



Long Valley Fire Protection District
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MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING February 10th, 2021

Date: Wednesday, February 10th, 2021
Time: 7:00 p.m.
Location: 3605 Crowley Lake Drive, Crowley Lake, CA 93546

Members Present: Hank Brown, Tom Beveridge, Ron Day, Sharon Shaw, Kim Czeschin

Members Absent: None

Others Present: Chief Vincent Maniaci, Secretary Katie Durgin, County Supervisor Rhonda Duggan, Equipment Maintenance Manager Billy Czeschin, Assistant Training Officer Pete DeGeorge

Others Absent: None

TELECONFERENCE INFORMATION:

This meeting was held via teleconferencing with members of the Board attending from separate remote locations due to COVID-19. This change in format is in observance of the recent recommendations made by local officials to take precautions, including social distancing, in order to minimize the spread of COVID-19. Please note the following changes:

1. There is no physical location of the meeting. The meeting was held via teleconferencing.
 2. Public was notified to leave comments on Agenda items before the Board meeting via email by 5:00pm on the day prior to the meeting. Public comments were to be submitted to the Secretary to the Board Katie Durgin at kdurgin@longvalleyfire.com.
 3. Public was notified that they can make comments during the live streaming of the meeting by submitting their comment to kdurgin@longvalleyfire.com.
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1. Call to order, roll call, and announcements. The meeting was called to order at 7:13 p.m. County Supervisor Rhonda Duggan stated she is attending the meeting to go over a few agenda items that are of interest to her and see if she can help in any way during this upcoming year. Rhonda Duggan encouraged anyone who is interested in receiving her weekly updates throughout the year to get in touch with her at rduggan@mono.ca.gov. Commissioner Shaw announced that she found letters at the station office concerning Chris Baitx.¹ Commissioner Shaw believes they are a hoax,

but wanted to bring them to the attention of Chief Maniaci. Commissioner Shaw will leave them with Chief Maniaci to look over.

2. Opportunity for public to address the Board on non agenda items. No public present.
3. Approval of the Minutes of the January 13th, 2021 regular meeting. A MOTION WAS MADE BY COMMISSIONER BROWN, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER DAY TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 13TH, 2021 REGULAR MEETING. MOTION PASSED 5-0.
4. Chief's Report.
 - A. Volunteer's Report. Assistant Training Officer Pete DeGeorge reported that the volunteer firefighters are in the process of receiving the COVID-19 vaccination. He reported that the volunteers are considering doing a barbeque at Pelican Grill for opening day of fishing. Pete DeGeorge reported that the volunteers are in the middle of the winter training schedule. The volunteer firefighters have begun the classroom portion for lake ice rescue training. Once this is complete, they will finish with doing the field portion out on the lake. Two of the volunteer firefighters were able to teach avalanche training at the last volunteer firefighter meeting.
 - B. Report on Current Fire Department Activities, Assignments and Schedule for potential Board direction. 5 calls since January 13th regular meeting: 3 calls were Emergency Medical Service (EMS); 2 calls were vehicle accidents.
 - C. Long Range Planning Discussion.
 - (a) Personnel. Chief Maniaci reported that the volunteers have started back with in-person training. The volunteers are continuing with taking the necessary precautions of social distancing and wearing masks for the in-person trainings. Chief Maniaci reported that the California Fire Assistant Agreement (CFAA) that the Mono County Fire Chiefs agree and adhere to is beginning to make some major changes. Chief Maniaci said that the Mono County Fire Chiefs including himself are not ready to sign the agreement because what CFAA is asking is unfair given the location and resources of each fire department. One of the new changes in the agreement is extending the 12-24-hour lead period for wildland fires. Currently, the agreement states that when volunteers respond to a wildland fire, the fire departments are responsible for all costs of the first 12 hours of fighting that fire and anything thereafter, CFAA will reimburse the department for. CFAA is wanting to change the time of reimbursement to be after the 24-hour mark. Commissioner Brown asked if this change in the agreement affects the mutual aid agreements with the Mono County Departments or is the agreement only with the state of California, Forest Service, and/or Bureau of Land Management. Chief Maniaci responded that the agreement is with the state of California but can affect parts of the

Mono County mutual aid agreements as well. Chief Maniaci explained that the new changes put all departments at an odd juncture with the Forest Service as well as with one another. For example, the Forest Service can choose to pay one department's volunteers \$15/hour, another \$18/hour, and another maybe \$14/hour. This creates an opportunity for the Forest Service to choose the cheapest department that will respond to any given wildland fire. Chief Maniaci explained that this is not right nor beneficial. Every volunteer should be paid equal because they are all responding to fires together. Commissioner Brown stated that he would not be in favor of giving the state of California a response team that did not get reimbursed for the full amount of time they are responding to a fire. Commissioner Brown stated that Forest Service should reimburse each fire department not only for anything after 12 hours, but for the full amount of time the volunteers are responding. Chief Maniaci will be meeting with Mono County Fire Chiefs concerning the changes that the CFAA are trying to make. County Supervisor Rhonda Duggan asked Chief Maniaci if he would connect with her regarding these issues. Rhonda Duggan noted that the rural county agencies may be able to provide more support regarding these issues, whether it be individually for Long Valley Fire Protection District or collectively for all fire departments being affected by these changes. Chief Maniaci will follow up with County Supervisor Rhonda Duggan regarding the CFAA changes.

- (b) Airport. No news. Commissioner Brown asked if Bishop Airport will be ready for flights this coming fall. Chief Maniaci responded that he does not believe they will be ready because Bishop airport has not yet made any arrangements with the Transport Security Administration (TSA). Chief Maniaci stated that TSA is just now pulling out of Mammoth Airport. Commissioner Brown asked if TSA is pulling out of Mammoth Airport and Bishop Airport is not yet ready, come fall of 2021 can TSA go back to Mammoth Airport in order to service flights. Chief Maniaci responded that TSA can go back to Mammoth Airport, however the airport needs a three-month leeway. Commissioner Brown asked if no scheduled airline service at Mammoth Airport is impacting Chief Maniaci and his employees. Chief Maniaci responded that they are being minimally impacted, but are overall doing well. Commissioner Brown asked if Bishop Airport will need an Aircraft Rescue and Fire Fighting (ARFF) vehicle. Chief Maniaci responded that Bishop Airport will need an ARFF vehicle and that they just received the funding for one. County Supervisor Rhonda Duggan stated that the ARFF vehicle is supposed to be at the Bishop Airport by December of 2021. Commissioner Day reported that the Eastern Sierra Transit Authority (ESTA) is having a meeting this coming Friday and the Mammoth and Bishop Airport are one of their agenda items. County Supervisor Rhonda Duggan commented that she is the new representative of the ESTA Board and will be attending this meeting.

- (c) Geothermal. No news.

- (d) Station Maintenance. Equipment Maintenance Manager Billy Czeschin reported that there is a leak over the oil furnace that needs to be addressed at the station.
 - (e) Vehicle and Equipment Maintenance. Equipment Maintenance Manager Billy Czeschin reported that the windshield on the loader is working properly. 3201 is having an issue with code three lights. Billy will be taking 3271 to be serviced due to a coolant leak. Billy and mechanic Rigo Briviesca have completed bits on all vehicles. Billy reported that, other than these issues, all other vehicles and equipment are looking good. Commissioner Brown asked how 3270 is doing while being parked outside. Billy responded that as much as he does not like having it parked outside, it is doing ok. Billy will pull 3270 away from the building in order to avoid any ice falling on the vehicle. Commissioner Brown noted that 3225 used to be stationed in Sunny Slopes during the winter and that 3270 was stationed in Sunny Slopes in the summer. Billy responded that the volunteers prefer having 3270 in Sunny Slopes in the winter so they could store their gear in the vehicle. Now that there are more volunteer firefighters, 3225 is a better option to keep at the station because the vehicle has more space to hold firefighters.
 - (f) Airport MOU between Town of Mammoth Lakes and Long Valley Fire Protection District. Chief Maniaci reported that Commissioner Brown made a few minor adoptions to the MOU. Legal Council Tim Sanford is currently reviewing the MOU. As soon as Tim Sanford gets back to Chief Maniaci, he will present the draft to Public Works Director Haislip Hayes.
 - (g) Review and possible approval of hold harmless agreement between the Fire Dept. and Sheriff's Dept. No news. Chief Maniaci noted that he has made County Supervisor Rhonda Duggan aware of the issues regarding the hold harmless agreement. Carry over.
5. Board Review/Approval of Payment Warrants since January 13th regular meeting. All Board members confirmed that they have reviewed the warrants since last regular meeting. A MOTION WAS MADE BY COMMISSIONER BROWN, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER DAY TO APPROVE THE PAYMENT WARRANTS. MOTION PASSED 5-0. Commissioner Brown brought attention that the credit card statements are still being addressed to Fred Stump and that this needs to be changed. Chief Maniaci will follow up to get Fred Stump's name taken off and see if they can address all future credit card statements to "Chief of the District" or to "Long Valley Fire Protection District".
6. Secretary to the Board Report. Secretary Durgin reported that she received a letter from the Employment Development Department (EDD) stating that the department is exempt from Annual Federal Unemployment Tax (FUTA) and State Disability Insurance Tax (SDI). Secretary Durgin forwarded this letter to Quickbooks Online to update our account and received a confirmation stating that the department will no longer be charged this tax. Secretary Durgin received access to the new call and training

log database from Volunteer Paul Zastoupil. Durgin noted that she needs to meet with Assistant Fire Chief Joseph Santos to be trained on how to enter in the training logs. Durgin reported that the Workers Compensation Audit for State Compensation Insurance Fund is currently being done. She should be hearing back from the auditor soon. Commissioner Shaw asked if the Board had received the final 2018-2019 Financial Audit Report from Fetcher and Company. The Board confirmed they have received the report. Commissioner Shaw stated that the Fetcher and Company auditors reported the only item they had an issue with is that we do not meet their general accounting principles because we are on a cash basis, however, because we are interlocked with the county on this it is something that cannot be changed. Other than this item, the report looked good.

7. Update on Education Revenue Augmentation Fund (ERAF). Chief Maniaci reported that he has not heard anything back from legal council Tim Sanford. He has briefed County Supervisor Rhonda Duggan regarding all ERAF issues. Chief Maniaci is going to provide all information that Tim Sanford received from Sacramento to Rhonda Duggan so that she knows what will be needed from the county. Carry over. Commissioner Brown commented that based on the AB8 report, nine of the eleven fire districts are subject to ERAF. The nine districts give back approximately \$400,000. Commissioner Brown noted that the local schools meet the basic aid requirements of funding meaning they receive enough funds from property tax that they do not need additional funding. County Supervisor Rhonda Duggan confirmed that this was accurate. Rhonda Duggan is going to ask for more transparency from the state in order to see where exactly ERAF is being allocated to. Rhonda Duggan will continue to work with Chief Maniaci to keep the Board updated on any news regarding ERAF.
8. Resolution for Fire Mitigation Fee Review for Board of Supervisors. Chief Maniaci will be meeting with County Supervisor Rhonda Duggan, Fred Stump, and Wendy Sugimura with Mono County Planning Commission to discuss the resolution. Carry over. Commissioner Shaw asked if Chief Maniaci will be attending the meeting regarding the structure being built without permit on Appleton and Crowley Lake Drive. Chief Maniaci responded that himself and Fred Stump will be attending the meeting. Rhonda Duggan also stated she will be attending the meeting, however will not be an active participant in case the meeting is escalated.
9. Review correspondence received since the last regular meeting. Secretary Durgin reported she received a notification of the 2020 Government Compensation in California (GCC) report due in April. Secretary Durgin confirmed that all Board members received the Statement of Economic Interests (form 700) filing.
10. Review and adjust current FY budget line items as necessary and accept. Commissioner Brown asked if Long Valley Fire Department has ever received a payment from the Sheriffs Department for maintenance on the backup generator. Secretary Durgin looked through the general ledger from the county and has not seen any payment or deposit. Chief Maniaci will follow up with the Sheriff Department to see why we have not received any payment. Secretary Durgin will look through prior year general ledgers to see if we have received any payment and will follow up with Chief Maniaci.

Chief Manaici commented that he did make an addition to the hold harmless agreement with the Sheriff Department that states compensation from the Sheriff Department will be made for half of the cost of annual preventative maintenance on the emergency generator. Commissioner Brown confirmed that this addition has been made to the hold harmless agreement.

11. New Business. None.
12. Call for Agenda items for next regular meeting. Update on ERAF; Resolution regarding Fire Mitigation Fee Review for Board of Supervisors; First Draft of Fiscal Year 2021-2022 Budget.
13. Adjournment. A motion was approved by Commissioner Brown, seconded by Commissioner Beveridge, to adjourn the meeting and reconvene in regular session on March 10th, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. at the Long Valley Fire Station, 3605 Crowley Lake Drive, Crowley Lake, California.

Katie Durgin
Secretary to the Board