

CACHAGUA FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Wednesday, September 13, 2023
CACHAGUA FIRE STATION – NASON RD., CARMEL VALLEY

The meeting was called to order at 5:59 pm.

ROLL CALL: Eli Riddle present, Monty Salas-Cordrey present; Laura Stenvick present.

CONSENT AGENDA

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The minutes of the regular meeting of August 09, 2023 were considered. Motion to approve submitted by Salas-Cordrey; seconded by Riddle; motion carried.

ACTION AGENDA

1. **Website Changes:** We are streamlining the process by removing the need for individuals to carry a burn permit on the website through Google Doc, as Cal Fire will now maintain records directly. We can implement a method to collect contacts specifically for the Cachagua Fire Department's use. We need to capture photographs for the website, and these should prominently feature Jeff Drew and Kara Nobles.
2. **Community Fund for Carmel Valley:** We are currently exploring the advantages of the Community Fund for Carmel Valley. Salas-Cordrey has had discussions with Don Bonsper about the potential collaboration with Alan Crocket, which presents an exciting opportunity. We made the first round to be considered in the MC Gives fundraising grant work that Don is helping chart out and that future collaboration will be needed to complete the process.
3. **SCBA Updates:** We are still in the process of awaiting the order to be processed. Anticipate receiving updates by mid-October. Once the order has been successfully processed and verified for accuracy and compliance with our standards, we can proceed with calculating the distribution of the funds.
4. **Sale of Engine 7711:** Engine 7711 has been experiencing significant and expensive mechanical problems. Consequently, it is advisable that we sell it and allocate the proceeds to support the Cachagua Fire Department.
5. **Rana Creek Update:** Rana Creek has scheduled a walkthrough with Eli and a team of members to prepare for a potential future contract with the Cachagua Fire Department. This will involve evaluating a robust structure, possibly situated near the road. While we do have some time, it is advisable to be well prepared with a game plan in case our leases expire.
6. **District/Association Relations:** The District board is in place to support the association and oversee the chief. Our main goal as a board is to ensure the longevity and sustainability of the organization. We are a new board and we came in ready to help. Our efforts, both financial and otherwise, have been met with resistance.

The Chief and President requested assistance from the board in getting the association's finances in order and systems put in place. However, when the district requested account balances, we were accused of trying to take control of the association's finances.

The District board invited the Chief, and the association representatives of his choosing, to sit in on the District board discussion regarding the 23-24 budget. The board encouraged the association to put all anticipated expenditures on the budget and declined nothing. However, the board has been called

stingy for not paying the items that were not added by the association to the 23-24 budget. When the association is ready, we would like to bridge the gap between the district and association. In the meantime, we will continue with the status quo and maintain the fiscal and other responsibilities of the district while supporting the association chief.

STAFF & OFFICER REPORTS

TREASURER'S REPORT: Laura Stenvick

Current Account Balances: (as of 9/11/23)

Checking \$224,974.95

Savings \$1,002.41

Brokerage \$259,052.37

Total \$485,029.73

New Business:

- Annual Workers Comp Audit completed and submitted to FRMS.
- Moving along in QB online. Much less back and forth with CPA's office and smaller invoices coming in from them.

CACHAGUA VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTER'S REPORT: Alyssa McGowen

New business:

- Personal Fanny packs are in! Everyone in the department now has a quick response trauma kit with some of the basic medical tools to help people if we are unable to get to our equipment.
- Sierra and Yancey held a CPR class for the Steelhead Association on 8/13. The steelhead people really enjoyed it. Maybe this is something we can do in the future for small groups.
- Sierra has finally collected all the necessary documents to get us back on track with the county.
- SCBA's have been ordered and I believe they should start to show up at the fire house anytime now.
- The association has budgeted to spend no more than \$2,000 on more "stop the bleed" training equipment for us to train on and possibly use to teach the community these skills as well.
- Stress debrief person is so close to being chosen, we will be posting as well as giving this phone number out to everyone in the department to call whenever they feel the need for it.
- Engineers and captains are skill working on getting their class b/firefighter endorsements. It seems like everyone is having a hard time getting in touch with the doctor who is DOT certified at MOGO. They've been encouraged to have this done by the next business meeting.
- Movie night! Eli has been given the task of putting on a movie night to boost morale and get the team together. Date hasn't been determined. You're all welcome to join.
- The association has made a motion to spend no more than \$115,000 on structure turnouts. Kevin will elaborate on this topic given he is available tonight.
- All radios have been programmed and are installed in our trucks! A huge thank you to Kevin, Luke and Yancey.
- Ranch Round up is canceled this year so we will not be manning the EMT there.
- September drill will be held on October 7th, topic to be chosen.
- The compressor machine needs to be serviced and will need new fittings for our new SCBA cylinders. We were quoted \$1,247.97

- I spoke with Ramon about the treasurer position. He is willing to continue to be the treasurer until the December election. Ian said he is willing to take on the position, but our bylaws state that he can't until he is a member for one year. That will be March 2024, I'm sure we can figure something out in the meantime.
- Medicals 6
- Tree down 2
- Smoke investigation 1
- Commercial fire alarm 1
- Electrical hazard 1
- Vehicle accident 1

CHIEF'S REPORT: Kevin Dixon

L.N. Curtis is still waiting for the balance of the order from MSA, we have already received a portion, but the rest should arrive in late October or early November. We have decided to return the RIC connector due to the price of \$5700.

Signworks has received the deposit for the work to be done to the B7702 vehicle and the "mock-up" should be coming soon for final approval. We did lose some time on this project due to car week but are back on track.

I am working with a couple of vendors for the structural PPE replacement and am hoping to get that ordered this month.

Programming of the H.T.'s has been done by the CAL FIRE radio tech., and they have been distributed. The programming is a statewide load and should cover any channel used for state, local, and federal incidents.

I have been in communication with Don Bonsper regarding the latest grant he is working on. The grant seems comprehensive, and I have requested clarification from others who deal with these types of grants. The grant seems to be for everything from equipment to fuel reduction and education to fire adaptive landscaping. The community could use all those programs so we need all the information we can get.

I would like to request a check for \$125 for three memberships to the Monterey County Fire Chiefs Association. I feel it is important to represent C.F.P.D. on a countywide level.

I have tasked FF Sans to get something in place for critical incident stress management. It is likely that our members will encounter a traumatic event in the course of their duties, and I want to be prepared to get them counseling immediately following such an event.

Jaime and I attended a meeting in August regarding a study done to remove the Los Padres dam. The study was, in my opinion, heavily in favor of dam removal. A portion of the study sighted the use of reservoir water used in fighting the Soberanes fire and no mention was made about its use in initial attack fires. They completely downplayed its importance to the safety aspect to the community and its residents. You can read about the

study on the MPWMD website as well as leave comments. I feel we should address this issue and fight dam removal. Does California really need to remove another dam and let that water flow to ocean, especially when it could be used to save lives and property?

ADDITIONS: The Board has motioned to allocate funds to cover the membership fees of \$125 for the MC Fire Chiefs Association. Stenvick approved; Salas-Cordrey motioned.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 6:54 pm. The next regular meeting will be held on Wednesday, October 18, 2023, 6:00pm at the firehouse in Princes Camp.