

1 **June 22, 2021**

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

4 President Van Doorn called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

5 **A MOMENT OF SILENCE WAS OBSERVED.**

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

7 **ROLL CALL:**

8 **Present:** Directors Acosta, Egkan, Kennedy, Munson and Van Doorn.

9 **Absent:** None.

10 **Staff Present:** Retiring Fire Chief/CEO Abbott, Fire Chief/CEO Keith McReynolds, Attorney
11 James and Board Secretary Stephen-Porter. In the audience were: DFC Mahr, D/C
12 MacMillan, B/C Krumwiede, F/M Fieri, FM Juul and members of the public and Association.

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14 **PUBLIC ACTIVITIES AGENDA**

15 1. **PUBLIC COMMENT:** President Van Doorn addressed the audience and inquired
16 whether there were any public comments regarding items not on the Agenda. There being
17 no comments, the Public Comment Section was closed.

18 **ACTION AGENDA**

19 **CONSENT ITEMS:**

- 20 2. **REVIEW AND ACCEPT REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES FOR MAY 2021**
21 3. **REVIEW AND ACCEPT FINANCIAL REPORT FOR MAY 2021**
22 4. **REVIEW AND ACCEPT POLICIES & PROCEDURES**
23 5. **MONTHLY OPERATIONS ACTIVITY REPORT**

24 President Van Doorn inquired whether there were any questions on Consent Items 2-5.
25 There being no discussion, President Van Doorn asked for a motion to approve the Consent
26 Agenda. On a motion by Director Munson, seconded by Vice President Kennedy the motion
27 to approve the Consent Agenda as presented passed unanimously.

30 **ACTION ITEMS:**

31 6. **CSDA SPECIAL DISTRICT LEADERSHIP ACADEMY — CHIEF McREYNOLDS AND CHIEF**

32 **ABBOTT:** Chief McReynolds noted that the CSDA Special District Leadership Academy is
33 being held this year during the same week as the Board meeting. After ascertaining the
34 Board's interest in attending, he inquired whether they would be willing to change the
35 meeting date. On a motion by Director Acosta, seconded by Director Egkan the motion to
36 move the September meeting to September 21st passed unanimously.

37 7. **REVIEW AND APPROVE RESOLUTION 2021-05 AUTHORIZING THE FIRE CHIEF/CEO AND**

38 **DESIGNEES AS SIGNATORIES — CHIEF ABBOTT:** With Chief Abbott retiring, it is necessary to
39 designate Chief McReynolds and his designees so they may carry out banking and other
40 necessary business of the District as signatories. This is a standard Resolution adopted
41 whenever a new Fire Chief is appointed. On a motion by Director Munson, seconded by
42 Vice President Kennedy the motion to approved Resolution 2021-05 authorizing the Fire
43 Chief/CEO and designees as signatories passed unanimously.

44 8. **REVIEW AND APPROVE RESOLUTION 2021-06 ESTABLISHING THE LIMIT OF APPROPRIATIONS**
45 **OF PROCEEDS OF TAX SUBJECT TO LIMITATION FOR FISCAL YEAR 2021/2022 IN COMPLIANCE**
46 **WITH ARTICLE XIII-B OF THE CONSTITUTION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA — FM JUUL AND CHIEF**

47 **ABBOTT:** FM Juul presented the required action to the Board, noting it is necessary for the
48 District to approve the Resolution each year. As is routinely the case, the District is under
49 the maximum amount allowed. On a motion by Director Munson, seconded by Vice
50 President Kennedy the motion to approve Resolution 2021-06 establishing the limitation of
51 appropriations passed unanimously.

52 9. **REVIEW AND APPROVE RESOLUTION 2021-07 — REQUESTING A TEMPORARY TRANSFER OF**
53 **FUNDS FROM THE COUNTY TREASURER TO NORTH COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT — FM JUUL**

54 **AND CHIEF ABBOTT:** FM JUUL presented a request to approve Resolution 2021-07 to the
55 Board, noting this is an annual action that is required in order to obtain advances on the tax
56 monies due the District from the County. The Resolution permits the District to be advanced
57 a maximum of 85% of the anticipated taxes due in a given year, which the District uses until
58 taxes are collected and released to it. On a motion by Vice President Kennedy, seconded

59 by Director Egkan the motion to approve Resolution 2021-07 authorizing a temporary
60 transfer of funds from the County passed unanimously.

61 10. **REVIEW AND CAST VOTE IN ELECTION FOR CSDA BOARD OF DIRECTORS, SOUTHERN**

62 **NETWORK — CHIEF ABBOTT:** Chief McReynolds presented the ballot information to the Board
63 noting there is one seat open, Seat C, which is current being held by incumbent Jo
64 MacKenzie from the Vista Irrigation District. Director Munson made a recommendation to
65 support her based on her involvement with CSDA. On a motion by Director Munson,
66 seconded by Vice President Kennedy the motion to cast the vote for Jo MacKenzie and
67 authorizing the Board Secretary to cast the vote passed unanimously.

68 11. **REVIEW AND APPROVE FIXED CHARGE SPECIAL ASSESSMENT FOR WEED ABATEMENT — F/M**

69 **FIERI AND CHIEF ABBOTT:** FM Fieri presented the Fixed Charge Special Assessment for Weed
70 Abatement to the Board, noting this year there were four properties that had failed to pay for
71 their forced weed abatements. The total costs for all abatements were \$35,200.00, with
72 administrative costs of \$2,416.00, totaling \$37,616.00. The owners have received all the
73 required notices both prior to the forced abatement and after the abatement. Notice of the
74 Fixed Charge Assessment were posted as required, with an additional final letter to be sent
75 after this Board meeting. The owners have until July 31, 2021 to pay the amounts due
76 before submission to the County. When submitted to the County, it will be placed on the
77 owners' property taxes. This is the first reading and the Board will have a final chance to
78 review and approve the charges at the July Board meeting. It was the consensus of the
79 Board to accept the Fixed Charge Special Assessment with a final vote at the July meeting.

80 12. **CONSIDER SCOPE OF WORK FOR LONG-RANGE MASTER AND STRATEGIC PLANS; ESTABLISH**

81 **AD HOC WORKING COMMITTEE — CHIEF McREYNOLDS AND CHIEF ABBOTT:** Chief Abbott
82 presented the Scope of Work (SOW) for the Plans, requesting feedback so the District could
83 move forward with a RFP to select a firm to assist with development of the Plans. He noted
84 it had been fifteen years since the District had undertaken to develop a strategic plan and
85 this time around, they are looking to include a long-range master plan also. In addition, he
86 requested that two members of the Board be selected to serve on the Ad Hoc Committee
87 during the development of the Plans. After discussion, Directors Munson and Director Egkan

88 were identified to serve on the Committee, with Vice President Kennedy serving as an
89 alternate if necessary. On a motion by Vice President Kennedy, seconded by Director
90 Acosta the motion to establish the Ad Hoc Committee with Directors Egkan and Munson
91 serving and Vice President Kennedy serving as an alternate passed unanimously.

92 13. **REVIEW AND APPROVE PRELIMINARY BUDGET FOR FY 2021/2022; SET PUBLIC HEARING**
93 **DATE/ TIME CERTAIN OF SEPTEMBER 21, 2021 AT 4:15 P.M., TO APPROVE THE FINAL BUDGET – FM**

94 **JUUL AND CHIEF ABBOTT:** FM presented the Preliminary Budget for review. Juul presented
95 the Preliminary Budget to the Board for review and approval, noting it is a balanced budget.
96 On the Revenue side, she noted that the District is anticipating an increase in property tax
97 revenue of approximately \$341,303 over budgeted amount in FY 20/21. Ambulance fees
98 had significantly increased due to better billing practices and fee increases. On the Expense
99 side, salaries increased by 7.3%, with healthcare estimated to increase by 5%. Unfunded
100 Accrued Liability had an increase of 27% over last year’s budgeted amount, but this will
101 decrease once the POB has had time to take full effect. She noted there had been an
102 increase in legal fees both due to aligning with history and planning for future retirements.
103 FM Juul noted they are investigating insurer options due to an increase from SDRMA. On
104 a motion by Director Munson, seconded by Director Egkan the motion to approve the
105 Preliminary Budget and set the hearing for the Final Budget for September 21st at 4:15 p.m.
106 passed unanimously.

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108 **DISCUSSION AGENDA**

109 14. There were no Discussion Agenda Items for the June 25, 2019, Board Meeting.

110 **STANDING DISCUSSION ITEMS:**

111 ● **LEGAL COUNSEL REPORT:** Counsel James presented his report “*Cal/OSHA*
112 *Updates COVID-19 Workplace Standards.*” Brief discussion ensued with it being issues with
113 exposures and changes in masking requirements. Chiefs Mahr and MacMillan, with MSO
114 Murphy are currently updating District policies but response requirements remain
115 unchanged. This is informational only, no action required.

117 ● **WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS:** Brief discussion ensued regarding the items.
118 Informational only, no action required.

119 ● **BOARD RECOGNITION PROGRAM**

120 ● **NEWS ARTICLES:** No discussion regarding articles. This is informational only, no
121 action required.

122 ● **COMMENTS:**

123 ● **STAFF REPORTS/UPDATES:**

124 ● **STEPHEN ABBOTT, FIRE CHIEF/CEO:** Chief Abbott informed the Board this would be
125 his last Board meeting. He thanked the Board and his staff for their support throughout his
126 tenure. He gave a brief report on fire activity throughout the state and the employees out on
127 fires. Chief Abbott noted with there being no changes to the Plans, he would move forward
128 as quickly as possible to initiate the RFP process for Chief McReynolds. Chief Abbott
129 informed participants he is having a “thank you party” for the community and will be sending
130 out invitations. Informational only, no further action required.

131 ● **CHIEF OFFICERS AND OTHER STAFF: CHIEF MAHR:** Chief Mahr informed the Board that
132 all promotional positions are in place. The testing for the new Public Outreach position is
133 scheduled for this week. He informed the Board the Heli-hydrant is moving forward with
134 placemen anticipated shortly. **D/C MACMILLAN:** D/C MacMillan informed the Board the
135 District will be preparing for wildland training and in July, they will train for palm tree fires.
136 He noted the District hired three new single roles and converted three positions from part-
137 time to full-time. **FM FIERI:** FM Fieri provided an update on the weed abatements with 600
138 properties staked and better compliance this season. The state mandated inspections have
139 been completed. An employee is at the National Fire Academy receiving training. The arson
140 report was updated.

141 ● **BOARD: DIRECTOR ACOSTA:** Director Acosta thanked Chief Abbott for connecting with
142 her and making her job easier. **DIRECTOR EGAN:** Director Egan thanked Chief Abbott for his
143 service to the District and wished he had more of an opportunity to know him. **VICE PRESIDENT**
144 **KENNEDY:** Vice President Kennedy congratulated Chief Abbott on his retirement. Vice
145 President Kennedy will be on vacation for the next Board meeting and inquired about

146 attending remotely. **DIRECTOR MUNSON:** Director Munson thanked Chief Abbott and
147 congratulated him on his retirement. **PRESIDENT VAN DOORN:** President van Doorn told Chief
148 Abbott it had been a pleasure to work with him, he had made President van Doorn's job
149 easier. He wished him a happy retirement.

150 ● **BARGAINING GROUPS:** No comments.

151 ● **PUBLIC COMMENT:** Mr. Frew thanked Chief Abbott and stated he would miss seeing
152 Chief Abbott here.

153 **CLOSED SESSION**

154 ● **OPENING CLOSED SESSION:**

155 At 5:45 p.m., President van Doorn inquired whether there was a motion to adjourn to Closed
156 Session. There being no objection, President van Doorn read the items to be discussed in
157 Closed Session and the Open Session was closed. A short break ensued after the reading
158 of the Closed Session Items. At 5:55 p.m., and the Board entered Closed Session to hear:

159 CS-1. **ANNOUNCEMENT — PRESIDENT VAN DOORN:** An announcement regarding the items to
160 be discussed in Closed Session will be made prior to the commencement of Closed Session

161 CS-2. **CONFERENCE WITH LABOR NEGOTIATOR – GOVERNMENT CODE § 54957.6 — NON-SAFETY**
162 **GROUP NEGOTIATIONS – CHIEF ABBOTT:**

163 FFA NON-SAFETY GROUP NEGOTIATORS **DISTRICT NEGOTIATORS:** CHIEF ABBOTT, DISTRICT
164 COUNSEL JAMES

165 CS-3. **CONFERENCE WITH LABOR NEGOTIATOR – GOVERNMENT CODE § 54957.6 —**

166 **UNREPRESENTED INDIVIDUAL NEGOTIATION – CHIEF ABBOTT:**

167 INCOMING FIRE CHIEF/CEO **DISTRICT NEGOTIATORS:** CHIEF ABBOTT, DISTRICT
168 COUNSEL JAMES

169 CS-4. **REPORT FROM CLOSED SESSION – PRESIDENT VAN DOORN**

170 **REOPENING OPEN SESSION:**

171 On a motion by Director Munson, which was seconded by Director Kennedy, which passed
172 unanimously, the Board returned to Open Session at 6:25 p.m. with the following items were
173 reported out to the public:

174 CS-2. **CONFERENCE WITH LABOR NEGOTIATOR – GOVERNMENT CODE § 54957.6 — NON-SAFETY**
175 **GROUP NEGOTIATIONS – CHIEF ABBOTT:** On a motion by Director Kennedy, seconded by
176 Director Munson, the Non-Safety Side Letter and salary schedule was unanimously
177 approved as presented.

178 CS-3. **CONFERENCE WITH LABOR NEGOTIATOR - GOVERNMENT CODE § 54957 – CHIEF ABBOTT:** On
179 a motion by Director Egkan, seconded by Director Acosta, the Board unanimously approved
180 the three-year contract with Chief McReynolds as presented with a salary of \$185,000.00/year.

182 ADJOURNMENT

183 A motion was made at 6:30 p.m. by on a motion by Vice President Kennedy, seconded by
184 Director Egkan the motion to adjourn the meeting and reconvene on July 27, 2021, at
185 4:00 p.m., carried unanimously.

186 Respectfully submitted,

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189 Loren Stephen-Porter
190 Board Secretary

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192 Minutes approved at the Board of Director's Meeting on: July 27, 2021

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