



Long Valley Fire Protection District
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MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING November 9th, 2022

Date: Wednesday, November 9th, 2022
Time: 7:00 p.m.
Location: 3605 Crowley Lake Drive, Crowley Lake, CA 93546

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

Members Absent: Tom Beveridge

Others Present: Fire Chief Scott McGuire, Assistant Fire Chief Vince Maniaci, Division Chief Fred Stump, Equipment Maintenance Manager Billy Czeschin, Volunteer Soibian Spring, Volunteer Douglas Brooks, Volunteer Gerry LeFrancois via telecommunications, Sunny Slopes Resident Hap Hazard, Sunny Slopes Resident Becky Davis, Board Secretary Katie Durgin

Others Absent: None

1. Call to order, roll call, Pledge of Allegiance, and announcements. Meeting called to order at 7:03pm. Commissioner Brown thanked Secretary Durgin for creating the slideshow presentation to honor the life of Billy Wagner. Commissioner Brown announced the Celebration of Life for Billy Wagner will be on Saturday, November 19th. Michelle Wagner has asked if the department could provide an engine at the celebration. Sunny Slopes Resident Hap Hazard expressed condolences on behalf of the Sunny Slopes community for the passing of Billy Wagner. Commissioner Brown announced that Mammoth Fire will not be hosting a Veterans Day event this year. He noted that along the highway when entering Mono County there are signs stating that the county honors veterans. In light of this, Commissioner Brown asked if the county is hosting any events for Veterans Day. Hap Hazard responded that to his knowledge the county is not hosting any ceremonies. Hap shared how he played a significant role in getting county approval for these signs to have them placed along the highway at the entrances of Mono County.
2. Opportunity for public to address the Board on items of interest to the public that are not agendized and within the jurisdiction of the Board. No public comments.
3. Discussion on Proposed Fire Station in the Sunny Slopes Area. Commissioner Brown reported that he obtained a new title report for the Sunny Slopes property. The title report does not show the water line access from Birchim Community Services District. Commissioner Brown will research the cost of redoing the plot plan to

bring it current with the water line and will follow up with the Board. Commissioner Brown used his Long Valley Fire annual donation to pay for the title report in the amount of \$500.

Commissioner Brown reported on the Sunny Slopes subcommittee meeting that was held on Friday, November 4th. At the meeting, Vince Maniaci presented the plot plan, building plan showing elevation, and proposed floor plan for the fire station. Hap Hazard, Fred Stump, and Assistant Training Officer Pete De George had a few revisions to the plans that were presented. Commissioner Brown stated that once a revised plot plan is received showing current floor plan and elevation, they can put a bid package together. At this point, if they do proceed to apply for grants to fund the project, they are prepared with exactly what they want. Vince Maniaci noted that Long Valley Fire will be responsible for any costs prior to receiving grants.

Vince Maniaci commented regarding the process of applying for grants. As far as the documents are concerned, he stated it is best to provide a bid package when applying. The bid package does not have to include fully finished schedules, however it does need to have a certain level of cost detail. Vince Maniaci suggested having an engineer look at the bid package and create a full cost analysis which will be good for 120 days.

Commissioner Brown commented that Hap Hazard may have a way to be exempt from paying prevailing wage. Hap Hazard stated that he is continuing to research this topic and can discuss more detail in the future. As an example, Hap gave a little background into how Benton Fire station was built. He explained that their commissioners declared a state of emergency which was approved by the county council at that time. This enabled them to build without paying prevailing wage. Hap stated that the issue that Long Valley Fire would have is justifying a state of emergency. Hap explained that he is a bit reluctant to have conversations at this point regarding this topic because these discussions can go sideways quickly. He does not want to hinder this project with getting bogged down by the topic of prevailing wage and state of emergency. Hap suggested that this be a future discussion given he is still researching if this would be a viable option for Long Valley Fire.

Hap Hazard stated that he does not want the department to be limited to grants only to fund this project. He would like to explore other financing options alongside grants to fund the project. He stated that his goal is to have around 10 different financing options. He is currently researching about six of these options that he is starting to categorize for future discussions. Commissioner Shaw asked what the other financing options are that Hap has. Hap stated that it is too early to go through these because he is still researching the viability of these options. Hap recommended coming up with as many financing options as possible outside of the district budget.

Commissioner Shaw asked how many volunteers from Sunny Slopes have been showing up on a consistent basis. Chief McGuire stated that they have had five volunteers consistently active in the department. Commissioner Brown announced that they have postponed future Sunny Slope fire station subcommittee meetings to limit the number of meetings they have each month. Discussions on Sunny Slope fire

station is agendaized in Long Valley Fire regular monthly meetings. If they find they need to meet on a more frequent basis, subcommittee meetings will resume at that time.

Billy Czeschin suggested adding a draft pit to the plot plan. The draft pit would serve as a volunteer training resource as well as provide a location for pump testing. Billy stated creating a draft pit may also benefit the department in acquiring grants. Hap Hazard stated that he would like to hear more detail on what the volunteers have in mind as well as to keep this in future discussions. He suggested getting the details written down and shown on paper so that he can bring it to the Sunny Slopes community for discussion. Commissioner Brown stated that he would like to first have the necessary items designed on the plot plan. Once these items are in place, then they can start adding amenities such as a drafting pit or other training resources.

Report from Hap Hazard: Hap stated that at the last community meeting, all groups involved addressed concerns together in a positive manner and the meeting overall went very well. Since this meeting, Hap informed the Board that the Sunny Slopes subcommittee had their meeting. Hap stated that all were in favor of the floor plan as well as in agreement with flipping the design to put all the lighting, parking, and excess snow melt on the highway side. Hap stated there was discussion to see if it is possible to have the concrete area look like a wood siding. Hap stated that the Sunny Slopes community has discussed holding a community meeting the first week of December. In this meeting Hap will take the items discussed in the subcommittee meeting to the community to receive feedback. Hap expressed there may be some uncomfortable discussions, but overall he believes the community will like the floor plan and changes made to the design proposal. Hap asked permission to have a bulletin board or tactful monument on the property to identify the area as the future location of the Sunny Slopes fire station. Discussion was made regarding this request. Final conclusions include the community provide a design to the Board before approval, receive county approval, as well as wait until the snow clears before placing anything on the property. The Board discussed and agreed to put the fire station plans on the Long Valley Fire website.

Hap requested a copy of the Board meeting minutes before they are approved. Chief McGuire stated that in order to abide by the Brown Act, the department is not able to share the minutes publicly until they are approved by the Board of Commissioners. After discussion, the Board agreed that the minutes are not to be shared with the public prior to approval. Once the minutes are approved, the board can make amendments at that point.

Hap stated that the community has been asked several times to create a fire safe council. The information received at the last Board meeting was organized into a notebook and given to the community. Thus far two of the members of the community have reviewed the information and are in favor of moving forward with a fire safe council. However, Hap stated that discussions on the fire safe council and the Sunny Slopes station should be kept separate. Hap explained that the goals of the fire safe council are different than the goals of the Sunny Slopes station. He informed

the Board that the fire safe council has not been dropped, but it may not be a part of future fire station discussions.

4. Approval of the Minutes of the October 12th, 2022 regular meeting. A MOTION WAS MADE BY COMMISSIONER BROWN, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER DAY TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER 12TH, 2022 REGULAR MEETING. Motion passed 4-0.
5. Chief's Report.
 - A. Volunteer's Report. It was announced that as of November 1st, 2022, Scott McGuire is the new Fire Chief for Long Valley Fire Protection District. Volunteer Soibian Spring provided a few dates for the Long Valley Fire Christmas dinner including December 19th, 20th, or 21st as options. Commissioner Shaw asked to let the Board know which date the volunteers choose and they will make every effort to be there. Chief McGuire reported that the roster has been updated to 29 volunteers. He reported that there have been two promotions within the department: Soibian Spring has been promoted to 3216 captain and Douglas Brooks has been promoted to medical captain.
 - B. Report on Current Fire Department Activities, Assignments and Schedule for potential Board direction. 5 calls since last regular meeting: 1 fire, 1 medical aid on Convict Lake, 1 gas leak, and 2 cancelled in route. Chief McGuire commented on the gas leak at a resident's home. He explained that there was a propane valve for a barbeque outside that was not connected. Due to high winds, the ball valve somehow opened, and gas was leaking for several hours. Given the high risks of volunteer fire fighters, Hap Hazard suggested providing biannual physicals including hearing tests and pulmonary functions test as a baseline of care for the volunteers. Vince Maniaci stated several years ago he implemented a pre-employment physical for all new volunteers.
 - C. Long Range Planning Discussion.
 - (a) Personnel. Chief McGuire stated that all new volunteers have been provided turnouts. Commissioner Shaw asked to make sure the original invoices be placed in the Secretary box at the station office. She reported that after discussing with Secretary Durgin, the department needs to keep 2-3 years of archived paper invoices and warrants to be able to comply with the financial audits. Secretary Durgin is now going to scan/email the warrants to the county once they are approved and signed by Commissioner Shaw. Chief McGuire provided an organizational chart to the Board to show personnel responsibilities and payroll.
 - (b) Airport. Vince Maniaci reported that service with Advanced Air will be starting on November 23rd. Engine 3232 reserve is currently at the airport. The plan is to bring 3232 back to the station and take 3230 to the airport.

- (c) Geothermal. No news. Vince Maniaci will introduce Scott McGuire as the new Fire Chief at the next walk through.
- (d) Station Maintenance. Chief McGuire stated that the volunteers will be holding a department leadership meeting the first Wednesday of every month where they will discuss what maintenance is needed at the station. Maintenance duties will then be relayed to the volunteers the following Thursday during training. Chief McGuire stated they are still working on replacing all station lights with LEDS. Fred Stump commented that the county is potentially moving to the California Radio Interoperability System (CRIS) and explained the impacts this will have on the department. Fred reported that he has had meetings with the county's new Emergency Services Coordinator and the Chief Administrative Officer. At these meetings Fred shared concerns specifically with fire firefighter safety and introducing a radio system that will not be compatible with neighboring agencies. Fred Stump informed the Board that the county is taking these concerns into consideration.
- (e) Vehicle and Equipment Maintenance. Billy Czeschin reported that the work on 3231 is finished at Burtons and is ready to be picked up. Billy will not be taking 3225 to Burtons to be painted given the high cost. He stated they are discussing other options for 3225 that would be more cost effective. 3200 had a leak in the transmission and is currently at Chevron in Mammoth. Billy reported that the loader is running well, however he is working on getting the heater to run correctly.
- (f) Board of Forestry Fire Safe Regulations Discussion and Possible Action. No news.

- 6. Review of paid staff positions, duties, and pay scale and possibly make any changes deemed necessary. Vince Maniaci reported that the positions and pay scale have been adjusted based on the updated budget. The only position that will be discontinued is the Assistant Fire Chief. Chief McGuire referred the Board to review the personnel organization chart to see the breakdown of positions. Gerry LeFrancios is taking the position of volunteer administration. Chief McGuire stated that he himself is currently also the Training Officer. He stated this position still needs to be discussed as to whether Chief McGuire will continue in this role or if the department should find another volunteer to step in. Chief McGuire suggested that the paid training positions and their respective compensation be treated more broadly. This will encourage other volunteers to teach and lead trainings. The department can then provide a stipend for those individuals. Chief McGuire proposed combining the two training officer positions into one pool of funds in order to provide a stipend but still stay within budget. He stated he would like to have someone ultimately responsible for the training positions but also have the ability to offer compensation if a volunteer wants to teach a class. He clarified that this proposal would only be for people within the department. Chief McGuire will send Secretary Durgin and Commissioner Shaw a breakdown of the new positions, their duties and responsibilities, and designated salary.

7. Board review/approval of payment warrants since last meeting. The Board of Commissioners reviewed payment of warrants since last regular meeting. A MOTION WAS MADE BY COMMISSIONER BROWN, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER DAY. Motion passed 4-0.
8. Authorize Long Valley Fire to pay for the registration and the insurance on the covered trailer purchased by the Long Valley Volunteer Association. A MOTION WAS MADE BY COMMISSIONER BROWN, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER DAY, TO AUTHORIZE LONG VALLEY FIRE TO PAY FOR THE REGISTRATION AND THE INSURANCE ON THE COVERED TRAILER PURCHASED BY THE LONG VALLEY VOLUNTEERS ASSOCIATION. Motion passed 4-0.
9. Review and update the Duties, Procedures, and Responsibilities document for the Secretary to the Board. Commissioner Shaw reviewed and made a few changes to the document. The Board agreed to approve the document.
10. Update on Education Revenue Augmentation Fund (ERAF). No news. Carry over.
11. Discussion on solar panel installation at the fire station. No news. Vince Maniaci will transfer all information to Chief McGuire to bring him up to date on what is happening with the solar panel installation. Carry over.
12. Secretary to the Board's Report. Secretary Durgin reported that since last regular meeting insurance has been renewed for Volunteer Firemen's Insurance Services (VFIS), State Compensation Insurance Fund Workers Compensation, and supplemental pollution insurance with George Petersen Insurance Agency. Secretary Durgin reported that the Workers Compensation bi-annual report has been submitted.
13. Review correspondence received since the last regular meeting. Vince Maniaci reported correspondence received from the county regarding the California Environmental Reporting System (CERS). He will work with Chief McGuire on how to do the CERS reporting online.
14. Review and adjust current FY budget line items as necessary and accept. Vince Maniaci made some adjustments to the budget based upon the \$30,766 increase from the final AB8 report. The budget line items that were adjusted include Property Tax, Assistant Training Officer, Fleet Equipment Manager, Utilities, Liability, Workers Compensation, Memberships, Travel, Training, Gas-Diesel, Small Tools, and Breathing Bottles. Vince Maniaci reported that the department received the \$20,000 from the CalFire grant. He recommended moving the grant money from account 320 to account 321 to hold for the Sunny Slopes projects. Discussion was made regarding this recommendation. A MOTION WAS MADE BY COMMISSIONER BROWN, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER DAY, TO MOVE THE \$20,000 CALFIRE GRANT

MONEY THAT WAS DEPOSITED INTO ACCOUNT 320 ON OCTOBER 17TH,2022
TO THE CAPITOL ACCOUNT 321. Motion passed 4-0.

15. New Business. No new business.
16. Call for Agenda items for next regular meeting. Discussion on proposed fire station in Sunny Slopes area; Update on ERAF; Discussion on solar panel installation at the fire station.
17. Adjournment. A motion was made by Commissioner Brown, seconded by Commissioner Czeschin, to adjourn the meeting and reconvene in regular session on December 14th, 2022 at 7:00 p.m. at the Long Valley Fire Station, 3605 Crowley Lake Drive, Crowley Lake, California. Motion passed 4-0.

Katie Durgin
Secretary to the Board