

Sonoma County Fire Districts' Association

MEETING MINUTES

Virtual meeting on February 25, 2021 at 1900 hours

1. Meeting was called to order by President Akre at 7:02 pm; with the following members present:

Name	District		Name	District
Steve Akre	Sonoma Valley		Mark Heine	SCFD
Fred Peterson	Northern Sonoma County		Frank Treanor	SCFD
Sean Grinnell	Bodega Bay		Gary So	SCFD
Liz Martin	Bodega Bay		Steve Klick	SCFD
Rob Stewart	Northern Sonoma County		Doug Williams	SMART
Brian Cyr	Sonoma Valley		Mark Hemmendinger	Rancho Adobe
Shepley Schroth-Cary	Gold Ridge		Terry Leen	Sonoma Valley
Charlie Lachman	Gold Ridge		Bob Taylor	Cloverdale
Bill Adams	Johnston Thomas		Jackie Gardner	North Sonoma Coast
Bonnie Plakos	North Sonoma Coast		Tatsua Okaya	Northern Sonoma County
Matt Atkinson	Sonoma Valley		Paul Barry	Cazadero
Daymon Doss	Kenwood		Mike Nichols	Cazadero
Mark Bramfitt	LAFCO		Bob Glockner	Gold Ridge
Jackie Gardener	North Sonoma Coast			

2. APPROVE/AMEND MEETING AGENDA

President Akre reviewed the agenda and asked the members if he could add one item to new business. Consider an endorsement of SCFD and SVFRA Fire Impact Fee Program with Sonoma County. Director Stewart moved to approve the agenda as amended, 2nd by Director Gardener. Approved by all.

3. PROGRAM: Fire/EMS COVID Report, B/C Brian Cyr – Sonoma Valley Fire Dist.

President Akre introduced B/C Brian Cyr. Brian has been a long time Sonoma Valley firefighter, started with the City of Sonoma, worked his way up the ranks to become the A-Shift Battalion. Brian was formerly our Training/Safety Officer and is now our EMS Battalion and Infection Control Officer. A truly great man. Chief Cyr presented information on COVID 19, Vaccinations, and Relevant EMS issues. The power point

presentation is attached to these minutes for review. President Akre thanked BC Cyr for his presentation.

4. OLD BUSINESS:

President Akre introduced the next item, the countywide sales tax measure and establishing an Ad Hoc Committee. This is a critical issue and topic for Sonoma County fire services. Measure G garnered 65% of the vote, missing the threshold by just a couple percentage points. There is a lot of interest and discussions about a Measure G 2.0. Today the FSWG had a meeting with the Fire Service Ad Hoc, consisting of Supervisors Hopkins and Rabbit. We had an honest conversation about the past and then we spoke about how we can develop a new measure for the ballot and have it be successful. Chief Heine and I as well as Bob Taylor. President Akre asked our representative Bob Taylor to report on the meeting. Director Taylor reported we discussed when it would go on the ballot and the FSWG will be looking at changing the distribution due to annexations and consolidations. The Supervisors have concerns that we get other groups involved and funding to help the effort (PAC). The next several meetings will be spent trying to update the distribution plan. Director Taylor acknowledged that several members expressed concerns about the language of past measure and asked that we have a consensus of just what we will bring to the table, no more individual issues without our support. Chief Heine added the supervisors want a fully formed and funded campaign before they vote to place the item on the ballot. Its tough on the union side of support because they have bylaws that do not allow funding without a ballot measure to spend funds on. A lot of discussion on when. Originally, a November vote is just not enough time for us to put all the pieces together for a successful ballot. The Ad Hoc will come back with a best time, but we are looking at a 2022 date, either March, June, or November. Director Taylor added so long as we do not have a competing sale tax measure at the same time. SMART is expected to go back to the ballot. Director Trainor asked what concerns were communicated- Director Taylor answered most of our concerns had to do with timing at this meeting. Director Treanor then asked if the Supervisor want the fire service to develop a PAC. Chief Heine added that FSWG has been tasked with developing a strategic plan to manage the election process-generally speaking. The county will send their own internal timeframe document. We did not have enough time the last time. Director Leen asked about the PG&E settlement fund. Chief Heine explained that money was set aside as a general fund item and was intended for campaign management if the fire service decided not to attempt to run the campaign internally. Director Treanor whatever plan we make its important that our membership become partners in the plan to help it pass. Chief Heine added it needs to be a triangle approach-equal partners, the chiefs association, fire districts association and all of our local unions-a concerted team effort. Director Hemmendinger added that he could not agree more, and added a small group from our SCFDA committee (not approved) met and discussed a similar message

and stressed the importance of our involvement. Director Doss asked what role of the ad hoc committee would be as well as other logistical aspects. If you look at the demographical information, if we would have agreed amongst ourselves, it would have passed already. We need a clearing unified approach within the fire service. Our ad hoc needs to be deeply involved. President Akre added that was a similar conclusion earlier. Part of our problems was that we were not a united fire service. We all recognize this now and we are and will be working together as mentioned already-SCFDA, SCFCA and the Union. As we spoke of before, we need to speak as ONE united voice. We might disagree amongst ourselves, but collectively we speak as one. During the creation of this agenda, I sent out many emails asking for your volunteering for the ad hoc and to send us your questions. We have a unique opportunity going forward, we can speak through our associations. My thoughts for the subcommittee membership is as follows-Our elected representative Bob Taylor. Director Taylor will be the Chair of the committee. Furthermore, I have received emails from Fred Peterson, Mark Hemmendinger, Shepley Schroth-Cary, and Terry Leen are the ones I have heard from. I envision the members working with Bob to take a hard look at measure g and see what needs to be updated. Rob Stewart also expressed interest on committee membership. Director Lachman added two points-Not being on the November ballot is good and perhaps will have in person meetings by then and secondly, I think each member ought to have an alternate. Director Hemmendinger added I though we had some other interested parties. President Akre added I sent two emails to the group and asked for those to send an email if they were interested. If missed anyone I am sorry. Chief Plakos apologized for not answering the emails but expressed a desire to participate and to represent the North Coast area of the county. Director Fred Peterson added an apology but also wanted to add Daymon Doss when Director Ernie Lovelace turned him down. I see this as a working group and we never had a timeline before. The alternate member is a good addition to help us to keep moving. Director Doss added that he would be happy to serve as an alternate if needed. President Akre then asked Director Treanor if he wanted to serve. Director Treanor did not think he could commit the time. In summary I have the following: Bob Taylor as the Chair, Fred Peterson, Mark Hemmendinger, Shepley Schroth-Cary, Terry Leen, Rob Stewart, Bonnie Plakos, Daymon Doss, said President Akre. Director Taylor hoped for a slightly smaller group but said he would with the group for now and see how it goes.

5. NEW BUSINESS:

a. SCFD Briefing on Ambulance Service for EOA

Chief Heine reported that Sonoma County will release an ambulance RFP process in the next 60-90 days. The area is currently served by AMR. In anticipation of that and in preparation of that SCFD has created two operational plans. One is if we run the whole system ourselves and hire and purchase the workforce and apparatus. Two, the preferred

method is to use a subcontractor ambulance company. With that in mind we released a Request For Qualifications about a month ago. Per Government Codes/Health & Safety Codes that dictate the process for a public agency to do this type of contract. We released the RFQ. Any company that wanted to bid had to attend a pre-bid conference. We had four companies attend that conference. AMR, Bells, Life West and Medic Ambulance were there. Also had several stakeholder observers who would be served by the bidders at the conference. The RFQ was reviewed. Bids due next Thursday. The week of March 22nd a panel of subject matter experts will review the applicants. With the goal to make a recommendation. I have been asked why-two simple critical items, one is service and to be able to re-invest the surplus back into the service area. Current practice allows profits to be shipped out of state-they are a corporation. Since we cannot make a profit, surplus gets reinvested back into our local system. One rumor to debunk-we are here to displace the local workforce. We are not. We will hire the incumbent workforce. Director Lachman asked if Chief Heine would share some of the metrics used to determine the winning bid. Chief Heine added the RFQ document is on the SCFD website. Director Peterson, after going through your process, what is the County's criteria? Chief Heine answered that is truly unknown since the county has not released the RFP. Based on the past, they considered responses times and things like that. Our RFQ is very complex and could be a good example. This has been a tremendous undertaking for the fire chief to bring to the board. I am familiar with what other counties are doing as the EMS rep for EMS at Cal Chiefs. I can tell you this is a paradigm shift-it has been profit over service and we are offering service over profit. Director Doss asked which plan is your preference? Chief Heine said he would prefer the subcontractor route, perhaps one that is already working in the county. I have run ambulance systems before, but my staff has not. So plan is preferred.

b. Consider Endorsement of SCFD and SVFRA Impact Fee Program

President Akre explained the process he and Chief Heine have been involved with fire impact fee programs which are one-time fees based on new construction. Revenue can only be used for stations and equipment, no staffing. We have done extensive outreach with builders and community members alike. We have worked with County Counsel, the CAO and the supervisors. There is a requirement that local fees of this type must be approved by the Board of Supervisor. Stipulation in Mitigation Fee Act. What we are asking for is a letter of support for our Fire Impact Fee programs. I, and Chief Heine would offer that these programs are available to our members as a template. One requirement of each fee program of this nature requires a study that is specific to each district. Chief Heine added that future districts can simply be added to the Board resolution by consent and not have to go through the process. Director Doss asked a clarifying question. Director Peterson moved to approve a letter of support to both Sonoma Valley and Sonoma County Fire districts for their impact fee programs, 2nd by Bob Glockner.



Director Stewart asked if we could still vote on the matter since it was added tonight. President Akre asked for Bill Adams answered that we are not a Brown Act agency and therefor we are not required so the motion and second stand. President Akre called for the vote, all were in favor and none were opposed. President Akre to follow up. On a side note, our adding our support of each other creates a positive impact and appearance supporting one another. Director Lachman asked if President Akre and Chief Heine would tell the group what metric of growth was used to determine the feasibility of such a program? Both President Akre and Chief Heine both offered themselves at there research and support. Chief Heine added the supervisors are now requiring that if an agenda item is substantial or has a big impact they want to be briefed before the item goes up in front of them. You also need to plan for 40 days out from the time you want them to vote on the item.

6. GOOD OF THE ORDER

President Akre asked for the good of the order. Director Taylor asked Mark Bramfitt foe a LAFCO report. Mr. Bramfitt started off by apologizing for the last LAFCO meeting, it was canceled for posting issues. Nest week we have a number of fire related items in front of the commission. Re-Org of Forestville and annexation to the Sonoma County Fire District. Consideration of a Municipal Service Revue and Sphere of Influence amendment proposal for region 6. A repot out from our own fire Ad Hoc committee. Due to turn over and new commissioners, it appears that Gore and Hopkins will be on the Commission and serve on the Ad Hoc. We have two open potions one is a special district member or class one- a Board member from Fire. Ernie Lovelace is the current member and has not stated he is running, while we have several members that have applied for the seat and we also have an at large member which can come from any special district. Applications due by March 15th. If you are interested, please contact Mark. Director Doss honored Director Jim Kempers who passed away recently. Director Lachman offered that he is interested in running for LAFCO but he does not intend to apply for a LAFCO seat now since there are many qualified members and does not want to create a run off. President Akre thanked Director Lachman.

7. NEXT MEETING: March 25, 2021

As stated here.

8. MOTION TO CLOSE THE MEETING.

President Akre thanked everyone for attending and asked for a motion to adjourn. Director Treanor moved to adjourn the meeting, Director Nicholls 2nd, all were in favor and none were opposed...



Minutes provided by Sec/Treas Sean Grinnell

Minutes approved on: _____

Minutes approved by: _____
President Steve Akre

COVID-19 RESPONSE AND VACCINATIONS

Brian Cyr
Battalion Chief
Infection Control Officer
Sonoma Valley Fire District

1

- ▶ December 19, 2020
 - ▶ Only plan in place by SCPH was to work with regional hospitals
 - ▶ Coastal Valleys Paramedics had already been approved to administer the vaccine
 - ▶ No initial communication between first responder agencies and Public Health

VACCINATION EFFORT

2

- ▶ First Responder Vaccination group built in that meeting
- ▶ First doses given to first responders by 12/22/2020
 - Medics from SRFD, PFD, SVFD, BBFD, SCFD, RAFD, SLS

VACCINATION EFFORT

3

- ▶ Importance of communication and effective partnerships
 - ▶ Definition of Tier 1A
 - ▶ Approval and training of EMT-1s to administer the vaccine
 - ▶ By 1/21/21 over 1000 Sonoma County Fire/EMS personnel had received their 2nd dose
 - ▶ Second Clinic opened up for Dispatchers and Law Enforcement by 2/18/21 another 1000 personnel were totally vaccinated
 - ▶ Vaccinators included EMT-1s from RPDPS

VACCINATION EFFORT

4

Community vaccinations

SCDPH no clear plan in the beginning

Partnerships with local healthcare providers (SVH, SVPHC, City of Sonoma)

3 Mass Vaccination Clinics with over 3600 people vaccinated

VACCINATION EFFORT

5

▶ Infection Control Plan

- ▶ Traditional tracking and documentation would not work
- ▶ Imagetrend
- ▶ Workers Comp

AGENCY RESPONSE

6

- ▶ PPE
 - ▶ Nationwide Shortage
 - ▶ Outside the box thinking
 - ▶ OB kits
 - ▶ Industrial Suppliers
 - ▶ Relationships with other agencies

AGENCY RESPONSE

7

- ▶ Brian Cyr
- ▶ Mcyr@svfra.org
- ▶ (707)721-2256

QUESTIONS

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