March 28, 2017

REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF
THE NORTH COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

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

THE INVOCATION GIVEN BY Deputy Chief Marovich.

ALL RECITED THE PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.

ROLL CALL:

Present: Directors Harris, Hoffman, Luevano, Munson and Thuner.

Absent: None.

Staff Present: Fire Chief/CEO Abbott, Attorney James and Board Secretary Stephen-Porter. In the audience were: Deputy Chief Marovich, D/Cs Lucore and Mahr, B/Cs McReynolds, Schoenheit and Wilson, DFM Koch and members of the public and Association.

PUBLIC ACTIVITIES AGENDA

1. **Public Comment:** President Munson addressed the audience and inquired whether there were any public comments regarding items not on the Agenda. There being no comments, the Public Comment Section was closed.

2. **Employee Badge Pinning — Chief Abbott:** Chief Abbott presented for installation the following new employees: Shane Applegate, Adrian Del Castillo, Garrett Mertz, Gannon Oppenborn, Sam Richards, Kakela Sousa and Weston Whitmore, who are all Volunteer Firefighters at Rainbow. Two of the members were unable to attend the ceremony. At the conclusion of the introductions, the members were sworn in. All members were given an opportunity to introduce family and friends available for the event and were pinned and congratulated by the Board.

ACTION AGENDA

**Consent Items:**

3. **Review and Accept Regular Board Meeting For March 1, 2017**
4. **Review and Accept Special Board Meeting for March 15, 2017**


6. **Review and Accept Policies & Procedures**

7. **Review and Approve Resolution 2017-04 of the Board of Directors of the North County Fire Protection District Making Annual Required Findings of the San Diego County Fire Mitigation Fee Participation Ordinance FY 2017/2018**

President Munson inquired whether there were any questions on Consent Items 3-7. There being no discussion, President Munson asked for a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. On a motion by Director Harris, seconded by Vice President Thuner, the motion to approve the Consent Agenda Items as presented, passed unanimously.

**Action Items:**

8. **Review and Approve Surplus Equipment Request — Chief Mahr and Chief Abbott:** D/C Mahr presented a request to surplus two 1990 General Fire Engines, one 2008 IHC Model 34 (salvaged title), 2-Crown Victoria’s (1999/2000) and one 1996 Suburban owned by the Rainbow Division, as they are no longer serviceable within the Mission of the District. The equipment will be disposed of via set policy requirements. He noted that the vehicles have been in storage for some time and two new staff vehicles have been purchased. On a motion by Director Hoffman, seconded by Director Luevano, the motion to declare the equipment surplus and to dispose of it via the policy passed unanimously.

**Discussion Agenda**

9. **Discussion on Strategic Direction Discussion — Chief Abbott:** Chief Abbott presented his revised Strategic Direction Report for discussion noting the seven areas of concern he and the Board had identified: Facilities; Restoration of Reserve Funds Utilized During Recession; Public Outreach in the Community; Station Staffing and Apparatus Deployment; Capital Equipment; Community Paramedicine and Restoration of
Administrative Capacity. He noted some are short-term issues, currently being worked on by Staff and others are long-term issues, which require more in-depth analysis and planning. Discussion ensued regarding what steps are currently being taken to prepare the Board to make decisions with regard to meeting the challenges outlined. Chief Abbott noted the District is preparing a RFP for a Capital Plan/Reserve Study, which should go out shortly. He noted the references previously provided for this study, did not have municipal experience, which he felt was critical to providing an accurate District picture. Discussion ensued regarding what types of data is required to assist the Board in their decision processes and the timing of receipt of the information. In-depth discussion ensued regarding the need for public outreach, the goals of such a program and whether a Bond should be pursued, its goal, the costs and who would handle its pursuit and timing of such a Bond. The consensus of the Board being that more information is required before that decision could be made. Discussion ensued regarding other options for bringing money into the District including such items sale of properties, realignment of deployment and staffing, grant opportunities. Chief Abbott noted the capabilities and limitations of current Staff, discussing the current projects underway for the short-term issues. He noted some of the costs associated with bringing in outside professionals to prepare for a bond, facilities evaluations and improvements, public outreach and election costs. At the conclusion of discussion, it was the consensus of the Board of have a Board workshop to discuss long-term Strategic Planning, with a target date of April 18th.

**STANDING DISCUSSION ITEMS:**

- **LEGAL COUNSEL REPORT:** Counsel James presented his letter “Legal Billing Invoices Related to Lawsuits Filed Against the County of Los Angeles are not Categorically Exempt from Disclosure Under the Public Records Act.” Brief discussion ensued. This is informational only, no action required.

- **WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS:** None.

- **BOARD RECOGNITION PROGRAM:** Brief discussion ensued regarding the items. Informational only, no action required.
● **NEWS ARTICLES:** Brief discussion ensued regarding articles. This is informational only, no action required.

● **COMMENTS:**

● **STAFF REPORTS/UPDATES:**

**STEPHEN ABBOTT, FIRE CHIEF/CEO:** Chief Abbott updated the Board on the Live Burn at the former Fallbrook Golf Club, thanking D/C Lucore and Mahr, the Battalion Chiefs and all the fire instructors and participants for making the event a success. He noted the event was a rare opportunity for the North Zone to train instructors and provide live fire training to the crews. Chief Abbott made the Board aware of a recent Little Hoover Commission recommendation that special districts be eliminated with a sunset date of ten years, as they consider them to be inefficient. He noted that about ten years ago, the same Commission found that special districts were the most efficient form of government. CSDA was alarmed by the report and is working to address the issue, which is felt to be more of an opportunity to obtain funds now held in reserves in special districts. Chief Abbott updated the Board on the State Fire Fee, noting he will be speaking at the FDAC conference on this matter. Chief Mahr will be Acting Fire Chief in his absence while at the conference and during his vacation. Chief Abbott lauded the Association for collecting $14,000 with the “Fill the Boot” fund raiser. Chief also noted that DFM Koch has been installed as first VP in the Fire Protection Officers organization, congratulating her. Finally, the Chief reminded the Board of the Employee Recognition dinner at Pala Mesa on Saturday. Informational only, no further action required.

● **CHIEF OFFICERS AND OTHER STAFF: CHIEF MAHR:** Chief Mahr updated the Board on the vehicle purchase, noting he expects the new Battalion Chief vehicle within the week. The new ambulance has arrived and is being outfitted by the Shop. **CHIEF MAROVICH:** Chief Marovich informed the Board he has been working on the Budget for the May meeting. **CHIEF MCREYNOLDS:** Chief McReynolds informed the Board that the new radios, required by Federal mandate, are here and are being installed. He expects the installation and programming to be completed by the end of the year. Thereafter, the old radios will be brought as surplus and disposed of per Policy.
• **BOARD: VICE PRESIDENT THUNER:** Vice President Thuner noted she will not be at the May 23rd meeting as she will be at another meeting. Discussion ensued regarding moving the Board date. No change in meeting date was made.

• **BARGAINING GROUPS: CAPTAIN MANN:** Captain Mann spoke on behalf of the Association noting the Association’s reaction to the Interest Based Decision-Making process. They felt the education was timely and interesting; noting that everyone worked collaboratively. He stated he was looking forward to working through using the technique and being involved in the Strategic Planning process.

• **PUBLIC COMMENT:** No comments.

**CLOSED SESSION**

• **OPENING CLOSED SESSION:**
At 6:25 p.m., President Munson inquired whether there was a motion to adjourn to Closed Session. On a motion by Vice President Thuner, seconded by Director Hoffman, President Munson read the items to be discussed in Closed Session and the Open Session was closed. After a short break, the Board entered Closed Session at 6:30 p.m. to hear:

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

CS-2. **CONFERENCE WITH REAL PROPERTY NEGOTIATOR — GOVERNMENT CODE § 54956.8 — CHIEF ABBOTT:**

**PROPERTY LOCATION:** 330 S. Main Avenue, Fallbrook, CA 92028;

**PARTIES:** North County Fire Protection District (Purchaser) and Ian Forsythe (Seller);

**UNDER NEGOTIATION:** Terms of Purchase;

**DISTRICT NEGOTIATORS:** Chief Abbott, District Counsel James

CS-3. **THREATENED LITIGATION OUTSIDE OF OPEN MEETING — GOVERNMENT CODE § 54956.9(e)(5) — CHIEF ABBOTT:**

Claimant is a member of public alleging assault by District employee.

CS-4. **REPORT FROM CLOSED SESSION — PRESIDENT MUNSON**
● **REOPENING OPEN SESSION:**

On a motion by Vice President Thuner, which was seconded by Director Luevano and which passed unanimously, the Board returned to Open Session at 6:50 p.m. The following items were reported out to the public:

CS-4. **REPORT FROM CLOSED SESSION — PRESIDENT MUNSON:**

CS-2. **CONFERENCE WITH REAL PROPERTY NEGOTIATOR — GOVERNMENT CODE § 54956.8 — CHIEF ABBOTT:** No reportable action.

CS-3. **THREATENED LITIGATION OUTSIDE OF OPEN MEETING — GOVERNMENT CODE § 54956.9(e)(5) — CHIEF ABBOTT:** No reportable action.

**ADJOURNMENT**

A motion was made at 7:00 p.m. by Director Harris and seconded by Director Luevano, to adjourn the meeting and reconvene on April 25, 2017, at 17:00. The motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

\[Signature\]

Loren Stephen-Porter
Board Secretary

Minutes approved at the Board of Director’s Meeting on: April 25, 2017