

CHINO VALLEY INDEPENDENT FIRE DISTRICT
Special Meeting - Standing Committee Meeting
Legislative Committee

Administrative Headquarters
14011 City Center Drive
Chino Hills, CA 91709

Monday, June 6, 2023
9:00 a.m. Committee Meeting

MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

President DeMonaco called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. He explained the process for members of the public to participate in the meeting and provide public comment.

ROLL CALL

President John DeMonaco
Director Mike Kreeger
Fire Chief Dave Williams
Clerk of the Board Angela Robles

FLAG SALUTE

President John DeMonaco led the flag salute.

INVOCATION

Chaplain Henry Aguilar provided the invocation.

CHANGES TO THE AGENDA

Clerk of the Board Robles stated that there were no changes to the agenda.

PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS

There were no requests to speak.

MINUTES

1. MINUTES – April 10, 2023 – Meeting.

The Committee agreed to file the minutes, as presented.

OLD BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

2. SENATE BILL 252 (GONZALEZ)

Purpose is for the Legislative Committee to review proposed legislation Senate Bill 252 (Gonzalez) relating to public retirement systems, fossil fuels, and divestment and provide direction to staff.

President DeMonaco provided a summary of the bill that would require CalPERS to divest pension funds from fossil fuel companies which would impose financial risks to members.

President DeMonaco and Director Kreeger discussed their shared concerns regarding the effects of Senate Bill 252.

The Legislative Committee directed to staff submit a letter to oppose Senate Bill 252 indicating this bill imposes financial risks to members, would increase employer contributions, and further strain local budgets.

3. CSDA LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE AGENDA FOR JUNE 2023

Purpose is for the Legislative Committee to review the California Special Districts Association (CSDA) Legislative Committee Agenda for June 2023 and provide direction to staff.

The Committee discussed Assembly Bill 944 (Irwin) pertaining to fire station alternative power. This bill requires fire stations to have an alternative power source for at least 96 hours during power outages. This bill was placed in the Appropriations Suspense File and may be acted upon January 2024.

President DeMonaco asked if the Chino Valley Fire District Stations are compliant with Assembly Bill 944 (Irwin).

Fire Chief Williams stated that all District Fire Stations are already equipped with alternative power source and compliant with Assembly Bill 944 (Irwin).

Legislative Committee had a general discussion of bills that CSDA is tracking and has taken a position on related to Fire and Emergency Services

Clerk of the Board Robles reported that the committee approved and sent a letter of support for Assembly Bill 557 (Hart) related to emergency remote meeting procedures under the Ralph M. Brown Act.

President DeMonaco and Vice President Kreeger discussed their concerns over Assembly Bill 570 and asked for clarification at the CSDA Legislative Committee to be held on June 9, 2023.

4. LEGISLATIVE UPDATE BY ROJAS COMMUNICATIONS GROUP

Purpose is for the Legislative Committee to receive a legislative update from Rojas Communications Group.

Jayson Braude of Rojas Communications Group reported on the Washington DC trip attended by Director Kreeger, Director Haughey, and Fire Chief Williams. Also, he gave a status update on the District's request for federal funds.

Mr. Braude reported on the Fire Grants and Safety Act. He explained that this bill would reauthorize SAFER and AFG programs as well as the U.S. Fire Administration. The U.S. Senate passed the bill and now it goes to the House of Representatives. Specifically, the bill would reauthorize AFG, SAFER, and USFA through FY2030. Moreover, extend the sunset for AFG and SAFER to September 30, 2032, to ensure local fire departments can continue to receive the federal assistance they need to keep their communities safe and provide critical funding for USFA by increasing the authorization amount.

Jaime Rojas Jr. of Rojas Communications Group reported on meetings held with Legislators in Sacramento during California Special District Association Legislative Days. This included a meeting with Catherine Smith, Executive Director of the Fire Districts Association of California regarding the creation of a white paper to stabilize funding for fire districts. Mr. Rojas shared that the District's requests for state funding for the new fire station and essential resource facility projects were continuing to move through the process. Mr. Rojas stated that he would work with District staff to prepare a letter of support to be shared with the entities who endorsed these projects and encourage them to submit letters of support to the state committee for consideration.

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE COMMENTS

The Legislative Committee discussed upcoming projects as well as apparatus needs for the next state and federal funding cycle.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 9:45 a.m. in honor of Airforce Veteran April Cunningham.