



SCOTTS VALLEY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

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MINUTES OF THE SCOTTS VALLEY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORS SPECIAL MEETING OF November 29, 2023

1. Call to Order

A Special Meeting of the Board of Directors of the Scotts Valley Fire Protection District (SVFPD) was held on Wednesday, November 29, 2023 at 7 Erba Lane, Scotts Valley, CA. President Pisciotta called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

1.1 Roll Call

Directors Present:

Directors Cosner, Hurst, Parker, Patterson and Pisciotta

Staff:

Fire Chief Correia

Ballot Measure W discussion was moved to Item 3.1 before the closed session and the agenda numbering was adjusted accordingly.

2. Public Comment (GC §54954.3)

None

3. Discussion Items

3.1 Ballot Measure W

Chief Correia discussed certification result of 66.42% voting yes and how Measure W failed by 12 votes. Chief Correia provided recommendations for the next steps including hiring a Polling firm to survey the community to learn more about their support and why it may have failed. Chief Correia noted that he has worked with EMC Research in the past, and this is the same firm Central Fire is using for their community polling. Chief Correia recommended putting together a larger Community Support Group that would help review the project, make recommendations, and assist in getting the word out. The election cycle for next year will be a primary and general election. There may not be enough time to ramp up for the Primary voting day, and there will likely be multiple initiatives on the General Election ballot. In addition, Assembly Constitutional Amendment (ACA) 1 will be on the General Election in 2024. If approved, ACA 1 would lower the voting threshold for Bond Measures from 66.67% to 55% so waiting until 2025 may make some sense. Lastly, Chief Correia discussed meeting with Bond Counsel to determine what other options exist for the SVFPD to finance a large project like the Fire Station including options that may include exemptions for certain members of the community.

Director Cosner recommended not planning on another ballot measure until ACA 1 is voted on. Director Cosner noted that the Community has overwhelmingly supported the fire station measure multiple times, but we continue to fall short of the 66.67%. In addition, Measure W was a bit rushed and having more time to learn about the cost and options would allow for everything to be planned out.

President Pisciotta agreed not going in 2024 makes sense, and wanted to work more closely with the Scotts Valley School District in the future.

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Director Paterson shared his concern for only 34% voter turnout; getting more people to vote could help get this approved.

Director Hurst asked about what exemptions would be available. Director Patterson explained senior exemptions and low-income thresholds have exemptions in parcel taxes. Director Hurst asked if there were any State or Federal Grants that may be available to fund a project, which may help lower the cost to the community. Director Patterson shared his knowledge on impact mitigation grants and noted he would check with Cal OES for other opportunities.

Chief Correira explained the potential option for a USDA Grant, but the criteria was very narrow and may not apply to Scotts Valley. There may be options to pursue Developmental Impact Fees. The Board requested more information be brought back on this topic at a later meeting.

Public Comment before going into Closed Session:

Don Dietrich – 904 Lockwood Lane, Scotts Valley: Stated people voting no will always show up and those on the fence will not vote. The community is disengaged with voting and above 30% is actually good in the current days. The community needs to know why, how, and that corners have been cut to come up with what is needed for a fire station. Don Dietrich shared his experience with the County Parks Director (Jeff Gaffney) reaching out to different parts of the county to get their feedback on Parks. Don Dietrich recommended reaching out to Mr. Gaffney to learn more about the process he used. Don Dietrich also commented that there was a lack of knowledge on the building and would steel be less expensive than brick and mortar. Exemptions may be a good option too as people feel like they are taxed to death. Don Dietrich added that he delivers food weekly and there are a lot of people struggling in the area. Don Dietrich noted that \$22 million is a big price tag for a building that may be obsolete in 30 years once its paid for and once these measures are passed, the amount never goes away. Don Dietrich closed saying he was conflicted as he doesn't want the firefighters working in an unsafe building but getting a community stakeholder group, and getting more information to the public may help in the future.

4. Closed Session: Government Code §54956.8

- 4.1 Real Property Negotiations for Price and Terms of Payment
Real Property Transaction: 6000 La Madrona Drive
Negotiators: Fire Chief Mark Correira and Scotts Valley Water District

At 9:35 a.m., President Pisciotta announced that the Board would be going in to Closed Session for the purpose listed above.

5. Open Session: Government Code §54957.1

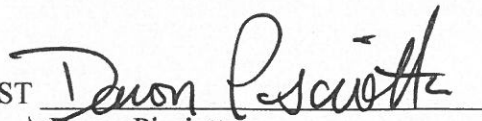
- 5.1 Report on Closed Session

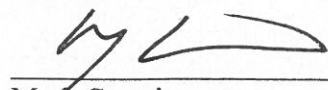
At 9:55 a.m., President Pisciotta reported that the Board provided negotiating parameters to Negotiator Fire Chief Mark Correira to negotiate with the Scotts Valley Water District for real property located at 6000 La Madrona Drive. No action was taken.

6. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 9:56 a.m.

ATTEST


Daron Pisciotta
Board President


Mark Correira
Board Secretary