

1 **September 26, 2023**

2 **REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF**
3 **THE NORTH COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT**

4 **LOCATION: 990 E. MISSION ROAD, FALLBROOK CA 92028**

5 President Acosta called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

6 **ALL RECITED THE PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.**

7 **ROLL CALL:**

8 **Present:** Directors Acosta, Egkan, Munson, Pike, and Shaw

9 **Absent:** None

10 **Staff Present:** Chief McReynolds, General Counsel Steinke, DFC MacMillan, FM Fieri, F/M Juul, B/C
11 August, IT Specialist Swanger, Board Clerk Canpinar, and members of the public and association.

12 **CHANGES TO THE AGENDA:**

13 President Acosta requested agenda item #9 (adopting an updated pay schedule – Resolution 2023-
14 12) be moved to directly follow closed session. There were no objections.

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16 **PUBLIC ACTIVITIES AGENDA**

17 1. **PUBLIC COMMENT:** President Acosta inquired if there were any public comments regarding items
18 not on the agenda. There being no public comment, the public comment section was closed.

19 2. **RECOGNITION OF DEPUTY FIRE CHIEF KEVIN MAHR AND DISTRICT COUNSEL ROBERT JAMES:** Chief
20 McReynolds recognized and thanked Deputy Fire Chief Mahr and Counsel James for their years of
21 service with NCFPD.

22 **DISCUSSION AGENDA**

23 3. **DISCUSSION ITEMS:** There were no discussion items for the September 26, 2023, Regular Board
24 Meeting.

25 **ACTION AGENDA**

26 **CONSENT ITEMS:**

27 4. **REVIEW AND ACCEPT SPECIAL BOARD MEETING MINUTES FOR AUGUST 22, 2023.**

28 5. **REVIEW AND ACCEPT FINANCIAL REPORTS FOR AUGUST 2023.**

29 6. **REVIEW AND ACCEPT POLICIES & PROCEDURES:** There were no policies or procedures to review
30 for the September 26, 2023, Regular Board Meeting.

31 7. **REVIEW AND ACCEPT THE MONTHLY OPERATIONS ACTIVITY REPORT.**

32 President Acosta inquired whether there were any questions on Consent Items 4-7. There being
33 no discussion, President Acosta asked for a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. On a motion by
34 Director Pike seconded by Director Shaw, the motion to approve the Consent Agenda passed
35 unanimously.

36 **ACTION ITEMS:**

37 8. **PUBLIC HEARING DATE/TIME CERTAIN 9/26/23 (5:05 P.M.) REVIEW AND APPROVE FINAL BUDGET FOR**
38 **FY 23/24 AND ADOPTION OF RESOLUTION 2023-11 -F/M JUUL AND CHIEF McREYNOLDS:** President Acosta

39 opened the public hearing reading the matter to be approved. There being no public comments, the
40 public hearing portion was closed. F/M Juul presented the final budget to the Board, noting interest
41 income has increased approximately 2% and ambulance revenues have been strong due to the
42 implementation of the PPGEMT program and BLS116, bringing estimated revenues to about \$25MM.
43 F/M Juul noted the District's debt service has gone down substantially since the Administrative building
44 and two type 1 engines were paid off, leaving the loan on Station 5 and the solar loans on Station 1, 3,
45 and 5 as the only debt service. On a motion by Director Munson seconded by Director Pike, the motion
46 to approve the FY 23/24 Final Budget and adopt Resolution 2023-11 passed unanimously.

47 9. **REVIEW AND APPROVE RESOLUTION 2023-12 ADOPTING AN UPDATED PAY SCHEDULE – F/M JUUL**

48 **AND CHIEF McREYNOLDS:** This item was discussed at 7:45 p.m. after open session was reconvened
49 following closed session discussions. Chief McReynolds informed the Board pay scale adjustments
50 displayed as Exhibit 'A' of Resolution 2023-12 reflect proposed salary increases. On a motion by
51 Director Pike seconded by Director Munson, the Board unanimously adopted Resolution 2023-12, with
52 an amendment to the Resolution noting salary increases effective retroactive September 1, 2023.

53 10. **CODE OF CIVIL DISCOURSE - CHIEF McREYNOLDS:** Chief McReynolds presented the draft Code
54 of Civil Discourse Policy to the Board for consideration, which is a guideline encouraging respectful
55 and constructive dialog between individuals with opposing viewpoints. On a motion by Director Pike
56 seconded by Vice President Egkan, the motion to adopt the Code of Civil Discourse Policy passed
57 unanimously.

58 11. **FEDERAL ADVOCACY SERIES - CHIEF McREYNOLDS:** Chief McReynolds recommended the Board
59 consider entering a contract with Howells Government Relations (HGR), a federal advocacy
60 company, to assist the District with monitoring, tracking, and applying for federal funding
61 opportunities for infrastructure projects. Jacqueline Howell of HGR stepped to the podium to
62 introduce herself to the Board, and discussed her previous work with water districts and the funding
63 opportunities she was able to secure for them. On a motion by Director Pike seconded by Director
64 Shaw, the motion to authorize Staff to enter into a contract with HGR for a monthly retainer of \$7,500
65 plus reasonable, agreed-upon incidental expenses, passed unanimously.

66 12. **AMBULANCE FEE SCHEDULE ADOPTION AND RESOLUTION 2023-13 - CHIEF McREYNOLDS:** Chief
67 McReynolds presented Resolution 2023-13 to the Board, noting the increased ambulance fee
68 schedule listed as Exhibit 'A'. This Resolution authorizes staff to increase fees approximately 7.5%
69 based on the CPI-Urban index for San Diego, starting October 1, 2023. Automatic rate increases
70 based on CPI were approved by the Board in September 2016. Director Pike asked if Chief
71 McReynolds reviewed AB 716, to which he responded he had not yet. Director Egkan asked if
72 ambulance fees were tied to residential development, which Chief McReynolds responded it is not;
73 fees are strictly based on the region's CPI. On a motion by Director Pike seconded by Vice President
74 Egkan, the motion to adopt Resolution 2023-13 and the attached ambulance fee schedule with an
75 approximate 7.5% fee increase, passed unanimously.

76 **STANDING DISCUSSION ITEMS:**

77 ● **LEGAL COUNSEL REPORT:** General Counsel Steinke reviewed legislation to watch: SB 326
78 (Eggman), AB 531 (Irwin), ACA 1 (Aguiar-Curry), and ACA 13 (Ward).

79 ● **WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS:** Information only; no action required.

80 ● **BOARD RECOGNITION PROGRAM:** Information only; no action required.

81 ● **COMMENTS:** Information only; no action required.

82 ● **STAFF REPORTS/UPDATES:**

83 ● **KEITH McREYNOLDS, FIRE CHIEF:** Chief McReynolds informed the Board of the following
84 items:

- Reed Family Enterprises, Inc. will start work on the Admin. building renovation in November.

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- The North Zone Fire Chiefs met with union leadership and provided updates on agency projects.
 - The North Zone Fire Chiefs will be approving the strategic plan at the October meeting. The plan will be brought back to the Board at a future meeting.
 - There were three complex structure fires that happened in the last several weeks: an attic fire, a large commercial structure fire, and a gas leak at an apartment complex. All the crews who responded were recognized for a job well done. B/C August and Captain Harrington were recognized for a ladder rescue of a resident through a second story window.
 - An agency response standard is in the works and will be brought back to the Board at a future meeting.
 - Congratulations to Peter August, who was recently promoted to Division Chief.
 - The implementation of a budget ad-hoc committee will be discussed at the November Board meeting as an action item. The committee will include two Board members, staff, and labor representatives.

102 ● **CHIEF OFFICERS AND OTHER STAFF: IT SPECIALIST SWANGER:** IT Specialist Swanger informed the Board a cyber security analysis may be presented at a future Board meeting. **B/C AUGUST.** B/C August provided updates of recent events, including the Bonsall of Chamber of Commerce First Responder Appreciation and the NCF Badge Pinning Ceremony, along with the status of portable and local VHF radio equipment. **FM FIERI.** FM Fieri provided a status update on defensible space inspections, community risk updates, and future building development. **F/M JUUL.** F/M Juul notified the Board the 22/23 audit will be completed and brought back to the November meeting. **DFC MACMILLAN:** DFC MacMillan provided an overview of October events including the NCF Open House on October 14, and provided apparatus committee updates.

111 ● **BOARD: DIRECTOR PIKE:** Director Pike informed the Board and the public that a groundbreaking on the new community park on E. Fallbrook Street will take place this week.

112 **DIRECTOR MUNSON:** Director Munson informed the Board Escondido Fire will be joining the North

113 County Dispatch Joint Powers Authority by the end of the year.

114 ● **BARGAINING GROUPS:** There was no comment from the bargaining groups.

116 ● **PUBLIC COMMENT:** There were no additional public comments.

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CLOSED SESSION

119 At 6:05 p.m., President Acosta inquired whether there was a motion to adjourn to Closed Session.

120 There being no objection, President Acosta read the items to be discussed in Closed Session and

121 Open Session was closed. A short break ensued after the reading of the Closed Session items. At

122 6:18 p.m. the Board entered Closed Session to hear:

123 **CS-1. ANNOUNCEMENT – PRESIDENT ACOSTA**

124 **CS-2. CONFERENCE WITH REAL PROPERTY NEGOTIATOR – 315 E. IVY ST., FALLBROOK, CA & VACANT**

125 **LAND, IVY ST., FALLBROOK, CA (GOVERNMENT CODE §54956.8):**

126 **AGENCY REPRESENTATIVE: CHIEF McREYNOLDS**

127 **CS-3. CONFERENCE WITH REAL PROPERTY NEGOTIATOR - 2805 OVERLAND TRAIL, FALLBROOK, CA**

128 **(GOVERNMENT CODE § 54956-8):**

129 **AGENCY REPRESENTATIVE: CHIEF McREYNOLDS**

130 **CS-4. CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL – ANTICIPATED LITIGATION (GOVERNMENT CODE**

131 **§54956.9(d)(4)): 1 CASE**

132 **CS-5. CONFERENCE WITH LABOR NEGOTIATORS (GOVERNMENT CODE §54957.6):**

133 **AGENCY REPRESENTATIVE: CHIEF McREYNOLDS**

134 **EMPLOYEE ORGANIZATIONS: MANAGEMENT GROUP EMPLOYEES, FALLBROOK FIREFIGHTERS'**

135 **ASSOCIATION (SAFETY GROUP EMPLOYEES), AND MISCELLANEOUS.**

136 **CS-6. REPORT FROM CLOSED SESSION – PRESIDENT ACOSTA:**

137 ● **REOPENING OPEN SESSION:**

138 On a motion by Director Pike seconded by Vice President Egkan, which passed unanimously, the

139 Board returned to Open Session at 7:45 p.m. and the following items were reported out to the

140 public:

141 **CS-2. CONFERENCE WITH REAL PROPERTY NEGOTIATOR – 315 E. IVY ST., FALLBROOK, CA & VACANT**

142 **LAND, IVY ST., FALLBROOK, CA (GOVERNMENT CODE §54956.8):** There was no reportable action.

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144 **CS-3. CONFERENCE WITH REAL PROPERTY NEGOTIATOR - 2805 OVERLAND TRAIL, FALLBROOK, CA**
145 **(GOVERNMENT CODE § 54956-8)**: On a motion by Director Pike seconded by President Acosta, the
146 motion for Staff to enter negotiations with the property owner of 2805 Overland Trail, Fallbrook CA
147 passed unanimously.

148 **CS-4. CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL – ANTICIPATED LITIGATION (GOVERNMENT CODE**
149 **§54956.9(d)(4)) 1 CASE**: On a motion by Director Pike seconded by Director Munson, the motion to
150 authorize General Counsel to pursue a quiet title suit for the easements at Fire Station 4 passed
151 unanimously.

152 **CS-5. CONFERENCE WITH LABOR NEGOTIATORS (GOVERNMENT CODE §54957.6)**: On a motion by
153 Director Pike seconded by Director Shaw, the motion to authorize General Counsel to
154 communicate via letter to the Fallbrook Firefighters' Association legal counsel advising a one-time
155 salary increase would be applied retroactive September 1, 2023, to all bargaining groups, passed
156 unanimously.

157 **ADJOURNMENT**

158 A motion was made at 7:48 p.m. by Director Pike seconded by Vice President Egkan to adjourn the
159 meeting and reconvene on November 14, 2023, at 5:00 p.m., which motion carried unanimously.

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161 Respectfully submitted,

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163 _____

164 Mavis Carpinar

165 Board Clerk

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167 Minutes approved at the Board of Director's Meeting on:

168 11/14/23