



Long Valley Fire Protection District
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MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING May 11th, 2022

Date: Wednesday, May 11th, 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, Assistant Fire Chief Joseph Santos, Former Fire Chief Fred Stump, Assistant Training Officer Pete De George, Volunteer Soibian Spring, Fleet Manager Billy Czeschin, Volunteer Paul Zastoupil, Secretary Katie Durgin, Insurance Representative Ben Romo

Others Absent: None

1. Call to order, roll call, Pledge of Allegiance, and announcements. Commissioner Brown announced that Monday, May 30th is Memorial Day. Commissioner Brown encouraged everyone to take a moment on that day to honor all those who have given their lives for our country and served in the U.S. Military.
2. Opportunity for public to address the Board on non agenda items. No public present.
3. Insurance Agent Ben Romo to address the Board regarding Funding. Insurance Agent Ben Romo reported that Consumer Price Index (CPI) numbers came out today and inflation is at 8.3%. As everything is increasing in price, so is the cost of insurance. Given potential increases in insurance premiums, Ben suggested ideas on ways the department could increase funding. One option was to pursue more state and federal grant programs. Ben highlighted a Cal Fire grant that the department could potentially pursue. He proceeded to read the qualifications to whom the grant applies. He noted one qualification of the grant to be "...removal of ladder fuels to reduce the risk of crown fires, creation of community level fire prevention programs such as community chipping days, roadside chipping, and green waste programs." Ben suggested that Long Valley Fire explore having a chipper day. In doing so, Long Valley Fire could qualify for this grant that is offering up to \$120 million worth of funds. Wheeler Crest currently has a bid out for construction of a fire break that they will receive funds for. Ben suggested the department reach out to Wheeler Crest to

acquire more information on application process. Ben also suggested a live agent hazmat training program done through the Department of Homeland Security that could open more opportunities for grant funding. He also suggested possible grant money available through the California Department of Fish and Wildlife that is restoration funding for cleaning up illegal cannabis groves.

4. Approval of the Minutes of the April 13th, 2022 regular meeting. A MOTION WAS MADE BY COMMISSIONER BROWN, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER DAY TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE APRIL 13TH, 2022 REGULAR MEETING. Motion passed 5-0.
5. Chief's Report.
 - A. Volunteer's Report. Volunteer Soibian Spring reported that the Fishing Opener was a lot of fun. The Volunteers Association raised around \$1,300 after expenses. John Kokado created a new design for the Long Valley Fire logo. The shirts, mugs, and tumblers were very popular. Commissioner Brown asked how attendance was on Friday of the Fishing Opener. Soibian responded that the attendance was not heavy, but steady. The only call the volunteers received this month was regarding a propane tank that was overfilled and flowing out of the tank. Soibian reported that the volunteers completed the first round of their EMR training. The volunteers also attended a little league opener where they barbequed and gave out drinks/water.
 - a. Volunteer Firefighter Requirements. Chief Maniaci confirmed that he included in the document that the requirements are at the discretion of the Chief (i.e. "as outlined by the Fire District Bylaws and/or as agreed upon by the Fire District Chief").
 - B. Report on Current Fire Department Activities, Assignments and Schedule for potential Board direction. One call since last regular meeting: 1 propane tank leak.
 - C. Long Range Planning Discussion.
 - (a) Personnel. No news (refer to Volunteer's Report).
 - (b) Airport. Chief Maniaci reported Mammoth-Yosemite airport will be looking at two possible new airlines. Charter flights will begin again on June 16th.
 - (c) Geothermal. The Casa Diablo IV geothermal plant is scheduled to be in full operation on June 20th. The county has asked Long Valley Fire to do a familiarization walk through as well as inspection. Chief Maniaci expressed his concern regarding the brine they are pumping around Shady Rest. There is exposed electric and cable that runs the whole length of the pipes. Soibian Spring reported she was up there a few days ago and saw insulation that had been laid along the pipes over the electrical.

- (d) Station Maintenance. Soibian Spring reported that the gas lines are corroded. Commissioner Shaw suggested the department requests AmeriGas to replace the gas lines. Fred Stump contacted Devin Preston to replace the lights at the station with LED lights. Commissioner Brown suggested performing a walk through at Church on the Mountain in anticipation of grade school taking place at their building. Commissioner Brown also suggested performing a familiarization tour of the RV park, condominium complexes, Whitmore pool, and surrounding areas for new volunteers.
 - (e) Vehicle and Equipment Maintenance. Billy Czeshin reported that the auxiliary pump on 3231 is leaking. When Billy picks up 3281 from Burtons Inc., he will drop off 3231 to be fixed. Billy is hoping that 3281 will be finished next week. John Kokado and Rigo completed some work on 3225 to address a shimmy issue on the front end of the vehicle. Billy believed the issue to be related to the tires.
 - (f) Board of Forestry Fire Safe Regulations Discussion and Possible Action. The Board of Forestry just posted an updated draft of the fire safe regulations for a 15-day review. Fred Stump commented on some of the changes/additions that were made to the regulations. Fred did not see anything that would warrant a response from Long Valley Fire Department.
 - (g) Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA) Service. Chief Maniaci reported that 3M will provide SCBA service and possible replacement of tanks in July or August.
6. Board Review/Approval of Payment Warrants since April 13th regular meeting. All Board members have reviewed the warrants since last regular meeting. A MOTION WAS MADE BY COMMISSIONER DAY, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER CZESHIN TO APPROVE THE PAYMENT WARRANTS. MOTION PASSED 5-0.
 7. Second Review of Fiscal Year 2022-2023 Budget Draft. Chief Maniaci commented on the expenses the department will have from now until the end of June. The anticipated carry over into fiscal year 2022-2023 will be \$75,298.17. Total funds for fiscal year 2022-2023 based on the 2022 AB-8 report will be \$388,106.00. Chief Maniaci increased budget allocation for Workers Compensation in anticipation of an increase in insurance premiums. Commissioner Brown asked if supplemental insurance premiums will be increasing. Secretary Durgin will reach out to Christian Mello regarding supplemental insurance premiums and report back to Chief Maniaci. Commissioner Brown commented that based on the AB-8 report the department will pay \$66,832.00 to Education Revenue Augmentation Fund (ERAF).
 8. Discussion on possible hiring of new Fire Chief. Chief Maniaci reported that there have not been any applications submitted for the Fire Chief position. Advertisement for the position has been posted with Mammoth Times. Commissioner Brown suggested

putting an advertisement in the Sheet and the Sierra Reader newspaper. Commissioner Shaw noted that the advertisement needs to include that the Fire Chief is required to live within the district. Chief Maniaci is willing to help with administration until a new Fire Chief is hired or solution has been made. Assistant Fire Chief Joseph Santos reported that the officers have created a schedule for the next two months to cover Chief operational duties. The four officers taking shifts to cover will be Pete De George, Billy Czeschin, Scott McGuire, and Joseph Santos. Fred Stump requested that a member of the Board send a monthly email to all volunteers that includes any news or updates happening within the department. Commissioner Shaw volunteered to send out a monthly update email to the volunteers. Fred Stump and the Board took a moment to acknowledge and thank Chief Maniaci for the time and service he has given to the department. Commissioner Shaw asked the officers if there is anything they need from the Board while they take shifts to cover the Chief operational duties during the next two months. Joseph Santos requested that if a Fire Chief is not hired past two months that the officers be compensated for covering Chief operational duties.

9. Review Draft of Long Valley Fire Protection District Bylaws. Discussion postponed to June regular meeting. Carry over.
10. Update on Education Revenue Augmentation Fund (ERAF). No news. Carry over.
11. Discussion on Solar Panel Installation at the Fire Station. No news. Carry over.
12. Secretary to the Board's Report. Secretary Durgin reported that workers compensation report has been submitted. Durgin reported that she has started the Assistance for Firefighters Grant (AFG) training. Durgin reported that after looking at the 2021-2022 general ledger from the county, there were three Property Tax Administration (PTA) Fees processed out of account 320. In years past, there has only been one PTA fee per year. After looking through the general ledgers from last fiscal year and the latest ledger provided by the county, it looks like Long Valley Fire may have double paid the 2020-2021 PTA fee. Durgin will follow up with Shannon LeGrand to clarify if and or why the department was charged twice.
13. Review correspondence received since the last regular meeting. The department received a tax notification of an individual that does not belong to the department. Secretary Durgin submitted the necessary paperwork stating the individual has never been associated with Long Valley Fire Protection District. Durgin reported that the department received a letter notification to complete the 2022 Census of Governments, Survey of Public Employment & Payroll. The survey has been completed and submitted.
14. Review and adjust current FY budget line items as necessary and accept. No changes were made.
15. New Business. Chief Maniaci reported that the 2022-2023 Cal Fire Assistance to Firefighters Grant has been submitted.

16. Call for Agenda items for next regular meeting. Public Hearing and Adoption of FY 2022-2023 Budget; Officer Elections; 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.
17. Adjournment. A motion was made by Commissioner Shaw, seconded by Commissioner Day, to adjourn the meeting and reconvene in regular session on June 8th, 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