



Meeting Minutes
San Mateo Consolidated Fire Department
Board of Directors Regular Meeting
Wednesday, July 13, 2022 – 4:00 P.M.
Hybrid Remote Teleconference Meeting

1. OPENING

The meeting was called to order at 4:00 pm by Board Chair Goethals.

1.3. **Roll Call**

Board Members Present: Goethals, Lieberman & Awasthi

Board Members Absent: None

2. AGENDA CHANGES

There were no agenda changes.

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

None

4. CONSENT

Board Member Awasthi made a motion to approve the Consent calendar, which was seconded by Board Member Lieberman. The Acting Board Secretary took a roll call vote, and the Consent calendar items were approved 3-0.

Board Member Lieberman commented on Items 4.3 and 4.4 regarding purchase orders for L.N. Curtis & Sons and Bus & Equipment as sole vendors. He confirmed with Chief Thrasher that the department continues to pay customary and reasonable fees with the two vendors.

5. NEW BUSINESS

Item 5.1 - Resolution Authorizing Use of Hybrid Remote Teleconferencing for Meetings of the Department Board of Directors Consistent with AB 361's Amendments to the Ralph M. Brown Act.

Legal Counsel Bill Ross made recommendation for this action to approve the resolution authorizing the Board of Directors to use hybrid remote teleconferencing for meetings.

Board Chair Goethals asked if there was any public comment on this item, which there were none. Board Member Lieberman made a motion to adopt the resolution, which was seconded by Board Member Awasthi. The Acting Board Secretary took a roll call vote, and the resolution was approved 3-0.

Item 5.2 – Adopt a resolution approving the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the San Mateo Consolidated Fire Department and the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME).

Fire Chief Thrasher provided a brief presentation of the staff report for approval.

Board Chair Goethals asked if there was any public comment on this item, which there were none. Board Member Lieberman made a motion to adopt the resolution, which was seconded by Board

Member Awasthi. The Acting Board Secretary took a roll call vote, and the resolution was approved 3-0.

6. REPORTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Board Member Lieberman thanked Deputy Fire Chief Marshall for his presentation at the Belmont City Council meeting last night.

Board Member Awasthi welcomed new Foster City City Manager Stefan Chatwin.

Deputy Fire Chief Turturici provided the following Operations update:

- 6 graduated from our Fire Academy. Total of 23 probationary employees.
- Capt. Engler, Firefighter Portillo, and Firefighter R. Milano of Engine 14 were recognized by the Lions Club for Valor in the rescue of a fire victim in Redwood Shores.
- We hosted a grand opening of our San Mateo Consolidated Training Division facility. We are now 100% internal for our training.
- The current call volume of 6,667 calls is on track with last year. Hazmat response at 20 for the year so far which is also the average compared to last year. Water rescue incidents at 12 which is an increase of 5 compared to this time last year.
- Continuing to work and improve communications in the County. Addressed the issues related to coverage of vacated stations during large incidents and resources are drawn down.
- Two engines consisting of 8 personnel and 1 firefighter assigned to overhead returned from a deployment to the Rices Fire in Grass Valley area. 1 person currently deployed as overhead to the Washburn Fire in Yosemite.
- Continuing to work with all cities on maintenance of all fire houses and properties.
- Took delivery of 3 new fire engines which are now in service.
- There have been a few significant fire incidents in the county this year - Belmont Canyon, San Bruno Mountain, and most recently in Redwood City/Woodside off of Edgewood. Fire season is here, and we are being diligent with training.
- We are updating our Mutual Threat Zone agreement with Cal Fire.

Public Comment – Drew asked a clarifying question regarding call volumes being pre-COVID or not, were there impacts due to fireworks, and what were the operational impacts when the fire off of Edgewood occurred. Deputy Chief Turturici stated that call volumes fluctuated between COVID year followed by people getting back. That determined a solid year of incidents, and it seems that we have leveled out with expectations. For the Edgewood incident and based on the alarm levels, SMC Fire resources were drawn down and backfilled one engine in the city with overtime to help pick up calls. Engines from the North assisted covering calls in the area as well. Deputy Chief Marshall stated the fireworks always have a bit of an impact. When set off in neighborhoods, law enforcement will respond. Due to low staffing, we did not have enough people to assist PD. With fireworks and reporting it as a crime, it has to be witnessed which can be difficult.

Deputy Fire Chief Marshall provided the following CRR update:

- Fire Prevention budget is recovering from COVID and has seen an increase in revenues.
- Recruitment for Fire Inspector in process to fill vacancies. Job offer will be made to a current part time Inspector.
- Welcome and introduction to new Emergency Services Manager Jim Yoke.

After Board Chair Goethals asked if there were public comments on Closed Session Matters, Local 2400 representatives requested to comment on the Closed Session Matter. Legal Counsel Ross recommended the presentation be made in the beginning of Closed Session.

7. CLOSED SESSION

The Fire Board went into Closed Session at 4:30 p.m. Report out from Closed Session will be made at the next Board meeting.

8. ADJOURNMENT

The Board discussed and agreed to a board meeting on August 31, 2022, and the meeting was adjourned at 4:30 p.m.