

# APPLE VALLEY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

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## MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING BOARD OF DIRECTORS

September 20, 2022

1.0 CALL TO ORDER: President Leary 6:00 PM

2.0 INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

.01 Invocation: Chaplain Nate Garn

.02 Pledge of Allegiance: Director Hultquist

3.0 ROLL CALL:

Present: Vice President Conley, Director Hernandez, Director Hultquist, President Leary, Director Salas

Absent: None

4.0 SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS/PRESENTATIONS: None

5.0 PUBLIC COMMENT:

.01 Public Comment was given by Mark Milson, PFA President. He noted that he wanted to address the Board to let them know how well things have been going with Interim Fire Chief Peratt. He expressed appreciation for Chief Peratt's good communication, honest and clear points and vision for the future of the Fire District.

.02 Public Comment was given by Retired Fire Chief Doug Qualls who gave a brief summary of his background and connection with the Fire District including being a former Fire Chief and participation in Measure V and Measure A. He added that he had recently taken a tour of the remodeled station and new equipment. He spoke on District hiring policies and philosophies. He noted the importance of leadership and community involvement in a Fire Chief. He remarked that Interim Fire Chief Peratt is a prime example of working in the community where he is also a very active participant adding that he has ownership in and holds the respect of both the Apple Valley District organization and the Apple Valley community. He concluded by saying that filling the Fire Chief seat with Interim Chief Peratt would be a "winning bet".

6.0 DIRECTORS' RESPONSE TO PUBLIC COMMENT: President Leary thanked both Mark Milson and Doug Qualls for their comments.

7.0 CONSENT AGENDA: President Leary asked if everyone had a chance to review the reports presented and if anyone had questions or comments. There were no questions.

M/S Conley/Salas to accept Consent Agenda items as presented.

Directors Conley, Hernandez, Hultquist, Leary and Salas voted aye by voice vote.

Ayes: 5 Noes: 0 Abstain: 0 Absent: 0

8.0 APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

.01 Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting held on August 16, 2022.

M/S Hultquist/Hernandez to approve minutes of the August 16, 2022 regular board meeting.

Directors Conley, Hernandez, Hultquist, Leary and Salas voted aye by voice vote.

Ayes: 5 Noes: 0 Abstain: 0 Absent: 0

9.0 CORRESPONDENCE: None

10.0 INFORMATION & DISCUSSION ITEMS:

.01 Information Only Items:

- a. Retention Review. President Leary called on Interim Fire Chief Peratt to present this item. Chief Peratt briefed that Staff has been working on a retention presentation in the last few months and findings were presented to the finance committee last week. He added that with some further discussion and direction Staff will be presenting to the entire Board some potential ways to improve in the area of recruitment and retention.

.02 Discussion Items: None

11.0 BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- .01 President Leary briefed that the finance committee had met and reviewed the budget that would be presented to the Board later in the meeting in Action Items. He and Director Hernandez had also discussed the retention issues with Staff and intend on continuing that discussion. He commented on the District being a family organization and that there is an awareness that salary is part of keeping people at an organization.

President Leary briefed the Board on the recently attended Confire meeting noting that Yucaipa has joined the Confire JPA for ambulance service. He explained that there will be a bidding process put out by the County of San Bernardino and that the Confire JPA group will bid on the contract. He added that there would be a Confire rate increase resulting from negotiations where Confire workers received a salary increase.

12.0 APPROVAL OF REPORTS: None.

13.0 PUBLIC HEARINGS: None

14.0 ACTION ITEMS:

- .01 Authorization for the Interim Finance Officer to accept the FEMA Assistance to Firefighters Grant. President Leary called on Interim Chief Peratt to brief the Board on this Action Item. Chief Peratt discussed the items this grant would purchase for the Fire District and thanked Interim Finance Officer Exley for all her hard work to obtain it. Director Hultquist added his commendation to Interim Finance Officer Exley noting that grant writing is not easy and that the equipment will be a good addition to the Fire District.

M/S Hernandez/Salas to Approve Authorization for the Interim Finance Officer to accept the FEMA Assistance to Firefighters Grant

Directors Conley, Hernandez, Hultquist, Leary and Salas voted aye by roll call vote.

Ayes: 5 Noes: 0 Abstain: 0 Absent: 0

- .02 Final Budget for Fiscal Year 2022-2023. President Leary called on Interim Finance Officer Exley to present the Final Budget. Interim Finance Officer Exley gave short presentation of the budget including approval of the preliminary budget, revenues, expenses, Capital Improvement and the addition of the FEMA grant.

M/S Conley Hultquist to Approve Final Budget for Fiscal Year 2022-2023

Directors Conley, Hernandez, Hultquist, Leary and Salas voted aye by roll call vote.

Ayes: 5 Noes: 0 Abstain: 0 Absent: 0

15.0 STAFF COMMENTS:

.01 Interim Fire Chief Peratt:

- Noted the change in the date to October 22<sup>nd</sup> for the open house at Fire Station 331
- Remarked that all members are home safe from fire assignments
- Gave his appreciation to all other members of the District for checking in with family members and picking up the slack at the District while others were out on Strike Team assignment
- Noted his appreciation of Amber for her work on the budget and also on obtaining the FEMA grant
- Thanked everyone who participated in representing the Fire District at the 9/11 ceremonies

16.0 DIRECTORS' COMMENTS:

.01 Vice President Conley

- Remarked that everyone should keep up good work

.02 Director Hernandez

- Thanked crews and staff for their hard work
- Gave her congratulations on the grant award adding that she knows it's a team effort to get something like that done

.03 Director Hultquist:

- Noted the good job being done by everyone at the District
- Remarked that it is good to see Doug Qualls at the meeting and that he appreciated his comments

.04 President Leary

- Echoed Board member comments adding that a good job was done on the budget and with a short timeframe for approval
- Congratulated dept chairs and everyone who had to readjust and look at things in a different way for the budget
- Noted what a great addition the FEMA grant will be for the District adding "great job" on the award

.05 Director Salas

- Noted the great job on the FEMA grant award
- Thanked the crews who responded to AAE when her nephew was injured adding that the crews made him feel comfortable and he asked her to say thank you for him

17.0 CLOSED SESSION:

.01 Public Employee Performance Evaluation for Interim Fire Chief (Gov't Code §54957 (b))

M/S/P Conley/Hernandez to adjourn to closed session at 6:33 PM.

The Board returned into Open Session at 6:49 PM.

18.0 REPORT ON CLOSED SESSION:

.01 President Leary noted that the Board has heard what has been said and at next month's board meeting they would like to begin a negotiation with Interim Chief Peratt. He added that a Resolution would be done as well. He noted to Interim Chief Peratt that he would like him to be prepared to negotiate next board meeting.

19.0 FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS: None

20.0 ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned at 6:50 PM M/S/P Hernandez/Conley

ATTEST:

Original Signature on File

KIMBERLY LOPEZ

Recording Secretary

Original Signature on File

DANIEL J LEARY

Board President