

Central Calaveras Fire & Rescue Protection District

19927 Jesus Maria Road, Mokelumne Hill, CA 95245

(209) 754-4330

www.centralcalaverasfire.org

Bill Wennhold
Fire Chief



Minutes REGULAR MEETING BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Station 1, 19927 Jesus Maria Road, Mokelumne Hill, CA 95245

6:00 P.M. Thursday, March 13th, 2025

1) Call to Order/Pledge of Allegiance:

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Director Clark. Other board directors present were Directors Cook, Miller, Krieg and Tyler. Others in attendance were Chief Wennhold, Engr. Ryan Carpenter, Capt. Lee Willaims, and WTO Dave Tyree.

2) Introduction of Guests and Public Comments None

3) Correspondence

The Chief reported receipt of new building plans for a major cannabis operation off of Michael Road; plans for parcel zoning change for a 5,000 new addition to Sender's Market; the insurance renewal packet

4) Approval of the February 13, 2025, Meeting Minutes

***MOTION COOK, 2ND MILLER – TO APPROVE THE FEBRUARY MINUTES AS SUBMITTED –
AYES 5, NAYS 0 - MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.***

5) Regular Agenda, Action Items

a) Policy Manual

Director Miller had a few modifications since Chief's last review, he will incorporate and work on having a draft to distribute for board review at the next meeting

b) District Needs/Progress Plan

Director Clark distributed note pads for all to write down 1-2 ideas for developing grants or requests for funding for improvement projects, he will take the notes to Mara for a summation.

c) Measure A Funding

The Chief reported the most recent statement showed a Central Fire account balance of \$158,007 for funds received through the 4th quarter. It is still too early to see a defined trend but there is enough funds to start covering routine payroll from the special object code account.

d) Office Manager Position

The Chief stated the application period closed with only two applicants. He discussed with President Clark who agreed, we should solicit for 2 more weeks and increase the hourly rate to \$22.00.

e) Chief's Vacation Request – The Chief submitted a request for cash payment in-lieu of 110 hours of accrued vacation pay. Director Miller noted the chief's accrual rate was coded wrong but the Chief did have over 400 hours of vacation pay on the books, a partial payment now will avoid a large payout later as we experienced with others who have left recently. ***MOTION COOK, 2ND KRIEG – TO PAY THE CHIEF FOR 110 HOURS OF REGULAR HOURLY VACATION PAY AS PART OF THE NEXT PAYROLL – AYES 5, NAYS 0, MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.***

6) Chief's Department Report:

There is a detailed review of department activities in the Chief's report. Additional notes include:

- At the recent fire chief's association meeting it was reported the county's water enhancement fund has approx. \$129,000, the CAO's office was recommending each fire district is eligible for \$11,000 for repairs to vehicles that carry water. The fire chiefs recognized Joel Schwartz for his many contributions to our fire community over the years as he prepares to semi-retire and move out of state
- The County is organizing an active shooter exercise on March 28 at the Mountain Oaks school in San Andreas, the Chief is not proposing to send any staff
- Debbie Miller continues working to try to get our FEMA number renewed to release the strike team funds being held at State OES
- The Chief will attend the quarterly meeting of the Sheep Ranch community at station 5 on March 16

7) Payment of Bills/Claim Transmittals:

The chief presented the list of batch numbers presented to the County for payment and a finance summary. ***MOTION COOK, 2nd BY MILLER, TO ACCEPT THE REPORTS AND APPROVE THE BILLS AS SUBMITTED. AYES – 5, NAYS 0 - MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY***

8) Director's Comments:

Directors Cook and Miller appreciated the tracking on Measure A funds and when we might be able to start using them; Director Krieg noted he supported bringing Larry Bain back for the next audit and starting work on a more easily understood budget program; Director Tyler noted with the anticipated coming revenues the district appears more solvent and better able to recruit and retain staff. Director Clark noted in despite all the recent tragedies the department continues to work together and morale is good.

9) Closed Session There was no closed session

10) Adjournment

The regular meeting was adjourned at 7:32, the next regular meeting is April 10th, 2025, at 6:00 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,
Bill Wennhold, Fire Chief

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1) Call to Order/Pledge of Allegiance:

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Director Clark. Other board directors present were Directors Cook, Miller, Krieg and Tyler. Others in attendance were Chief Wennhold, Engr. Ryan Carpenter, Capt. Lee Willaims, Batt. Chief Chris Miller, WTO Dave Tyree, and Maura Clark.

Chief Wennhold asked to add an Emergency Agenda Item F – **Resolution for Payroll Fund Transfer** to cover next payroll run – ***MOTION CLARK, 2nd KRIEG – TO APPROVE AGENDA ITEM F, AYES 5, NAYS – 0, MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.***

2) Introduction of Guests and Public Comments

Maura Clark offered to start a department assistance project to search for information and processes for grant funding for firefighter recruitment and retention, general assistance, or supplies. She estimates the research would have sources and recommendations within 12 months and could be incorporated into a strategic plan. All present agreed that having an additional person working on a project would be helpful, current administrative demands haven't left time for new projects. The Board agreed to help with whatever data or administrative support we can spare.

3) Correspondence

The Chief reported receipt of new building plans for a major cannabis operation off of Outback Lane and Ridge Road. He noted the district doesn't have a mechanism to charge impact fees for major projects and the process to implement new fees can be expensive and time consuming.

4) Approval of the January 9, 2025, Meeting Minutes

MOTION COOK, 2ND MILLER – TO APPROVE THE JANUARY MINUTES WITH GRAMMER CORRECTION TO ITEM #7 – AYES 5, NAYS 0 - MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

5) Regular Agenda, Action Items

a) Policy Manual

The Chief thanked Debbie Miller for updating the most recent draft with her suggestions, Chief will review again and make copies for the board to review.

b) El Dorado Engine Progress

The Chief reported the engine is here, final repairs have been made to the rear leaf springs, and he will contact the West Sacramento shop for a repair cost adjustment; Ryan is awaiting parts to repair the pump shift, and we will send the turbo unit out for rebuild and reinstall ourselves.

c) Measure A Funding

The Chief reported a second notice from the JPA that the December allocation of sales tax funds had been reported but an updated account statement isn't expected from the Auditor's office until late January. The Board preferred to wait until we had solid numbers for the account balance before we started using the special account funds for payroll.

d) Office Manager Position

The Chief stated he had submitted for 2-week advertising in the Enterprise and had Mike Burns post the job details and application form on the district website. Applications are due by February 28.

e) Chief's Employment Contract – CalPERS has been insistent that they needed a copy of the fire chief's employment contract approving his position as part time and paid for 20 hours per week. ***MOTION COOK, 2nd TYLER– TO ADOPT AND APPROVE THE CHIEF'S EMPLOYMENT CONTRACT AS DRAFTED EFFECTIVE JUNE 2020. AYES – 5; NAYS – 0 – MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.***

f) Resolution 2025-02-01 – Resolution to approve funds transfer from the general budget line 5001 to the Umpqua Bank payroll account in the amount of \$50,000 to cover current payroll expenses. ***MOTION – COOK, 2nd KRIEG, TO APPROVE RESOLUTION 2025-02-01 AS PRESENTED. AYES 5, - NAYS 0, MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.***

6) Chief's Department Report:

There is a detailed review of department activities in the Chief's report. Additional notes include:

- Larry Bain will be conducting the audit for 2023/2024, office staff will start organizing the audit materials once we get a list of what information is needed, Chief will ask Larry to submit the SCO report on our behalf
- The Chief believes the 3-year renewal is up for the district's liability insurance, we will reach out to other departments to get information on other insurance provider's rates
- Debbie Miller is working to try to get our FEMA number renewed to release the strike team funds being held at State OES. The process is very convoluted
- The Chief appreciated the district's support and the community condolences on the loss of TJ. President Clark has been receiving and tracking financial donations into the firefighter's association to collect and submit to Columbia College for a scholarship; the firefighters have created a memorial patch and are working a decal for the engines; Firefighter Stevens had memory bracelets made, and Chief and Melinda have donated leather key fobs for all. We will be posting a memorial plaque and station photos continue to honor him. Chief, Mari-Anne, and Debbie have been staying in contact with Diane's husband for his support in the loss of Diane

7) Payment of Bills/Claim Transmittals:

The chief presented the list of batch numbers presented to the County for payment and a finance summary. ***MOTION COOK, 2nd BY MILLER, TO ACCEPT THE REPORTS AND APPROVE THE BILLS AS SUBMITTED. AYES – 5, NAYS 0 - MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY***

8) Director's Comments:

Director Cook noted he would like to be involved in the office hire project and sees that in spite of the losses of TJ and Diane, the department is still moving forward; Director Miller stated she continues to work on office duties, payroll, and CalPERS, all present thanked her; Director Krieg pleased with everyone's efforts, hopeful that our finances will continue to improve from Measure A, at some point would like a final accounting of the costs to get E125 fully re-furnished; Director Tyler pleased to see everyone working together and showing up for trainings and calls; President Clark pleased with everyone pulling together and the community support. They were pleased with the recognitions and the well-earned promotions. Director Clark noted the community outpouring of support with our losses and challenges, he is hopeful with tonight's closed session we can put some of the other personnel issues to bed and move on.

9) Closed Session

MOTION COOK, 2nd – MILLER – TO ADJOURN THE REGULAR MEETING AND GO TO A CLOSED SESSION AT 7:15 – AYES 5, NAYS 0 - MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

MOTION COOK, 2ND MILLER – RE-OPEN TO AN OPEN MEETING AT 7:50 - AYES- 5; NAYS 0 - MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

10) Adjournment

The regular meeting was adjourned at 7:50, the next regular meeting is March 13th, 2025, at 6:00 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,
Bill Wennhold, Fire Chief