



PAJARO VALLEY FIRE DISTRICT  
562 CASSERLY ROAD  
WATSONVILLE, CA 95076  
831 722-6188



MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING FOR THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE  
PAJARO VALLEY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

**Tuesday May 19, 2024**

**Call to Order/Roll Call at 5:01PM**

**Present:**

Chair Martone  
Director Erbe  
Director Sampson  
Director Moules  
Vice Chair Murphy

**Public comments (not to exceed 3 minutes) for items not listed on the agenda.**

Public: Farm Bureau wants to engage to keep district local.

Present:

Don Jarvis  
Two other members of the public

**1. Public Hearing Preliminary Budget FY 24/25 ACTION**

**1.2 Staff Report and Prestation of Preliminary Budget**

BC Murray reported that the committee met with the auditor and he stated to anticipate a 4% increase in revenues. Budget was prepared for a 2-person and a 3-person budget. BC Murray reported on the budget impact with 3-person staffing:

- Nothing would transfer to capital and it would deplete capital funds leaving only \$25K for the following FY.
- With the 4% revenues and other revenues as well as current expenses of \$3.4 million there would be a deficit of \$900K.

BC Murray reported on the budget impact with 2-person staffing:

- Larger CalPERS payment.
- Decrease in salary and services.
- Will be able to transfer to savings and maintain contingency and capital fund \$100K. There will be a deficit in the following year.

**1.3 Open Public Hearing 5:09 PM no comments. Closed at 5:09 pm**

**1.4 Receive Public Comment None**

**1.5 Close Public Hearing 5:09 PM**

**1.6 Board and Staff Discussion**

Chair Martone reported that he met with SCI and they stated that the people who voted were less than 50% of those living in single family dwellings. The Board discussed options and their suggested recommendations for the budget. They also expressed concern about the level of deficit spending with 3-0 staffing and the negative impact it will have on the District. The Board recommended the following actions:

- Moving to 2-0 staffing
- Renegotiating the Watsonville contract
- Speak with the Farm Bureau regarding a ballot measure

Chair Martone also expressed concern that firefighters may be injured due to the limited staffing and asked BC Murray to relay to the firefighters that they be safe and document injuries and impacts that occur as a consequence to the failure of ballot measure.

Mr. Jarvis asked what the future plan is for the District. Chair Martone responded that the District can move for a new ballot measure again in 2 years. A member of the public asked the impact to homeowners insurance and the impact to community with 2-0 staffing vs 3-0 staffing. BC Murray responded that the reduced staffing will negatively impact homeowners insurance costs as insurance companies look at the level of risk with reduced staffing. Having one less person will reduce the level of service to the community. Running with 3-0 staffing, during a structure response, two members take a fire engine and a third member takes the water tank to fight the fire. With the 2-0 staffing, firefighters will be at a disadvantage for any call they respond to.

A member of the public asked regarding the impact to the budget if the County takes the District over. Vice Chair Murphy stated that the County would assess CS48 funds towards providing the service and the cost would be the same.

Consider adopting Resolution 2024-05 approving the Preliminary Budget for FY 24/25 with an amendment to adopt 2-0 staffing.

Motion adopting Resolution 2024-05: \_\_ Director Sampson \_\_\_\_ Second:

\_\_ Director Erbe \_\_\_\_

All in favor: \_\_ All \_\_\_\_

**2. Presentations:**

**DISCUSSION**

2.1 Chief’s Report, Pajaro Valley

Battalion Chief Murray reported on the following:

- Paulsen Rd. closed permanently by the County. The section that was closed runs from 195 Paulsen to Whiting Rd.. The road was undermined by the water. The road was closed without notification to the District.
- Emergency Response- Personnel responded to 3 structure fires: a fire on Casserly Rd in March. Both water tender and engine responded. Fire was contained to room and contents; second fire was on Lakeview Rd.- both PV units were first due; and a third fire on Bowen. Fire was held to the exterior.

- 4511 delivered to GoldState for work. All others in service
- Training conducted during this reporting period included: Auto Extrication, Company Officer and ICS 300 and leadership
- Facilities- obtaining bids for water tank. No leak is visible so staff is looking for someone to do an inspection to determine the issue.
- No other changes with personnel. Captain Urbani's position is still vacant.
- Personnel attended two career day events at Lakeview Middle School and one at Sequoia. They also attended an event for the Boy Scouts at Pinto Lake Park

2.2 Incident Report, City of Watsonville

None

**3. Minutes**

**ACTION**

3.1 Approval of the minutes from the Regular Board Meeting on March 19, 2024.

Motion approving the Minutes: Director Moules Second: Director Sampson  
All in favor All

3.2 Approval of the minutes from the Special Board Meeting on April 2, 2024.

Motion approving the Minutes: Director Sampson Second: Director Moules  
All in favor All

**4. Consent Agenda**

**ACTION**

4.1 Expenditure report, Vendor & Deposit summary

No questions. BC Murray reported there were no revenues that came in during March or April. There was also no new construction.

4.2 Year to date County Reports

4.3 American Express Statements-none

Motion approving Consent Agenda: Director Sampson Second: Director Erbe  
All in favor All

**5. Committee Reports**

**DISCUSSION**

5.1 Strategic Planning Committee Report-Chair Martone-Vice Chair Murphy

Nothing to report

5.2 Finance Committee Report-Budget Presentation

Previously reported. Director Sampson thanked BC Murray for answering his questions.

5.3 Audit Committee Report-NONE

5.4 Ad Hoc Committee Report LAFCO-Vice Chair Murphy- Director Sampson and Vice Chair Murphy requested a public records request for CSA48 fees. They met with County counsel Justin Graham. He stated that monies are allocated without regard to equipment at the stations. They will need more time to review the records.

5.5 Ad Hoc Committee Report Elections-Chair Martone-Director Moules

No questions.

**6. Old Business**

**ACTION**

NONE

**7. New Business**

**ACTION**

**7.1 CAL FIRE Contract Renewal Resolution 2024-06**

**7.2 Receive Staff Report**

BC Murray reported on the agreement with CalFire which will be a 1-year contract to being July 1, 2024 and will go through June 20, 2025 for two-person staffing. The documents will be sent to CalFire.

**7.3 Board Discussion**

Vice Chair Murphy asked if the contract may be amended at a later time. BC Murray stated that it is possible to do so if monies are secured.

Consider adopting resolution 2024-06 approving the Cal FIRE Contract Renewal *Motion approving Resolution 2024-06 \_ Vice Chair Murphy with a contingency of plus or minus 5-10% \_ Second \_ Director Erbe \_ All in favor \_ All \_*

**7.4 Letter to City of Watsonville Fire Department Contract for Services Renegotiation**

**7.5 Review letter to Chief of Watsonville Fire Department and City Manager, Board Discussion**

*Motion approving letter for Contract Renegotiation \_ Director Sampson \_ Second Vice Chair Murphy*

*All in favor \_ All \_*

**7.6 Letter to Santa Cruz County LAFCO to withdraw Annexation Proposal and Plan for Service**

A member of the public asked what the annex would've been. Chair Martone responded that it was the idea to annex and provide paramedics instead of EMT's. The member then asked if the annexation would've taken place if the ballot measure had passed or if it was pulled because it was a bad idea. Chair Martone stated that if the ballot measure had passed it would've been under consideration.

**7.7 Review letter to LAFCO and Board discussion**

*Motion approving letter for Santa Cruz County LAFCO \_ Director Erbe \_ Second Director Moules*

*All in favor \_ All \_*

**7.8 Begin negotiations with Santa Cruz County and LAFCO to absorb the District into Santa Cruz County Fire CSA 48.**

**7.9 Board Discussion**

*Motion approving negotiations with Santa Cruz County & LAFCO to absorb the District into Santa Cruz County Fire \_ Vice Chair Murphy \_ Second Director Sampson*

*All in favor \_ All \_*

**7.10 Parcel Tax Measure for November 2024 Election**

7.11 Board Discussion

Chair Martone stated that it does not appear feasible due to the deadlines. There was no motion. Due to lack of motion, the item is removed from the agenda and future agendas.

7.12 Direct Staff to Hire Consultant for Parcel Tax Measure

7.13 Direct Staff to Draft a Resolution Ordering an Election for November 2024 Election

*Motion approving Ordering November 2024 Election \_\_\_\_\_ Second \_\_\_\_\_*

*All in favor \_\_\_\_\_*

**8. Correspondence** **DISCUSSION**  
NONE

**9. Discussion**  
NONE

**10. Agenda items for the next meeting** **DISCUSSION**  
NONE

**11. Adjournment** **ACTION**

*Motion to adjourn \_\_ Director Erbe Second \_\_ Director Moules \_\_\_\_\_*

*All in favor \_\_ all \_\_\_\_\_ Time \_\_ 5:45pm \_\_\_\_\_*

**Next scheduled Regular Board Meeting**

**July 16, 2024 @ 5:00 p.m.**

DocuSigned by:

*Sean Murray*

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**Board Clerk**

DocuSigned by:



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**Board Chair**