



Long Valley Fire Protection District
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MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
April 13th, 2022

Date: Wednesday, April 13th, 2022
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: Fire Chief Vince Maniaci, Volunteer Scott McGuire, Volunteer Pete De George, Volunteer Soibian Spring, Fleet Manager Billy Czeschin, Secretary Katie Durgin

Others Absent: None

1. Call to order, roll call, Pledge of Allegiance, and announcements. The meeting was called to order at 7:00pm. Commissioner Brown made an announcement that there will be a Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO) meeting on Friday, April 22nd. After speaking with the Mammoth Fire Chief, Commissioner Brown would like to propose at the LAFCO meeting that all of Reds Meadow, Devils Post Pile, Rainbow Falls, and Agnew Meadows fall under Mammoth District. Commissioner Brown will also propose that the unsecured property tax that comes from this region continues to be given to Madera County. These items will be discussed at the upcoming LAFCO meeting.
2. Opportunity for public to address the Board on non agenda items. No public present.
3. Approval of the Minutes of the March 9th, 2022 regular meeting. A MOTION WAS MADE BY COMMISSIONER DAY, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER CZESCHIN TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MARCH 9TH, 2022 REGULAR MEETING. Motion passed 5-0.
4. Chief's Report.
 - A. Volunteer's Report. Volunteer McGuire reported that there are currently 25 active volunteers on the roster. The volunteers completed their last online course for Emergency Medical Responder (EMR) training. CPR recertification will be taking place tomorrow night at the volunteers training. Volunteer Soibian Spring reported

that Gerry LeFrancios will be the member from the Long Valley Firefighters Association to join the sub-committee that will review candidates for the Fire Chief position. Soibian reported that the volunteers are preparing to serve the community for opening day of fishing. The volunteers will be serving food on Friday and Saturday of opening weekend.

- a. Volunteer Firefighter Requirements. Commissioner Brown would like to add a bullet point at the beginning of the Volunteer Firefighter Requirements document stating that all requirements are at the Fire Chief's discretion. Chief Maniaci agreed to include this in the document. Chief Maniaci expressed his concern with the changes being made to the training attendance expectations. Chief Maniaci informed the Board of a fire department in Chester, California that had a few insurance claims (e.g., an engineer that accidentally scraped up one of the trucks, a liability issue with a department member). Due to these few claims, the department's insurance was cancelled. Chief Maniaci wants to have accountability using these Volunteer Firefighter Requirements with the members of Long Valley Fire Protection District to prevent anything like this happening. Chief Maniaci emphasized the importance that the volunteers honor the department by following the expectations set forth in the Volunteer Firefighter Requirements. Discussion was made concerning the number of trainings volunteers and captains should be expected to attend. Fleet Manager Billy Czeschin expressed his frustrations concerning the training attendance requirements. Chief Maniaci stated that the requirements were made to provide accountability to the volunteer firefighters who join the department as well as provide a measure of liability. Chief Maniaci added that as leaders, he believes the officers under him should be required to attend more trainings than the volunteers they are leading. Chief Maniaci wrote the firefighter requirements to go alongside the Long Valley Fire Bylaws. The firefighter requirements set forth guidelines for accountability, liability, and communication for all members of the Long Valley Fire Protection District. Billy Czeschin suggested having more structured training attendance requirements for the first three to four years for new volunteers who do not yet have the knowledge and experience. Training Officer Scott McGuire stated the department should have a document stating a standard of training attendance expected for volunteer firefighters. This document will serve both accountability and proficiency purposes. Discussion was made on strategy for the first four years of training attendance for new volunteers. A MOTION WAS MADE BY COMMISSIONER BROWN, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER BEVERIDGE THAT WE HAVE A BULLET POINT AT THE BEGINNING OF THE VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTER REQUIREMENTS THAT GIVES THE FIRE CHIEF DISCRETIONARY POWERS CONCERNING THE REQUIREMENTS. PASSED 3 with 1 abstention, 1 no vote. Chief Maniaci will make revisions to the Volunteer Firefighter Requirements.

- B. Report on Current Fire Department Activities, Assignments and Schedule for potential Board direction. Two calls since last regular meeting: 1 traffic collision and 1 medical aid.
- C. Long Range Planning Discussion.
- (a) Personnel. Chief Maniaci reported that 4th of July celebration will be taking place at Crowley Lake this year. He will put together a burn plan and fire permit for the event. Chief Maniaci and Secretary Durgin have been in contact with our insurance agents. Chief Maniaci reported that there is expected to be a 22% increase in insurance costs over the next five years. He has made the adjustment on the new 2022-2023 fiscal year budget.
 - (b) Airport. Mammoth seasonal flights have ended. Charter flights will begin again on June 15th and go until September 15th. Air National Guard will be performing trainings May 24th-26th and July 22-24th. They have asked for additional local fire department services along with the ARFF services already provided at the airport. Long Valley Fire will be participating in these trainings. Chief Maniaci will provide signup sheets for any volunteers who would like to participate. Commissioner Brown asked if there will be a reimbursement for the volunteers who attend. Chief Maniaci responded that he will come up with a reimbursable rate for those who attend.
 - (c) Geothermal. The Casa Diablo IV geothermal plant is in operation. Long Valley Fire will be doing a safety walk through with their safety advisors. Chief Maniaci will speak with the captains to schedule the walk through.
 - (d) Station Maintenance. Chief Maniaci thanked the crew for all the hard work they have done to update the radios. Chief Maniaci thanked Fred Stump who has been working to fix the leaning pole that holds the antenna. Chief Maniaci thanked volunteer Paul Zastoupil for all his work to recode the new pagers. Chief Maniaci addressed the damaged asphalt at the front of the station. Chief Maniaci will get in contact with the county to address the issue.
 - (e) Vehicle and Equipment Maintenance. Training Officer Scott McGuire reported that 3281 is being repaired by Burtons Inc. Burtons is currently waiting on parts for 3281. Once 3281 is finished, 3231 will go to Burtons for repair. Chief Maniaci reported that efforts are being made to implement the California Radio Interoperable System (CRIS) to Mono County. Chief Maniaci expressed that he along with eight other departments are not on board with potential the changes. The implementation of CRIS to Mono County is proposed to happen in 2025. If CRIS is implemented, Long Valley Fire would have to purchase all new pagers and radios. The annual cost to the department would be roughly \$7,800. The initial cost to the department of switching to CRIS would be roughly \$130,000. Commissioner Brown asked if there would be any grants available to cover the cost. Chief Maniaci responded he does not know at the time regarding grants, but that Mono County stated they will help as much as

they can to cover costs. Chief Maniaci suggested that the Long Valley Chiefs Association along with the Long Valley Fire Board of Commissioner write a letter to the Mono County Board of Supervisors stating that implementing CRIS to the area is not affordable. Commissioner Brown asked if the letter should also go to the Mammoth Town Council as well as Mammoth Fire Department. Chief Maniaci responded that he agrees that the letter should be sent to them as well.

(f) Airport MOU between Town of Mammoth Lakes and Long Valley Fire Protection District. The MOU has been delivered to Airport Deputy Manager, Sierra Schultz for review.

(g) Board of Forestry Fire Safe Regulations Discussion and Possible Action. No news.

(h) Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA) Service. Chief Maniaci reported that he is in contact with a 3M representative regarding SCBA services and replacement of tanks.

5. Board Review/Approval of Payment Warrants since May 9th regular meeting.

All Board members have reviewed the warrants since last regular meeting. A MOTION WAS MADE BY COMMISSIONER BROWN, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER BEVERIDGE TO APPROVE THE PAYMENT WARRANTS. MOTION PASSED 5-0.

6. First Review of Fiscal Year 2022-2023 Budget Draft. The Board of Commissioners reviewed the first fiscal year 2022-2023 budget draft. The AB8 report for fiscal year 2022-2023 has not yet been released therefore the first draft budget does not reflect the 2022-2023 AB8 report. Adjustments were made to liability and workers compensation given the anticipated increase in rates. Chief Maniaci highlighted the fire fighter paid positions on the document because those wages may change once the department hires a new Fire Chief. Chief Maniaci noted that the column titled YTD 21/22 Encumbered is his estimate of what will be left at the end of the current fiscal year. The estimated carry over is \$67,618.43. Chief Maniaci recommended setting aside some of the carry over into the account 321 as a reserve for a potential new Fire Chief command vehicle. Commissioner Brown stated given the current operating balance per county auditor the department would be able to afford a new Fire Chief command vehicle. Carry over for further discussion.

7. Discussion on possible hiring of new Fire Chief. Commissioner Brown would like to have the application packet for the Fire Chief position posted on the Long Valley Fire Department website. Commissioner Brown brought to the attention of the Board discussion regarding having an interim command in order for the Fire Chief to not be on call 24/7 and be able to enjoy an alcoholic beverage. Commissioner Brown suggested that if an emergency page occurs and the Fire Chief has consumed alcohol, whoever responds that is the most qualified becomes the acting Chief for that call.

Soibian Spring recommended having Duty Chiefs for situations like these. Commissioner Brown asked if there is no response within the department for the Fire Chief position, should the department have an Administrations Chief and an Operations Chief. If so, Commissioner Brown would like to approach Fred Stump to see if he would be willing to step in as Administrative Chief for six months to a year. Commissioner Brown then suggested the possibility of having one of the volunteer firefighters step in for six months to a year as the Operations Chief. Commissioner Shaw would prefer that if we hire someone from within, then if willing, Fred Stump mentor the new hire for several months. Scott McGuire has shown interest for the position; however, he would like to be considered alongside potential hires outside of the department. Secretary Durgin will send Scott McGuire the full job description of the Fire Chief position. Commissioner Brown suggested the department initially advertise the position locally. If there is no response, the position should be advertised outside of the department. At that point if there is still no response, Commissioner Brown suggested reaching out the Mammoth Fire for support. The Board decided to officially move forward with advertising for the Fire Chief position. Chief Maniaci gave his 30-day notice as of today based on his contract. Carry over.

8. Review Draft of Long Valley Fire Protection District Bylaws. Discussion postponed to May regular meeting. Carry over.
9. Update on Education Revenue Augmentation Fund (ERAF). No news. Carry over.
10. Discussion on Solar Panel Installation at the Fire Station. No news. Carry over.
11. Secretary to the Board's Report. Secretary Durgin reported that she reached out insurance agent Ben Romo regarding the possibility of lowering our insurance rates. Given that he was able to lower the department's premiums a few hundred dollars from last year to this year, the department is currently sitting at a fairly low rate. Ben Romo had several suggestions regarding grants, trainings, and ways to increase funding for Long Valley Fire Department. Secretary Durgin directed him to speak with Chief Maniaci as well as attend the May regular meeting. Secretary Durgin expressed her interest in learning grant writing to better serve the department. Secretary Durgin has found a grant writing training program for the Assistance to Firefighters Grants (AFG) as a good starting point to learn.
12. Review correspondence received since the last regular meeting. No news.
13. Review and adjust current FY budget line items as necessary and accept. The Board of Commissioners reviewed the current FY budget. The current FY budget does reflect allocation of the \$20,000 the department received from Mono County Chiefs Association. No adjustments were made.
14. New Business. No new business.
15. Call for Agenda items for next regular meeting. Insurance Agent Ben Romo to address the Board regarding Funding; Second Review of FY 2022-2023 Budget Draft;

Discussion on possible hiring of new Fire Chief; Review Draft of Long Valley Fire Protection District Bylaws; Update on ERAF; Discussion on Solar Panel Installation at the Fire Station.

16. Adjournment. A motion was made by Commissioner Shaw, seconded by Commissioner Beveridge, to adjourn the meeting and reconvene in regular session on May 11th, 2022 at 7:00 p.m. at the Long Valley Fire Station, 3605 Crowley Lake Drive, Crowley Lake, California. The motion passed 5-0.

Katie Durgin
Secretary to the Board