

6. Discussion on Reserve Program

Jesse presented a job description for Capay Valley Reserve Firefighters.

7. Septic Project

No timeline yet, Yolo Pumping is temporarily unavailable.

8. Mid-Year Budget amendment (continued from January)

Jesse received guidance from County DFS about the process for the budget amendment, and will prepare one in time for next meeting.

9. Grant funding update: DWR/Cal Fire

DWR funds approved, Jesse to sign pass-through agreement and begin project. CVERA/CalFire grant was briefly reviewed – no anticipated budget impact on the District, but the District will be the owner of the equipment provided by the grant.

New Business:

Fire Chief's Report:

Jesse is concerned about the Rumsey residents who are being directed toward the California Fair Plan insurance program, and is researching ways that Capay Valley Fire can reduce the cost of their premiums.

New siren controller ordered for B21 and we are troubleshooting the reel line.

Chiefs' dinner is at Station 22 this month.

Jesse currently taking Company Officer 2A but daytime volunteer staffing is good.

Firefighters' Association Report:

Jason reports that oysters have been ordered and we have plenty of people to help out for the Almond Festival.

Other Agenda Items:

Discuss budget and review claims:

Jesse reports that this year we are likely to go overbudget on training mostly due to swiftwater rescue training and putting Firefighter Flood through an EMT program. This will not put us over budget overall. The board discussed and agreed that this was acceptable.

Jesse submitted the current claims and they were reviewed by the Board

Motion to Pay Submitted Claims

Motion: Mark Burns

Second: Wyatt Cline

Ayes: Dawnmarie, Caleb, Wyatt, Mark, Judith

Nays: None

Absent: None

Approved: Yes

Motion to Close the Meeting:

TIME: 8:42 PM

Motion: Mark Burns

Second: Dawnmarie Eason

Ayes: Mark, Wyatt, Dawnmarie, Caleb, Judith

Nays: None

Absent: None

Approved: Yes

Meeting adjourned: 8:42 PM

Judith Redmond, Chairman

Jesse Capitanio, Secretary

