

1 **January 26, 2021**

2 **REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF**  
3 **THE NORTH COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT**

4 President Van Doorn called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

5 **THE INVOCATION GIVEN BY CHAPLAIN HELMAN.**

6 **ALL RECITED THE PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.**

7 **ROLL CALL:**

8 **Present:** Directors Acosta, Egkan, Kennedy, Munson and Van Doorn.

9 **Absent:** None.

10 **Staff Present:** Fire Chief/CEO Abbott, Attorney James and Board Secretary Stephen-  
11 Porter. In the audience were: D/Cs Mahr and McReynolds, B/Cs Mann and Macmillan, F/M  
12 Fieri, FIM Juul and members of the public and Association.

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14 **PUBLIC ACTIVITIES AGENDA**

15 1. **PUBLIC COMMENT:** President Van Doorn addressed the audience and inquired  
16 whether there were any public comments regarding items not on the Agenda. There being  
17 no comments, the Public Comment Section was closed.

18 2. **CHALLENGE COIN AWARD – ENGINEER/PM COLLIN BAKER AND CHIEF ABBOTT:** Engineer  
19 Baker presented Mr. Don Hale and Mr. Shawn Hill to the Board. He informed the Board that  
20 when E114 arrived on scene, they found Shawn Hill and Don Hale providing first aid  
21 to the patient who sustained a laceration to the head due to a fall. Mr. Hale and Mr.  
22 Hill took it upon themselves to act, utilizing a trauma kit from Mr. Hales personal  
23 vehicle in order to apply direct pressure dressings to the head wound that the patient  
24 sustained. Both individuals undertook as risk to themselves by rendering aid on the  
25 sidewalk of a very busy street with oncoming traffic facing them. They were  
26 nominated for the Challenge Coins as their action reflect the action and caring the  
27 District strives for in their care of community members. The Board thanked Mr. Hale  
28 and Mr. Hill for their exceptional service to the community.

29 3. **THIRD AND FOURTH QUARTER 2020 AWARDS FOR BOARD RECOGNITION PROGRAM — CHIEF**  
30 **ABBOTT AND B/S STEPHEN-PORTER:** Chief Abbott presented the individuals and Crews who  
31 had been acknowledged for recognition in the third and fourth quarters of 2020. The Board  
32 consider which of the submissions to recognize for their award. In addition, Director Egkan  
33 recommended FM Fieri for his proactive efforts in several areas and his willingness to work  
34 with the public to find solutions for building and other Bureau issues. On a motion by  
35 President Van Doorn, seconded by Vice President Kennedy the motion to recognize the  
36 individuals involved in the Valley Fire support, passed unanimously. Discussion ensued with  
37 consensus that President van Doorn would work with the Board Secretary to send letters to  
38 all being cognized in quarters three and four on behalf of the Board.

## ACTION AGENDA

### CONSENT ITEMS:

- 42 4. **REVIEW AND ACCEPT REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES FOR DECEMBER 8, 2020**  
43 5. **REVIEW AND ACCEPT FINANCIAL REPORT FOR DECEMBER 2020**  
44 6. **REVIEW AND ACCEPT POLICIES & PROCEDURES – NONE**  
45 7. **REVIEW AND ACCEPT 2<sup>ND</sup> QUARTER OVERTIME TRACKING REPORT**

46 President Van Doorn inquired whether there were any questions on Consent Items 4-7.  
47 Director Egkan noted a correction in item 4, regarding nominating of officers. President Van  
48 Doorn asked for a motion to approve the Consent Agenda with modification to the minutes.  
49 On a motion by Director Munson, seconded by Director Egkan the motion to approve the  
50 Consent Agenda as modified passed unanimously.

### ACTION ITEMS:

- 53 8. **REVIEW AND APPROVE CONTRACT FOR MEDICAL STANDBYS WITHIN DISTRICT EOA AND**  
54 **APPROVE RESOLUTION 2021-01 — D/C MAHR AND CHIEF ABBOTT:** D/C Mahr presented  
55 Resolution 2021-01 to the Board, noting this is a renewal of the contract with Mercy Medical  
56 for provision of BLS level services at the San Luis Rey Down Track & Training Center. He  
57 noted the agreement has been without issues and the District is not considering providing

58 this service to the Center at this time. On a motion by Director Munson, seconded by Vice  
59 President Kennedy, the motion to approve Resolution 2021-01 and the contract passed  
60 unanimously.

61 9. **REVIEW AND APPROVE RESOLUTION 2021-02 ALLOWING THE DISTRICT TO PURSUE GRANT**

62 **FUNDING FOR EXTRACTION EQUIPMENT THROUGH GRANT PROGRAM – CHIEF ABBOTT:** Chief

63 Abbott presented the Resolution and Grant request to the Board noting the District's  
64 previous successes with the NRG process and the anticipated savings of \$44,654 that could  
65 be realized if awarded for extrication equipment. It is anticipated that if successful, the new  
66 set would replace the outdated one at Station 4, the one that sees the highest proportion of  
67 vehicle accidents along I-15 and Hwy 76. On a motion by Vice President Kennedy,  
68 seconded by Director Egkan the motion to approve Resolution 2021-02 and to submit the  
69 grant for extrication equipment to the NRG Program passed unanimously.

70  
71 **DISCUSSION AGENDA**

72 10. **LONG RANGE FINANCIAL PLANNING DISCUSSION – CHIEF ABBOTT:** Chief Abbott

73 introduced Habib Isaac to the Board to give the Financial Planning Update. Mr. Isaac  
74 reported on four main areas: Key assumptions, Primary drivers, Current financial position,  
75 Recession scenario, with a summary of the discussion and questions and answer period.  
76 He noted the key assumptions were Revenues came from: property tax, fees, CFD special  
77 taxes and reimbursements and miscellaneous revenues. Expenses were primarily: salaries,  
78 medical and other benefits, operations, debt and capital equipment and facilities expenses.  
79 Mr. Isaac discussed the impact of projections of inflationary adjustments on those factors.  
80 He noted that Reserves should be at Minimum: 90 days of operating, capital 5 year of  
81 upcoming expenses, Worker's Compensation \$750k, Personnel liability 20% of target  
82 (\$340k). Target for Reserves is: Operating – 180 of operating, capital 5 year of upcoming  
83 expenses, Worker's Compensation \$750k, Personnel liability fixed at \$1.7M. In relation,  
84 North County Fire Protection District's reserves outlined showing the current financial  
85 position projections over the next seventeen years. Mr. Isaac outline two financing options

86 for equipment and facilities, pay-as-you-go and debt funding, both being discussed. The  
87 impact of a possible recession was also discussed.

88 Mr. Isaac recommended continuously evaluating the financial plan to proactively watch  
89 financial outlook with an annual update. President van Doorn opined that the outlook  
90 appeared better than two years ago but was concerned for stations well past their useful life  
91 as opposed to replacement timeline. Discussion ensued regarding whether to have a Board  
92 workshop. The consensus was to schedule a workshop in May prior to the Preliminary  
93 Budget to consider opportunities and alternatives to increase or improve the financial plan.

94  
95 **STANDING DISCUSSION ITEMS:**

96 ● **LEGAL COUNSEL REPORT:** Counsel James presented his report “*Public Officials’*  
97 *New Social Media Open Meeting Law – Part 2.*” Brief discussion ensued regarding using  
98 social media platforms to communicate with constituents and associated dangers and  
99 impacts. This is informational only, no action required.

100 ● **WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS:** Brief discussion ensued regarding the items,  
101 Informational only, no action required.

102 ● **BOARD RECOGNITION PROGRAM**

103 ● **NEWS ARTICLES:** Brief discussion ensued regarding articles. This is informational  
104 only, no action required.

105 ● **COMMENTS:**

106 ● **STAFF REPORTS/UPDATES:**

107 ● **STEPHEN ABBOTT, FIRE CHIEF/CEO:** Chief Abbott informed the Board of the incredible  
108 amount of collaborative effort throughout the County to enhance distribution of the COVID  
109 vaccines when the State contracts started to fall short of distribution. He noted that each  
110 agency has been providing vaccinators to “pods.” There has been a reimbursement method  
111 designed to recover for agency costs. Chief Abbott note that ACA1 is back on the docket,  
112 which would change the threshold for public approval of certain propositions from sixty-six  
113 to fifty-five percent. A new proposal, SB55, who prohibit development in the SRA is being  
114 opposed by CSDA and FDAC. It would have a massive impact to districts like ours. He

115 informed the Board "Text 911" is now active. There will be training for the crews in the  
116 future on how to respond to these events. Rincon is starting is own paramedic services for  
117 the backcountry. The District is working on or has received several grants including receipt  
118 of a grant \$25,000 to buy VHF radios, a countywide submission for VHF radios, Captain  
119 Garing and FF Lindsey working on a AFG grant for a Type 6. Chief Abbott updated the  
120 Board on the Sandia Creek gate issue. He noted it is a County public works/road issue and  
121 the proposal meets or exceeds required standards. Finally, Chief Abbott reported on the  
122 COVID death of Captain Mertz of Rancho Santa Fe Fire District, noting this is their second  
123 line of duty death this year. North County Fire Protection District is supporting their District  
124 during this time of crisis. Informational only, no further action required.

125 ● **CHIEF OFFICERS AND OTHER STAFF: D/C MAHR:** D/C Mahr informed the Board there  
126 has been much involvement by the staff with COVID support. Chief Mahr expects to have  
127 the Operations report next month, at which time he invites the Board to make suggestions  
128 on format and information they would like to see in the report. He noted that by the end of  
129 the year, activity was up approximately 10% overall. Chief Mahr discussed the staffing due  
130 to fire and inclement weather. **D/C McREYNOLDS:** D/C McReynolds informed the Board that  
131 five new Single Role employees had been hired, one from our Explorer Program. He noted  
132 that for the first time in a while, no one at the District has COVID with approximately 70% of  
133 staff receiving the vaccine. Chief McReynolds welcome Nancy Goss back from leave, noting  
134 she is doing a great job. **FM FIERI:** FM Fieri informed the Board that the Sandia Gate is  
135 moving along. He noted the Meadowood multi-family dwelling units have submitted  
136 structural plans. All initial state-mandate inspections have been completed with only final re-  
137 inspections outstanding. All school inspections have been completed with corrections  
138 outstanding. Weed abatements have been completed with four forced abatements. One  
139 staff member is out on with a retired annuitant coming in to do the state mandated  
140 inspections. There was an arrest made for arson at the Econolodge, which looks like it will  
141 go all the way through. **B/C MACMILLAN:** B/C MacMillan informed the Board that staff in the  
142 stations are doing a great job trying to mitigate the effects of COVID, using mask, disinfecting  
143 and using the District-supplied UV lights. **FiM:** FiM Juul informed the Board her department

144 is busy wrapping up the tax season. **B/C Mann:** B/C Mann reported a problem with  
145 transporting patients to Temecula Valley Hospital. **B/S STEPHEN-PORTER:** Reminded the  
146 Board and Staff of Form 700 requirements and timing.

147 ● **BOARD: DIRECTOR ACOSTA:** Director Acosta thanked everyone for working so hard  
148 and looking out for the community. **DIRECTOR EGKAN:** Director Egkan echoed the responses  
149 of Directors van Doorn and Kennedy, asking people to use common sense about COVID.  
150 He noted he had a recent family member pass and was saddened by the passing of the RSF  
151 member from COVID. **VICE PRESIDENT KENNEDY:** Vice President Kennedy echoed President  
152 van Doorn's comments, stating it was important for individuals to take responsible. He noted  
153 the RSF Captain was a friend. He also told of another at Vista Fire who has Stage 4 cancer.  
154 He asked everyone to recognize the inherent risk of the firefighter's job. **DIRECTOR MUNSON:**  
155 Director Munson echoed the comments of the Board members preceding him and thanked  
156 staff for their hard work and care. **PRESIDENT VAN DOORN:** President van Doorn noted that  
157 Captain Mertz became infected with COVID while serving his duties for RSF. He encouraged  
158 people to take the disease seriously and remember the lethality of it. He noted it is not to be  
159 disregarded and encouraged everyone to be responsible and wear a mask so that we could  
160 get past this crisis.

161 ● **BARGAINING GROUPS: VPA BRADSHAW:** VPA Bradshaw stated that the death of Captain  
162 Mertz weigh heavily on the staff, especially with the recent loss of the last captain only a  
163 month ago. All staff sympathizes with RSF loses and bears the weight that exists in this  
164 time. The staff is looking forward to moving forward past these difficult times.

165 ● **PUBLIC COMMENT:** No comments.

## 167 **CLOSED SESSION**

### 168 ● **OPENING CLOSED SESSION:**

169 At 5:33 p.m., President van Doorn inquired whether there was a motion to adjourn to Closed  
170 Session. On a motion by Director Egkan, seconded by Director Acosta, the Board approved  
171 moving to Closed Session. President van Doorn read the items to be discussed in Closed  
172 Session and the Open Session was closed. A break ensued after the reading of the Closed

173 Session Items. At 6:15 p.m., and the Board entered Closed Session to hear:  
174 CS-1. **ANNOUNCEMENT — PRESIDENT VAN DOORN**: An announcement regarding the items to  
175 be discussed in Closed Session will be made prior to the commencement of Closed Session.  
176 CS-2. **CONFERENCE WITH REAL PROPERTY NEGOTIATOR — GOVERNMENT CODE**  
177 **§ 54956.8 — CHIEF ABBOTT**:  
178 PROPERTY LOCATION: 4157 Olive Hill Road, Fallbrook, CA 92028;  
179 PARTIES: North County Fire Protection District (Seller);  
180 UNDER NEGOTIATION: Terms of Sale  
181 DISTRICT NEGOTIATORS: Chief Abbott, District Counsel James  
182 CS-3. **CONFERENCE WITH LABOR NEGOTIATOR – GOVERNMENT CODE § 54957.6 — MANAGEMENT**  
183 **GROUP NEGOTIATIONS – CHIEF ABBOTT**:  
184 NCFPD MANAGEMENT GROUP DISTRICT NEGOTIATORS: CHIEF ABBOTT, DISTRICT  
185 COUNSEL JAMES, SPECIAL COUNSEL BERLINER  
186 CS-6. **CONFERENCE WITH LABOR NEGOTIATOR – GOVERNMENT CODE § 54957.6 — NON-SAFETY**  
187 **GROUP NEGOTIATIONS – CHIEF ABBOTT**:  
188 FFA NON-SAFETY GROUP NEGOTIATORS DISTRICT NEGOTIATORS: CHIEF ABBOTT, DISTRICT  
189 COUNSEL JAMES, SPECIAL COUNSEL BERLINER  
190 CS-7. **CONFERENCE WITH LABOR NEGOTIATOR – GOVERNMENT CODE § 54957.6 — SAFETY**  
191 **GROUP NEGOTIATIONS – CHIEF ABBOTT**:  
192 FFA SAFETY GROUP NEGOTIATORS DISTRICT NEGOTIATORS: CHIEF ABBOTT, DISTRICT  
193 COUNSEL JAMES, SPECIAL COUNSEL BERLINER  
194 CS-8. **REPORT FROM CLOSED SESSION — VICE PRESIDENT VAN DOORN**  
195 ● **REOPENING OPEN SESSION**:  
196 On a motion by Director Egkan, which was seconded by Director Acosta, which passed  
197 unanimously, the Board returned Open Session at 8:10 p.m. the following items were  
198 reported out to the public:  
199 CS-2. **CONFERENCE WITH REAL PROPERTY NEGOTIATOR — GOVERNMENT CODE**  
200 **§ 54956.8 — CHIEF ABBOTT**: On a motion by Vice President Kennedy, seconded by  
201 Director Egkan, the request to extend the escrow by 90 days and to place the property

202 back on the market if the sale is not complete at the end of the 90 days, was approved  
203 unanimously.

204 CS-5. CONFERENCE WITH LABOR NEGOTIATOR – GOVERNMENT CODE § 54957.6 — MANAGEMENT  
205 GROUP NEGOTIATIONS – CHIEF ABBOTT: No reportable action.

206 CS-6. CONFERENCE WITH LABOR NEGOTIATOR – GOVERNMENT CODE § 54957.6 — NON-SAFETY  
207 GROUP NEGOTIATIONS – CHIEF ABBOTT: No reportable action.

208 CS-7. CONFERENCE WITH LABOR NEGOTIATOR – GOVERNMENT CODE § 54957.6 — SAFETY  
209 GROUP NEGOTIATIONS – CHIEF ABBOTT: No reportable action.

## 210 211 **ADJOURNMENT**

212 A motion was made at 8:15 p.m. by on a motion by Director Egkan, seconded by Director  
213 Acosta the motion to adjourn the meeting and reconvene the Regular meeting on  
214 February 23, 2021, at 4:00 p.m., carried unanimously.

215 Respectfully submitted,

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218 Loren Stephen-Porter  
219 Board Secretary

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221 Minutes approved at the Board of Director's Meeting on: February 23, 2021

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