



Long Valley Fire Protection District
3605 Crowley Lake Drive • Crowley Lake • California 93546
760.935.4545 / 760.935.4436 (facsimile)
longvalleyfd@gmail.com

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING April 12th, 2023

Date: Wednesday, April 12th, 2023
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, Division Chief Fred Stump, Board Secretary Katie Durgin (via Google Meet), Captain Soibian Spring, Volunteer Firefighter John Kokado, Sunny Slopes resident Hap Hazard

Others Absent: None

1. Call to order, roll call, Pledge of Allegiance, and announcements. Commissioner Shaw called the meeting to order at 7:11pm. 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 attended the Birchim Community Service District (BCSD) Board meeting last Thursday. He has sent a summary of the meeting to the Long Valley Fire Board of Commissioners. BCSD has approved the expansion of their district boundary to include Long Valley Fire Protection District parcel for Station 2. They also agreed to use Long Valley Fire District attorney Tim Sanford to draft a contract. At the meeting, Fred did request for the BCSD Board to prepare any conditions they may have and to forward them to Tim Sanford. He noted that the decision on whether BCSD would provide a waiver to the connection fees and yearly service fee associated with providing water to the district was not made at the meeting. Fred expressed his appreciation for Sunny Slopes resident Hap Hazard's presence and support at the BCSD meeting.

The only update since this meeting relates to the payment method for the BCSD boundary expansion application fees. Janet Dutcher with Mono County Finance will process a direct payment between Long Valley Fire Protection District and

BCSD. Fred forwarded this information to Secretary Durgin for follow-up on the transfer of funds. Once the transfer of funds is complete, Long Valley Fire will need to provide a receipt to BCSD to attach to their boundary expansion application package.

BCSD Board Secretary, Linda Monreal, has started filling out the forms for the Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO) boundary expansion application. Fred has forwarded Linda a record of survey of the lot to include in the package as well. Fred did note at the BCSD meeting that if they wish to include the surrounding two parcels within the boundary of their water district, BCSD will be responsible for any additional costs. Gerry Lefrancios is preparing a request for proposal to Triad and Eastern Sierra Land Surveying to prepare the site plan.

Fred stated his next tasks will be to contact Southern California Edison to evaluate the cost of getting power to the site and to inquire if internet services can be provided through RACE Communications. Commissioner Shaw asked how long the LAFCO process takes for them to approve BCSD's request to expand their boundary. Fred replied that the only experience he has had with something of similar size is two LAFCO Board meetings, which occur quarterly. He explained that the first step for BCSD is to pass a resolution to expand their boundary. The application, including the receipt for the transfer of funds, will all be turned in to the county at once. Kelly Karl with Mono County Community Development is Long Valley Fire's direct contact, and Wendy Sugimura is available if any further questions come up. Both Kelly and Wendy have made themselves available to BCSD to answer any questions.

Public Report: Sunny Slopes resident Hap Hazard addressed two items raised by Fred Stump. Firstly, he offered to follow up with RACE Communications to inquire about providing service for the fire department. Hap shared that he has a history with a member of RACE Communications and will ask if they would consider donating the cost of service to the fire department.

Secondly, Hap discussed the two parcels of land that are outside of the BCSD coverage area but surround the parcel where Station 2 will be built. He provided background on the history of these parcels, including litigation that took place when the owners went to acquire water permits but were denied. Hap clarified that these issues are not Long Valley Fire's responsibility, but the department should be aware of them.

4. Approval of the Minutes of the March 8th, 2023 regular meeting. A MOTION WAS MADE BY COMMISSIONER BROWN, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER DAY TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MARCH 8TH, 2023 REGULAR MEETING. Motion passed 4-0.
5. Chief's Report.
 - A. Volunteer's Report. Volunteer Firefighter John Kokado provided an update on the recent calls received by the fire department. He mentioned that the majority of the

calls were related to propane leaks. He also informed the Board that the volunteers will be serving at Bluesapalooza in the Town of Mammoth Lakes. In addition, the volunteers are waiting for the fish camp to confirm if there will be a Fishing Opener this year due to the current icy and snowy conditions at Crowley Lake. Captain Soibian Spring mentioned that the volunteers have discussed the possibility of providing some form of presence at the Fishing Opener, but are waiting for further information. Hap Hazard requested recognition from the Board for John Kokado's exceptional job in clearing ice and snow during the recent snowstorms. The Board acknowledged and expressed their gratitude for John Kokado's hard work and dedication to the fire department.

B. Report on Current Fire Department Activities, Assignments and Schedule for potential Board direction. 12 calls since last regular meeting.

C. Long Range Planning Discussion.

- (a) Personnel. Chief McGuire reported that there have been 12 calls since the last regular meeting. At the request of the National Guard, the department provided a crew for the High Rollers event at Mammoth Airport, and the Town of Mammoth Lakes has been invoiced for this coverage. The volunteers were also able to conduct burn training recently. The Long Valley Fire Volunteers Association voted on new officers, with Devin Preston as President, Gerry Lefrancois as Secretary, Les Perpall as Vice President, Pete De George as Treasurer, and Billy Czeshin as Sergeant of Arms.

Furthermore, Chief McGuire reported that there were discussions around the inspection requirements from CalFire, and whether they should perform inspections or preplans. The conclusion was that Long Valley Fire will request CalFire to conduct inspections while the department will handle the preplans.

- (b) Airport. Chief McGuire shared that there have been some recent modifications to the new airport building plans. Additionally, Advanced Air service will be extended through the end of April, but the last two weeks of April will have limited service on Fridays and Sundays. Service will resume on June 29th. Soibian Spring was introduced as the new Mammoth Airport Operations Manager.
- (c) Geothermal. No news.
- (d) Station Maintenance. Chief McGuire reported that several volunteers were able to shovel the station roof. Additionally, a CalFire crew was sent to finish the task. With the spring season approaching, the department should not require further roof shoveling.
- (e) Vehicle and Equipment Maintenance. Chief McGuire reported that as talked about in the prior Board meeting 3200 is getting the transmission looked at and that the Board has decided not to spend any more money on this vehicle.

Maintenance work is required for vehicle 3201, and radio antenna needs have been identified for vehicles 3225 and 3201. Chief McGuire also reported that a new television has been installed in the meeting room and upstairs workout area. Volunteer Firefighter Douglas Brooks is currently exploring options to replace the current exercise machine(s) with more compact and efficient equipment to optimize the use of the limited space in the upstairs area.

Chief McGuire reported on additional items including the need that has come up to replace fire hydrant signage. Chief McGuire stated that he would defer to the water district to determine what signs to install that meet their standards. Chief McGuire also discussed a new program called Neighbor Fest, which aims to foster stronger connections between first responders and residents in surrounding neighborhoods. The program will be tested in Chalfont in May and later in Crowley. Chief McGuire proposed the idea of holding an open house in conjunction with Neighbor Fest to discuss grants and community improvement ideas.

Chief McGuire expressed concerns regarding the lake levels and ice conditions on Crowley Lake. He proposed that the Board draft a letter requesting that the California Department of Water and Power (DWP) consider restricting access to the lake due to the very real danger of life-threatening situations. Additionally, Chief McGuire reported concerns regarding the plowing of Benton Crossing Road which would allow access to the hot springs. The concern is that people could get snowed in and be unable to leave. Hap Hazard mentioned a prior request to DWP to close access to Crowley Lake for the Fishing Opener due to ice on the lake, which was met with opposition and litigation stating California law prohibits restricting public access to water shorelines. The final decision was that DWP could not stop people from accessing the lake, but they were not obligated to open gates or plow roads for shoreline access. To avoid potential political battles, Hap suggested having an advisor on the issue. Fred Stump suggested requesting restricted access rather than complete closure to bypass any legal action. Chief McGuire will draft a letter and have two Board members sign it, which will be sent to the Office of Emergency Services, California DWP, and California Department of Fish and Wildlife.

Chief McGuire reported that the department did receive a small donation to the Long Valley Fire Volunteers Association for responding to a small fire incident in the garage of one of the residents in the Crowley area.

(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 4-0.

7. Discussion and possible action on purchase of a new Fire Chief's vehicle. Chief McGuire reported that the department has issued a purchase order for a Chevy Silverado from Champion Chevrolet. The vehicle is currently at Champion Chevrolet. Once the vehicle is picked up, the department has 30 days to complete the purchase. Chief McGuire stated that he is still waiting for the shell and radio to be installed. He has followed up with Christian Mello to have the vehicle added to the department insurance policy.
8. Discussion and possible action regarding apparatus insurance coverage. Chief McGuire and Equipment Manager Billy Czeschin conducted a review of all vehicles covered by the department's insurance policy. Through this process, it was discovered that the insurance coverage for vehicles only extends to the blue book value of the vehicle and its permanently affixed equipment, with separate policies covering items inside the vehicles. The insurance provider pays out based on the blue book value or the declared value, whichever is less, despite the department paying a premium on the declared value. Chief McGuire and Billy Czeschin made adjustments to the declared value, setting it at around 20% higher than the blue book value to ensure a more accurate premium that reflects the coverage. Chief McGuire clarified that he has not made any changes to the policy as of yet, but is waiting on a requote from insurance agent Christian Mello to determine how the adjustments will affect the premiums.
9. Discussion and possible action to update 'Remote Meetings Notice' on Agendas. Chief McGuire notified the Board that a new Assembly Bill 2449 was signed into law with an effective date of January 1, 2023. AB 2449 replaces AB 361 and specifies the requirements and procedures for local legislative bodies to hold remote public meetings for calendar year 2023. Chief McGuire shared a list of the new requirements that AB 2449 spells out. Chief McGuire will forward the list of requirements to Commissioner Shaw to review.
10. Second Review of Fiscal Year 2023-2024 Budget Draft. Chief McGuire discussed changes he made to the budget draft, and highlighted items related to this fiscal year's budget. He explained that the department had ordered turnouts and hose using funds from last fiscal year's CalFire grant. As the department transferred \$20,000 into Capital Account 321, and both the hose and turnouts are arriving in this fiscal year, the budget will reflect a significant overage in line items #301 and #302. However, the department will be considerably under budget on Breathing Bottles (#219) for the current fiscal year. Chief McGuire proposed adjusting the allocation of money for Breathing Bottles (#219) to cover the overage on turnouts (#301) and hose (#302). Other budget changes include an increase of approximately \$2,000 to Utilities (#201). The current budget for fiscal year 2023-2024 is \$414,986.00 which is \$3,890.00 less than the previous year. Commissioner Brown noted that this is the first AB8 report he has seen that is less than the final AB8 report of the prior fiscal year.

11. Update on Education Revenue Augmentation Fund (ERAF) including Board discussion, nomination, and approval of ERAF Committee members. Chief McGuire reported that he, Commissioner Shaw, and Fred Stump had a meeting with the county staff regarding the significant impact of the ERAF miscalculations on Long Valley Fire. County staff then approached the Board of Supervisors to address these miscalculations. In response, the Board of Supervisors requested the formation of an ad hoc committee that will review the matter and propose a solution. The committee will need to have members from the Long Valley Fire Protection District. The Board of Commissioners and the attendees present at the meeting then held a discussion on this matter. A MOTION WAS MADE BY COMMISSIONER BROWN, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER CZESCHIN, TO HAVE CHIEF MCGUIRE, BOARD CHAIR SHARON SHAW, AND DIVISION CHIEF FRED STUMP TO REPRESENT LONG VALLEY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT ON THE AD HOC COMMITTEE RELATING TO ERAF. Motion passed 4-0.
12. Discussion on solar panel installation at the fire station. Chief McGuire informed the attendees that the department's Request for Proposal has expired and that they need to ask for a new bid. Commissioner Day mentioned that he would review the draft bid and share his insights on what would be ideal for the department at the next regular meeting.
13. Board Approval of the 2021-2022 Fetcher and Company Financial Audit report. A MOTION WAS MADE BY COMMISSIONER BROWN, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER CZESCHIN, TO APPROVE THE 2021-2022 FETCHER AND COMPANY FINANCIAL AUDIT REPORT AS PRESENTED. Motion passed 4-0.
14. Secretary to the Board's Report. Secretary Durgin informed the Board that the first-quarter tax reports have been submitted. Additionally, the State Compensation Insurance Fund biannual worker compensation report is expected to arrive in May. She will follow up on the report once it arrives.
15. Review correspondence received since the last regular meeting. Secretary Durgin reported correspondence from Ben Romo, who represents ISU Massie Insurance. ISU Massie is offering personal lines insurance to the department members, with a 10% commission on sales going back to the fire department. Chief McGuire will display the email at the station for members to review.
16. Review and adjust current FY budget line items as necessary and accept. The Board reviewed and accepted the current budget. Chief McGuire noted that once the final invoice for the turnouts comes in, he will make the necessary budget adjustments by reallocating the money to Breathing Bottles (#219) to cover the overage in Turnouts (#301) and Hose (#302).
17. New Business. No new business.
18. Call for Agenda items for next regular meeting. Discussion on proposed fire station in Sunny Slopes area; Discussion and possible action to update 'Remote Meetings Notice'

on Agendas; Update on ERAF; Public Hearing and Adoption of Fiscal Year 23-24 Budget; Discussion on solar panel installation at the fire station.

19. Adjournment. A motion was made by Commissioner Brown, seconded by Commissioner Day, to adjourn the meeting and reconvene in regular session on May 10th, 2023 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