

Kuna Rural Fire District

PO Box 607, Kuna, ID 83634

Phone (208) 922-1144 Fax (208) 922-1135

Minutes of Commissioners Regular Meeting

January 8, 2025

APPROVED: _____ **REVISED:** _____ (see revised version)

Chairwoman Rebekah Luther called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m. in the Kuna City Hall Council Chambers.

Present were Commissioners: Commissioner Rebekah Luther, Scott Burn, Carrera Atkinson, Robert Hilpert, and Dawn Hale. Also present were Chief TJ Lawrence, Officer of Administration Krystal Hinkle, and White Peterson Attorney Marc Bybee.

Consent Agenda Approval:

Comm. Burn moved to accept the consent agenda as printed and posted. Comm. Atkinson seconded the motion, motion passed with a unanimous voice vote.

- A. Approval of the Agenda
- B. Regular Board Meeting Minutes Dated December 11, 2024
- C. Financial Reports, Fund Investments, and Approval of Bills – Accounts Payable and Impact Fee Account Balance

Public Input/Discussion – None

Staff Reports:

Chief Report – by T.J. Lawrence: Chief indicated we have one FF on injury leave. Annexation hearing for station 2 will take place with City Council on 1/21/25. The kick off party went well. The Captain's promotional exam begins this Friday and we have 3 candidates testing. The alerting system is fully functional. California has requested help from the State of Idaho through an EMAC request. We have firefighters willing to go with commitment for backup. The Chief is considering going as a Task Force leader.

Comm. Burn asked the Chief about an accident with one of our vehicles. Chief indicated that one of our Engines backed into a car and our insurance is taking care of it.

Local 4165 - Full Time Firefighter Report: Matt Graham mentioned that last year was a great year from the local and they received a lot of donations and looking forward to 2025.

Attorney Report: Marc Bybee indicated everything is on the agenda and certain items he will need an executive session, which is indicated on the agenda.

Officer of Administration Report by Krystal Hinkle: None

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Old Business:

State Fire Commissioners Report – The association has chosen to have its conference in Sun Valley, before the Chiefs conference. It will take place on May 12-14. They hope to have the agenda ready by the end of the month of beginning of February.

Ada County City EMS System (ACCESS) Update – Comm. Atkinson indicated the next meeting will take place at the end of January.

New Business:

Annual Election of Officers:

Chairman – Comm. Hale made a motion nominating Scott Burn as Chairperson. Comm. Hilpert made a motion nominating Rebekah Luther as Chairperson. Comm. Atkinson seconded the motion nominating Scott Burn as Chairperson; motion passed with a 3-2 vote.

Vice Chairman – Comm. Luther made a motion nominating Robert Hilpert as Vice Chairperson. Comm. Atkinson made a motion nominating Dawn Hale as Vice Chairperson. Comm. Burn seconded the motion nominating Dawn Hale as Vice Chairperson, motion passed with a 4-1 vote.

Treasurer – Comm. Hale made a motion electing Robert Hilpert as Treasurer. Comm. Luther seconded the motion, motion passed with a unanimous voice vote.

Fire Chief – Comm. Burn made a motion appointing T.J. Lawrence as Fire Chief. Comm. Luther seconded the motion, motion passed with a unanimous voice vote.

Officer of Administration/District Secretary/Bookkeeper – Comm. Burn made a motion appointing Krystal Hinkle as Officer of Administration/District Secretary/Bookkeeper. Comm. Hale seconded the motion, motion passed with a unanimous voice vote.

Attorney – Comm. Burn made a motion appointing White Peterson as the district legal counsel. Comm. Hale seconded the motion, motion passed with a unanimous voice vote.

Commissioners 2025 Committee Appointments –

Budget Committee – Comm. Burn made a motion appointing Robert Hilpert and Dawn Hale to the Budget Committee. Comm. Luther seconded the motion, motion passed with a unanimous voice vote.

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Negotiation Committee - Comm. Hale made a motion appointing Rebekah Luther and Robert Hilpert to the Negotiation Committee. Comm. Burn seconded the motion, motion passed with a unanimous voice vote.

Discuss and Consider Resolution Approving the Agreement with Cascade Fire Equipment – Comm. Hale made a motion approving Resolution 2025-01 approving the Agreement with Cascade Fire Equipment for the purchase of the Squad cab. Comm. Burn seconded the motion, motion passed with a unanimous voice vote.

Discuss and Consider Resolution Approving the Amended District Dog Policy - Comm. Scott made a motion approving Resolution 2025-02 and repealing Resolution 2024-34. Comm. Hale seconded the motion, motion passed with a unanimous voice vote.

Discuss and Consider Officer with Diode Ventures – There was a lot of discussion about the work that Krystal put together to show the impact the Diode project will put on Kuna Fire due to HB389. Chief Lawrence and Krystal Hinkle have been in negotiations with Diode. Diode has offered the district \$30 million dollars divided over 20 years. The district has negotiated the full \$30 million dollars up front to invest now while interest rates are high or a large lump sum up front with small payments for 10 years. Diode had to take it back to their negotiating team.

Comm. Burn made a motion directing the Chief and Krystal to continue negotiations with Diode and to table further discussions until February. Comm. Luther seconded the motion, motion passed with a unanimous voice vote.

Discuss and Consider Bid Documents for Station 2 and Direct District Secretary to post notice of bid in the Idaho Press - Comm. Burn made a motion directing the District Secretary to post notice of the Station 2 Bid Notice in the Idaho Press. Comm. Hale seconded the motion, motion passed with a unanimous voice vote.

Discuss and Consider PO 2025-01 – Chief Lawrence is asking to purchase \$40,665.26 in BK Mobile Radios and Handhelds. This item was budgeted for in 2024, but it didn't take place so we are hoping to carrying over 2024 funds for the radios. Comm. Burn made a motion approving PO 2025-01. Comm. Luther seconded the motion, motion passed with a unanimous voice vote.

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Executive Session Board of Commissioners Regular Meeting– The Commissioners, upon a unanimous roll call vote, went into the executive session, pursuant to Idaho Code Section 74-206 (1) (b) to consider the evaluation, dismissal or disciplining, or to hear complaints or charges brought against, a public officer, employee, staff member or individual agent and the executive session commenced at 10:55 a.m. In attendance were all the members of the Board of Commissioners, legal counsel Marc Bybee, and Krystal Hinkle. Around 11:49 am, Krystal Hinkle left the executive session. Information was exchanged among those in attendance. A motion was made by Commissioner Burn and seconded by Commissioner Hilpert to come out of executive session, which motion passed unanimously at 12:25 p.m.

Open session resumed and Chairperson Burn reported that information was received in relation to the announced purpose for going into executive session and no action was taken by the Commissioners.

Commissioner Open Discussion – None

Commissioner Burn moved to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Hale seconded the motion, motion passed with a unanimous voice vote.

Meeting adjourned at 12:34 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Krystal Hinkle, District Secretary

Scott Burn, Chair