



Long Valley Fire Protection District
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MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING February 8th, 2023

Date: Wednesday, February 8th, 2023
Time: 7:00 p.m.
Location: 3605 Crowley Lake Drive, Crowley Lake, CA 93546

Members Present: Hank Brown, Sharon Shaw, Ron Day

Members Absent: Kim Czeschin, Tom Beveridge

Others Present: Fire Chief Scott McGuire, Division Chief Fred Stump, Gerry Le Francois (via Google Meet), Assistant Training Officer Pete De George, Fleet Equipment Manager Billy Czeschin, Board Secretary Katie Durgin (via Google Meet), Sunny Slopes resident Hap Hazard, Sunny Slopes resident Becky Davis

Others Absent: None

1. Call to order, roll call, Pledge of Allegiance, and announcements. The meeting was called to order at 7:00pm. Commissioner Shaw reminded all in attendance to raise their hand if they want to address the Board, emphasizing that this would help facilitate a quicker meeting. No announcements.
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 Shaw opened the discussion with staff reports to be followed by public reports.

Staff Report: Division Chief Fred Stump shared that at the request of the Board, he scheduled a session with the Mono County Land Development Technical Advisory Committee (LDTAC) to take a preliminary look at the site plan and the concept of the building. Fred emailed the results of the meeting to the Board.

Fred gave a summary of the results of the meeting with LDTAC. He stated that the county has issues with the power supply for Station 2. Fred explained it is district opinion that the power supply should go underground. This matter needs to be addressed with Southern California Edison. A Public Works engineer was at the meeting and wishes to see where the station will tie into Owens Gorge Road and

where the entrance will be for the parking area. If the fire district undergrouns the power supply, this will need to be included in the encroachment permit as well.

Septic Environmental Health recommended that the department identify a location for a potential septic site and have a soil analysis done. The soil analysis will answer the question of whether a standard leech field would be sufficient or if an engineered system is needed. The department will need to get a grading permit. The county is still working on the scenic highway element.

The project does not qualify for a waiver for the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) requirements due to the station being well over 2,500 square feet. Gerry Le Francois informed the Board that if the CEQA study determines that a mitigated negative declaration is necessary, it could take up to 18 months to complete. Sunny Slopes resident Hap Hazard inquired of Gerry LeFrancios if there is a provision for public safety entities on the CEQA study. Gerry responded that there may be provisions in terms of the level of study, however unless there is a state of emergency, there are no exemptions to the requirement of a CEQA study.

Fred Stump addressed the water issue. He mentioned that there is a Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO) issue because Long Valley Fire is not inside the Birchim Community Services District. Birchim must contact LAFCO in order to serve the department with water for Station 2. This can be approved by the LAFCO director, but Birchim needs to initiate this request.

Fred Stump concluded his report with the following recommendations for next actions:

1. The Board of Commissioners should formally finalize the presented concept for Station 2, and/or discuss and agree on any additional features they may want to include (i.e., draft pit, second story living quarters, etc.).
2. Birchim Community Services District be asked to move forward with contacting LAFCO to approve water service for Station 2. If there are any fees attached to this process, Long Valley Fire should cover those fees.
3. Southern California Edison be contacted to see what can be done power-wise to go underground.
4. Triad be hired to create a comprehensive site plan using a portion of the set aside \$20,000. This plan would indicate where the apron and the road would tie into Owens Gorge Road, identify a potential location for a septic system, and provide accurate measurements for the parking area and road at the rear of the station.
5. The Board needs to verify that the county's survey of the lot corresponds with the department's survey of the same lot, which may incur some expenses.
6. A soil analysis should be conducted at both the building site and the septic location to ensure that the department has the necessary information for potential future use.
7. A propane tank location be identified.
8. Lastly, the Board should request another informal review from the county to determine the level of CEQA study that would need to be performed and its estimated cost.

Commissioner Shaw expressed her concerns about the CEQA study that is required, including the lengthy time frame and the potential cost of \$20,000-\$25,000 or more. She is concerned that some of the recommended actions and incurred costs (i.e., Triad performing a complete site plan) may need to be repeated due to the length of time required for the CEQA study as well as the current lack of funding for Station 2. Fred responded by stating that once the Triad site plan is completed, they would not need to conduct it again. Fred suggested that the department should focus on implementing the recommendations he presented before contacting the county for the CEQA study. Discussion was made regarding adding a draft pit feature to the Station 2 concept. Hap Hazard requested the volunteers provide a written report on the details of the draft pit. Chief McGuire will provide this at the next regular meeting.

Public Report: Hap Hazard addressed concerns about timing and cost increase for potentially needing to redo either the CEQA study or other actions. Hap suggested that if the department needed to redo any actions, it would simply be a matter of reviewing and confirming everything is up to date with no modifications to the project. Hap emphasized that delaying the project would only make it more expensive due to factors such as increased labor costs, higher contract bids, and additional property requirements. He suggested that the department moves forward with the next actions for the project, as it would benefit them financially. Hap used an example of the stimulus packages released in Mono County in 2008, where shovel-ready projects received priority funding. He stated that completing these steps would not only be financially advantageous, but also increase opportunities for funding.

Conclusions: A MOTION WAS MADE BY COMMISSIONER BROWN, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER DAY, approving the department to proceed with the minimal cost items that Division Chief Fred Stump put forth including: requesting Birchim Community Services District to contact LAFCO to approve water service for Station 2, Long Valley Fire cover any fees incurred by Birchim in the above process, contacting Southern California Edison to see what can be done power-wise to go underground, and acquiring a quote for a complete site plan from Triad. Motion passed 3-0.

4. Approval of the Minutes of the December 14th, 2022 regular meeting. A MOTION WAS MADE BY COMMISSIONER BROWN, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER DAY TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE DECEMBER 14TH, 2022 REGULAR MEETING. Motion passed 3-0.
5. Chief's Report.
 - A. Volunteer's Report. Chief McGuire informed the Board that there had been 13 calls since last regular meeting. The volunteer roster currently consists of 25 members, and the training sessions have seen moderate attendance. He also mentioned that the volunteers had encountered some issues due to a misunderstanding with the new

dispatch, resulting in Mammoth Fire Department being paged to multiple locations without proper notification to Long Valley Fire. Chief McGuire further notified the Board that Wheeler Crest was unable to access Lower Gorge Road to Hwy 395 for about eight days, and Long Valley Fire was not informed of this.

B. Report on Current Fire Department Activities, Assignments and Schedule for potential Board direction. 13 calls since last regular meeting: predominately EMS calls. There were four different calls related to propane smells. The odor was due to empty propane tanks.

C. Long Range Planning Discussion.

(a) Personnel. Chief McGuire reported that Soibian Spring and Billy Czeschin are assisting in organizing an engineering class for volunteer firefighters to formalize the process of training them to become engineers. Additionally, Chief McGuire and Gerry Le Francois are currently in discussion regarding the possibility of applying for an Assistance for Firefighters Grant (AFG) to acquire a quick response vehicle that may replace 3225. The Chief also reported that two out of four automatic external defibrillators (AED) are currently out of service and need to be replaced. He is exploring potential grants to replace all five AEDs in the department. Commissioner Brown suggested that if grant funding for the AEDs is unsuccessful, the purchase of all five AEDs should be included as an agenda item in a future Board meeting for authorization by the Board. Chief McGuire requested to have a standard policy to provide a letter of acknowledgement for public donations to the department. The Board agrees to provide a donation acknowledgement letter. Secretary Durgin will draft a letter and submit to Chief McGuire. Chief McGuire spoke about the \$20,000 CalFire grant funding the department received. He clarified that the grant money has already been utilized in accordance with the grant's conditions, but since the funds were spent prior to receiving the grant money, it will only serve as a reimbursement for the expenses incurred. Secretary Durgin will modify the Expenditures Summary accordingly.

Chief McGuire reported that Division Chief Vince Maniaci turned in his turnout gear and is no longer active on the department. Prior to leaving, Division Chief Maniaci was serving as the Assistant Fire Chief. To fill this void, Chief McGuire proposed introducing a new assignment that offers a stipend of \$75 per day to volunteers who assume the Assistant Fire Chief tasks that are put forth. He plans to implement a similar system for the Training Officer position as well. The Board of Commissioners has approved this proposal and will assess its effectiveness in future Board meetings. Sunny Slopes resident Hap Hazard mentioned to Chief McGuire that his neighbor does not have the ability to meet the requirements of a volunteer firefighter but would like to contribute to the department in some way. Hap will be in touch with Chief to follow up.

Chief McGuire informed the Board that Long Valley Fire Protection District falls well within the coverage zone of Care Flight air medical services. He also mentioned that there will be a meeting held tomorrow involving multiple fire agencies to discuss common training protocol for medical personnel in Mono County. Chief McGuire will provide an update on the outcome at the next regular meeting.

- (b) Airport. No news.
 - (c) Geothermal. No news.
 - (d) Station Maintenance. Chief McGuire reported that the LED lights for the station meeting room and for the three bays at the front of the station have arrived and are ready to be installed. Fred Stump, Pete De George, and Billy Czeschin helped significantly with snow removal at the station during the recent snowstorms.
 - (e) Vehicle and Equipment Maintenance. Billy Czeschin reported that 3200 is being repaired. The mechanics believe there is an issue in the ignition system. He also reported that 3201 has an intermittent no start issue.
 - (f) Board of Forestry Fire Safe Regulations Discussion and Possible Action. No news.
6. 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 TO APPROVE PAYMENT WARRANTS SINCE LAST REGULAR MEETING. Motion passed 3-0.
7. Discussion and possible action on purchase of a new Fire Chief's vehicle. Commissioner Shaw proposed that the department purchase a new Fire Chief's vehicle. The Board then discussed the feasibility of purchasing a new vehicle, obtaining a county surplus vehicle, or buying a used one. Chief McGuire recommended exploring all available options before deciding to purchase a new vehicle. After weighing the pros and cons of each option, the Board decided to prioritize acquiring a county surplus vehicle as it would be the most cost-effective solution. Carry over.
8. Resolution R23-01 Resolution of the Long Valley Fire Protection District in Honor, Recognition, and Appreciation of Vincent Maniaci for his Years of Valuable Service. Commissioner Brown read through the Resolution out loud to the attendees of the meeting. A MOTION WAS MADE BY COMMISSIONER BROWN, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER DAY TO APPROVE RESOLUTION R23-01 OF LONG VALLEY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT IN HONOR, RECOGNITION, AND APPRECIATION OF VINCENT MANIACI FOR HIS YEARS OF VALUABLE SERVICE. Motion passed 3-0.

9. Discussion regarding the Helen Lucille Whiting Survivor's Trust. Chief McGuire reported that all correspondence received regarding the Helen Lucille Whiting Survivor's Trust was sent to the incorrect Long Valley Fire Department. No further action is needed.
10. Update on Education Revenue Augmentation Fund (ERAF). Chief McGuire reported that based on correspondence with Mono County District 2 Supervisor Rhonda Duggan, the county is cognizant of the issues surrounding ERAF and is in discussions to address them. Commissioner Brown emphasized that Long Valley Fire is not seeking reimbursement for overpayments but desires corrective measures to be implemented moving forward.
11. Discussion on solar panel installation at the fire station. No news. Division Chief Fred Stump commented that the proposal to install the solar panels on the front parapet was a wise decision as the front parapet has received the most direct sunlight exposure.
12. Secretary to the Board's Report. Secretary Durgin reported she has not heard anything as of yet regarding the State Compensation Insurance Fund Worker's Compensation end-of-year audit. Fetcher and Company is currently finalizing the 2021-2022 financial audit. The department did receive the refund check from Silver State International Trucks.
13. Review correspondence received since the last regular meeting. Commissioner Shaw reported correspondence received from California State Controller's Office. She will forward the letter to Secretary Durgin. Secretary Durgin reported correspondence received from a gentleman Zach Wood with Resource Concepts Inc. Mono County has engaged Resource Concepts to prepare a Needs Assessment and Capacity Improvement Plan for special districts.
14. Review and adjust current FY budget line items as necessary and accept. The Board reviewed and accepted the current budget.
15. New Business. No new business.
16. Call for Agenda items for next regular meeting. Discussion on proposed fire station in Sunny Slopes area; Discussion and possible action on purchase of a new Fire Chief's vehicle; Update on ERAF; First Draft of Fiscal Year 23-24 Budget; Discussion on solar panel installation at the fire station.
17. Adjournment. A motion was made by Commissioner Brown, seconded by Commissioner Day, to adjourn the meeting and reconvene in regular session on March 8th, 2023 at 7:00 p.m. at the Long Valley Fire Station, 3605 Crowley Lake Drive, Crowley Lake, California. Motion passed 3-0.

Katie Durgin
Secretary to the Board