

**KENWOOD FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT
REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
MARCH 13, 2023**

MINUTES

MEETING: Meeting called to order at 16:00 hrs. Directors Doss, Uboldi, Cooper, Moretti, Atkin and Chief Bellach were present. Chief Bellach had a change. Included in the board packet was Resolution #22-23-03 authorizing participation and approving the amended and restated joint exercise powers of The Fire Risk Management Services JPA. This is a JPA between FASIS and FDAC EBA. This will be added as the 1st action item.

MINUTES: MSP Uboldi/Cooper to approve the minutes from the February meeting.

CHIEF'S REPORT: Chief Bellach reported we lost one out of district volunteer who has been hired with Santa Rosa Police Department. We have 4 going through Driver Operator 1A and 1B classes. Director Atkin asked about the incident annual run down on calls. Chief Bellach stated he is still working on the new program and figuring out how to create this data.

CLAIMS: MSP Moretti/Uboldi to approve claim #22-23-9 for \$65,089.76 and payrolls 2/10/23 for \$10,900.69 and 2/24/23 for \$14,565.83.

NEW BUSINESS: MSP Doss/Cooper to approve Resolution #22-23-03. FASIS, our Workers Comp insurance along with FDAC EBA, Employee Benefits Authority formed a JPA and will now be called The Fire Risk Management Services. This resolution allows us to continue obtaining coverage and risk management under the new JPA. Director Atkin asked if FASIS has claims beyond its financial capability and how do they work with that. Chief Bellach stated he would look further into this.

OLD BUSINESS: MSP Cooper/Doss to approve the video conference option under AB 361.

Director Doss reported for the HR committee, that they have had a series of meetings with Chief Bellach and Akre regarding staffing costs to continue a contract for staffing with Sonoma Valley Fire. What are our options, what can we do and not do and what can we afford. One option was how we return to full service for our community by going back to our original staffing as we were prior to the Sonoma Valley Fire District contract for services. This would be 2.0 staffing, BLS with a Part Time FF and the Chief working one shift. We have also talked about an extension for contracted services with Sonoma and what would this look like. Last month Chief Akre came to the group stating what the possibilities would be. They also met last week with 2 members of the Sonoma Valley Fire District HR Committee. A presentation was given to the ad hoc committee for a 5 year contract. The contract that was presented was the Glen Ellen Fire agreement a few years back for the group to look at. The real only two options we have is to either to return to our 2.0 BLS staffing or continue the contract for service with Sonoma for

2.0 ALS. We did ask if we chose not to extend our contract, what would be the time period if we needed more time to hire. We would be able to go another 60-90 days for this. It was asked in this meeting if a 3-year contract would be available rather than a five-year contract. It was clear that a 5-year contract would work best for Sonoma Valley Fire. The date of May 9th was chosen by the HR committee as a trigger point to decide on what action the board will need to take. If the Board made the decision to go with the 5-year contract, this would have to go before LAFCO. Director Atkin was skeptical of the total cost for a 5-year agreement that would decimate our reserve funds and would like to see a detailed cost. Chief Bellach spoke briefly about the what if's, if we did or didn't go into an extended contract with Sonoma Valley. Some of the points were ALS vs BLS, long term stability, depleting our reserve funds, having more depth with-in the agency for staffing needs, in house mechanic, greater opportunities for our members to staff other stations and strike teams. Wildfire season is not the best time to hire new staff, and we could greatly eliminate our unfunded liability. Director Uboldi stated it was unknown how this would affect our ambulance service. In the past we didn't see good performance as far as ambulance service goes from Sonoma Valley. It is unknown who will get the new county contract for ambulance service. Even though the EOA would not change, it would eventually with consolidation. Director Atkin shared his thoughts; without seeing incidents reported he's not able to see the magnitude of BLS versus ALS. If we were going to consolidate, there was a desire to explore other agencies other than Sonoma Valley to make sure we have looked at all the other alternatives. If we were to extend the current contract, the time to do it is right now. We should propose an extension to our current agreement, the terms of the agreement state that parties would be able to extend the contract in 3-month increments. When and if we get into a long-term contract with Sonoma Valley, we should look into getting our own council, so our council does not have a conflict of interest. Director Uboldi stated that the consolidation committee had a zoom meeting with Supervisor Gorin last week and she stated the county may come up short this year on funds and could not guarantee any gap funding for consolidation. She suggested we have another meeting with the new county administrator next month. This meeting will be on March 20th.

Director Doss made a motion to ask for an extension to our current contract with Sonoma Valley Fire for an additional 90 days. 2nd: Cooper, all AYE. Director Doss suggested we write a letter to Council Bill Adams to discuss about a possible conflict of interest regarding moving forward with a new agreement between Sonoma Valley and Kenwood. After closed session the Board reconvened and spoke about a pay raise for the Chief. Director Doss made a motion for a 20% raise effective January 1st, 2023. 2nd: Cooper, all Aye.

NON-ACTION ITEMS: Tony Ghisla reported for the grant committee: the radio grant has been summited. We have not heard anything from the Landmark grant. The septic grant has been pushed back until September and we will include it in the grant request at that time. The SAFER grant should be completed and turned in by Wednesday. KFA paid \$34,000.00 towards the LED sign and the agreement was signed. The County states once we pay 50% for the sign we get reimbursed for that amount. The Gary Sinise Foundation gave us just over \$11,000 for the LED sign.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF CLOSED SESSION ITEMS: To conduct Fire Chief's Annual Performance Evaluation.

RECESS CLOSED SESSION AND RECONVENE TO OPEN SESSION: Chief's annual evaluation was conducted and completed. Nothing to report.

GOOD of the ORDER: None.

Respectfully submitted,

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Attest:
