

1 January 24, 2017

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

4 President Munson called the meeting to order at 5:05 p.m.

5 **THE INVOCATION GIVEN BY Deputy Chief Marovich.**

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

7 **ROLL CALL:**

8 **Present:** Directors Harris, Hoffman, Luevano, Munson and Thuner.

9 **Absent:** None.

10 **Staff Present:** Fire Chief/CEO Abbott, Attorney James and Board Secretary Stephen-  
11 Porter. In the audience were: Deputy Chief Marovich, D/Cs Lucore and Mahr, B/C  
12 Schoenheit, DFM Koch and members of the public and Association.

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14 **PUBLIC ACTIVITIES AGENDA**

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

18 2. **EMPLOYEE BADGE PINNING — CHIEF ABBOTT:** Chief Abbott presented for installation  
19 as Deputy Fire Chief Steve Marovich, reviewing his history with the District. At the  
20 conclusion of the review, Chief Marovich was pinned by his wife, Anna and congratulated  
21 by the Board.

22 3. **SELECT AWARDS FOR BOARD RECOGNITION PROGRAM — B/S STEPHEN-PORTER AND**  
23 **CHIEF ABBOTT:** Chief Abbott presented the following individuals and crews to the Board for  
24 consideration: **OCTOBER 23, 2016 – EMAIL OF EXPLORER POST RECOGNITION:** Recognition of  
25 Explorer Post and Staff for the following awards: North County Fire Protection District  
26 recognized as 2016 National Exploring Journey to Excellence “Gold” level post, Explorer of  
27 the Year – Elijah Roque, Advisor of the Year – Captain John Choi, Career Achievement  
28 Awards – Garret Mertz and Dylan Walker, Special Recognition for Post Leadership –  
29 Shane Rees; **OCTOBER 22, 2016 – EMAIL OF RECOGNITION:** FF/PM Klayton Symmes for

30 receiving meritorious service award from City of San Diego for lifesaving treatment of  
31 police officer; **OCTOBER 10, 2016 – LETTER FROM BROOK HILLS HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION:**  
32 Letter of thanks for presentation on fire preparedness – DFM Patty Koch; **FIRE PREVENTION**  
33 **WEEK RECOGNITION:** FPS Gregg Holdridge; Engineer Sam Russell; FF/PM Rob Hager;  
34 **OPEN HOUSE RECOGNITION:** FPS James Beebe; **UNDATED THANK YOU CARD: Engine 1112:**  
35 Captain Pete August, Engineer Brent Itzania, FF/PM Moritz; **UNDATED THANK YOU CARD –**  
36 **COMMERCIAL FIRE:** Battalion Chief Greg Wilson; **Engine 1111:** Captain Greg Mann,  
37 Engineer Ben Lian, FF/PM Dan Sahagun, **Medic 1191:** FF/PM Dennis Soriano, Reserve  
38 Cristo Ramirez; **SEPTEMBER 24, 2016 FACEBOOK POSTING OF BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION:**  
39 **Engine 1111:** Captain Berry, Engineer Quinn, FF/PM Rivera, Reserve Cain, Reserve  
40 Espinoza, Intern Puccio; **SEPTEMBER 22, 2016 FACEBOOK POSTING OF BIRTHDAY**  
41 **CELEBRATION: Engine 1111:** Captain Fieri, Engineer Harrington, FF/PM Hager, Reserve  
42 Rameriz, Reserve Symmes, Internal Michel. On a motion by Director Luevano, seconded  
43 by Vice President Thuner, there was a motion to approve the selected individuals/crews for  
44 recognition as the October 23<sup>rd</sup>, October 22<sup>nd</sup>, Fire Prevention/Open House Week (as one  
45 item), September 24<sup>th</sup> and September 22<sup>nd</sup>, which passed unanimously. Individuals/crews  
46 will be invited for recognition to an upcoming meeting.

## ACTION AGENDA

### CONSENT ITEMS:

4. **REVIEW AND ACCEPT REGULAR BOARD MEETING FOR DECEMBER 2016**
5. **REVIEW AND ACCEPT FINANCIAL REPORT FOR DECEMBER 2016**
6. **REVIEW AND ACCEPT POLICIES & PROCEDURES – NONE**
7. **REVIEW AND ACCEPT FOURTH QUARTER 2016 CUSTOMER SATISFACTION SURVEY**
8. **REVIEW AND ACCEPT 2<sup>ND</sup> QUARTER OVERTIME TRACKING REPORT**

56 President Munson inquired whether there were any questions on Consent Items 4-8.  
57 There being no discussion, President Munson asked for a motion to approve the Consent

58 Agenda. On a motion by Director Luevano, seconded by Director Harris, the motion to  
59 approve the Consent Agenda Items as presented passed unanimously.

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61 **ACTION ITEMS:**

62 9. **REVIEW AND APPROVE NON-SAFETY STAFF REORGANIZATION — CHIEF ABBOTT:** Chief  
63 Abbott presented his plan to reorganize a portion of the Non-Safety Staff, now that FPO  
64 Holdridge has retired. The adjustment will allow the District to address some identified  
65 shortcomings in staffing such as insufficient front office coverage, inadequate quality  
66 assurance on EMS runs, lack of clerical support for fire prevention and an employee  
67 functioning in a capacity that is inconsistent with their present classification. Discussion  
68 ensued regarding the costs associated with the changes, with it being noted that there  
69 would be an annual savings for the changes to the non-benefitted, part-time positions and  
70 a net gain in administrative capacity of approximately 20-30 hours/week. Discussion  
71 ensued regarding the position pay rates. On a motion by Director Luevano, seconded by  
72 Director Hoffman, the motion to approve the Non-Safety Reorganization as presented  
73 passed by the following vote: **Ayes:** Directors Hoffman, Luevano, Munson and Thuner;  
74 **Noes:** Director Harris.

75 10. **AUTHORIZE EXTENSION OF CONTRACT FOR MEDICAL STANDBYS WITHIN DISTRICT EOA**  
76 **AND APPROVE RESOLUTION 2017-01 — B/C MAHR AND CHIEF ABBOTT:** Chief Abbott  
77 presented Resolution 2017-01 to the Board, noting this is the third extension of this  
78 contract with Mercy Medical for provision of BLS level services at the San Luis Rey Down  
79 Track & Training Center. The agreement has been without issues and the District would  
80 have difficulty providing this service to the Center. On a motion by Vice President Thuner,  
81 seconded by Director Hoffman, the motion to approve Resolution 2017-01 as presented  
82 passed unanimously.

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84 **DISCUSSION AGENDA**

85 11. **REPORT ON STRATEGIC DIRECTION DISCUSSION — CHIEF ABBOTT:** Chief Abbott  
86 presented his report on Strategic Direction to the Board, discussing eight areas the Board

87 had previous identified for focus: Facilities; Restoration of Reserve Funds Utilized During  
88 the Recession; Public Outreach to the Community; Rainbow Volunteer Fire Division;  
89 Alternate Staffing Models and Station 3 Staffing; Fleet; Community Paramedicine and  
90 Restoration of Staff Positions. Chief Abbott noted many of the initiatives are interrelated  
91 and proposed condensing them into three initiatives, going forward: [1] Develop a staffing  
92 & delivery model that balances interests within fiscal constraints; [2] Enhance outreach  
93 with public & cooperators on current challenges/opportunities; and [3] Initiate long-term  
94 facilities, equipment and capital reserve replacement planning. Discussion ensued  
95 regarding having specific tactical plan with financial goals delineated to explain how each  
96 goal will be reached or supported, noting a concern for facilities and fleet going forward.  
97 Chief Abbott added his concerns regarding previous deficit spending during the recession,  
98 living off new annexations and continuing budget concerns. He noted the Board will have  
99 an opportunity to address this in May during the budgeting process. Chief Abbott noted he  
100 wanted to ensure his direction met with Board approval before spending time putting  
101 figures to the items. Board concerns were expressed that approval could not move  
102 forward until a realistic financial picture could be provided on the outstanding items, the  
103 scope of District's obligations what the District is facing regarding funding initiatives. It  
104 requested that Chief Abbott provide what he feels is the priority for the District, how much  
105 is needed and in what time frame. Discussion ensued regarding obtaining a reserve and  
106 facilities consultant to assist with fleshing out these items, with both Counsel James and  
107 Director Hoffman making recommendations for consultants. Chief Abbott will continue to  
108 work in this and bring back to the Board for further discussion.

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110 **STANDING DISCUSSION ITEMS:**

111 ● **LEGAL COUNSEL REPORT:** Counsel James presented his letter "*Public*  
112 *employees do not have vested right to purchase airtime credit under a statute that was*  
113 *subsequently eliminated by Public Employees' Pension Reform Act of 2013.*" Brief  
114 discussion ensued regarding changes post-PEPRA. This is informational only, no action  
115 required.

- 116 ● **WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS:** Brief discussion ensued regarding the items,  
117 Informational only, no action required.
- 118 ● **BOARD RECOGNITION PROGRAM:** See Item No. 3.
- 119 ● **NEWS ARTICLES:** Brief discussion ensued regarding articles, with discussion  
120 regarding the State Fire Tax and tree mortality. Chief Abbott updated the Board on his  
121 efforts with regarding to the State Fire Tax, noting that special districts receive  
122 approximately 1% of 300 million of the Tax. This is informational only, no action required.
- 123 ● **COMMENTS:**
- 124 ● **STAFF REPORTS/UPDATES:**
- 125 ● **STEPHEN ABBOTT, FIRE CHIEF/CEO:** Chief Abbott thanked the Board and Staff for  
126 the first year of his tenure and their support. He also noted the Staff fielded 122 calls over  
127 four days during the heavy rains, which is double the annual average. Discussion ensued  
128 regarding whether the District is eligible for reimbursement through emergency funds.  
129 Chief Abbott will investigate to see if the District is able to capture anything. Chief Abbott  
130 informed the Board the District will be participating in the  
131 “Every 15 Minutes Program” this year, noting it had been on a hiatus with the High School  
132 for the last several years. Chief Abbott updated the Board on the happenings with the  
133 Rainbow Division, including Chief Weaver’s involvement. Discussion ensued regarding  
134 labor, CalPERS challenges and changes upcoming in 2018. Informational only, no further  
135 action required.
- 136 ● **CHIEF OFFICERS AND OTHER STAFF: CHIEF LUCORE:** Chief Lucore updated the Board  
137 on the search for the missing child, presumed drowned in the recent rains. He noted the  
138 Sheriff and military continue to search, although with the weather and the remote areas, it  
139 may take several weeks until the water recedes enough to locate the child.
- 140 ● **BOARD: DIRECTOR HOFFMAN:** Director Hoffman inquired about the disparity of  
141 recovery for medical billing and whether a collection agency should be acquired. Chief  
142 Abbott noted it is more a matter of insurance offering than failure to pay, noting  
143 Medicare/Medi-Cal pays at a set rate, which is substantially below our billed rate.
- 144 **DIRECTOR MUNSON:** Director Munson inquired what percent of District funding goes to pay

145 for personnel costs and where this funding derives from. Chief Abbott discussed District  
146 funding. **DIRECTOR THUNER**: Director Thuner informed those present of an opportunity for  
147 participation at Quail Gardens and asked interested parties to contact her.

148 ● **BARGAINING GROUPS**: No comments.

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

## 151 **CLOSED SESSION**

### 152 ● **OPENING CLOSED SESSION**:

153 At 6:25 p.m., President Munson inquired whether there was a motion to adjourn to Closed  
154 Session. On a motion by Vice President Thuner, seconded by Director Hoffman, President  
155 Munson read the items to be discussed in Closed Session and the Open Session was  
156 closed. After a short break, the Board entered Closed Session at 6:30 p.m. to hear:  
157 **CS-1. ANNOUNCEMENT — PRESIDENT MUNSON**: An announcement regarding the items to  
158 be discussed in Closed Session will be made prior to the commencement of Closed  
159 Session.

160 **CS-2. CONFERENCE WITH REAL PROPERTY NEGOTIATOR — GOVERNMENT CODE**  
161 **§ 54956.8 — CHIEF ABBOTT**:

162 **PROPERTY LOCATION**: 330 S. Main Avenue, Fallbrook, CA 92028;

163 **PARTIES**: North County Fire Protection District (Purchaser) and Ian Forsythe (Seller);

164 **UNDER NEGOTIATION**: Terms of Purchase;

165 **DISTRICT NEGOTIATORS**: Chief Abbott, District Counsel James

166 **CS-3. REPORT FROM CLOSED SESSION — PRESIDENT MUNSON**:

### 167 ● **REOPENING OPEN SESSION**:

168 On a motion by Vice President Thuner, which was seconded by Director Luevano and  
169 which passed unanimously, the Board returned to Open Session at 6:45 p.m. The  
170 following items were reported out to the public:

171 **CS-2. CONFERENCE WITH REAL PROPERTY NEGOTIATOR — GOVERNMENT CODE**  
172 **§ 54956.8 — CHIEF ABBOTT**: No reportable action.

## ADJOURNMENT

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175 A motion was made at 6:50 p.m. by Vice President Thuner and seconded by Director  
176 Luevano, to adjourn the meeting and reconvene on March 1, 2017, at 17:00. The motion  
177 carried unanimously.

178 Respectfully submitted,

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181 Loren Stephen-Porter

182 Board Secretary

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184 Minutes approved at the Board of Director's Meeting on: March 1, 2017

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