



Long Valley Fire Protection District
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MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING April 12th, 2023

Date: Wednesday, May 10th, 2023
Time: 7:00 p.m.
Location: 3605 Crowley Lake Drive, Crowley Lake, CA 93546

Members Present: Hank Brown, Tom Beveridge, Sharon Shaw, Ron Day

Members Absent: Kim Czeschin

Others Present: Captain/Equipment Manager Billy Czeschin (standing in for Chief McGuire), Division Chief Fred Stump, Captain Soibian Spring, Volunteer Firefighter Cody Zornes, Board Secretary Katie Durgin (via Google Meet), Dave Richmond

Others Absent: None

1. Call to order, roll call, Pledge of Allegiance, and announcements. Commissioner Brown announced that May 29th is Memorial Day and serves as a solemn occasion to honor the brave individuals who sacrificed their lives while serving our country. He encouraged everyone to read President Lincoln's renowned Gettysburg address. Commissioner Brown shared a personal experience where he and his wife visited the Punchbowl National Cemetery in Oahu. He described the numerous plaques embedded in the ground, representing the unidentified individuals who lost their lives on December 7, 1941. Commissioner Brown requested Division Chief Fred Stump to convey the fire department's gratitude to his son, currently serving in the Navy and deployed overseas.

Commissioner Day announced an event that took place in Mammoth organized by the Every 15 Minutes Program, which aims to raise awareness about the dangers of drunk driving. He shared about his daughter's involvement in setting up this impactful initiative, wherein real-life scenarios were simulated at Mammoth High School. Notably, this year's program even managed to arrange for a helicopter to be present at the scene.

On behalf of Sunny Slopes Resident Hap Hazard, Division Chief Fred Stump conveyed an important update. The Department of Water and Power (DWP) has begun doing a fields reduction project on both sides of Highway 395 near Sunny Slopes. This project aims to address the large patch of dead willows in the area.

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 reported that Gerry LeFrancois has both the original TRIAD survey and the county survey of the Station 2 site. Given his experience with the county, Gerry is confident that the department can manually sketch the fire station and septic tank locations, thereby eliminating the need for a comprehensive site plan that would incur additional costs. Furthermore, Gerry has suggested that the department should contemplate elevating the building by at least one foot to provide protection against flooding, considering the high moisture levels indicated by the soil moisture meter on the property.

A. Possible action re: formal letter to Race Communications. Division Chief Fred Stump reported that Hap Hazard sent an initial letter to Raul Alcaraz, President of Race Communications. The letter formally introduced the Station 2 project and the need for high quality internet and communication service. He also stated that a letter may be provided from Long Valley Fire to formally request Race Communications to consider providing service for Station 2. Fred Stump will prepare a letter from Long Valley Fire for the Board to review and sign. Commissioner Brown recommended including in the letter a statement that if Race Communications is sold and assumed by a different company, that the new company will honor the agreement between Race Communications and Long Valley Fire.

B. Discussion and possible action re: Distribution and/or Service Extension forms for Southern California Edison (SCE). Division Chief Fred Stump has reached out to SCE and initiated the process of completing a form for a distribution and/or service extension. Fred presented the Board with two options: either SCE can design the system, or the Board can hire an external individual to handle this task. If the Board agrees to authorize Fred Stump, he will sign the service extension forms. Otherwise, Commissioner Shaw, as the Chair of the Board, will sign them. Once Fred has gathered all the necessary materials, he will scan and email them back to Tim Rapperty, the designated contact at SCE. Fred has recommended to the Board that SCE should be entrusted with designing the distribution and/or service extension. Fred's requests to SCE include obtaining cost estimates for powering Station 2 and determining if additional poles need to be installed. At this stage, the department will have to consult the county to decide whether to proceed with above-ground or underground service. The Board of Commissioners has granted Fred Stump the authority to sign the documents and proceed with SCE.

4. Discussion and possible action concerning replacing fire hydrant signage. Dave Richmond is attending the meeting as a representative for Mountain Meadows

Mutual Water Company (MMMWC), rather than as a member of the public. Chief McGuire reached out to Dave regarding the need to replace the fire hydrant signage within the district. Dave shared how he initially had a positive reaction towards the matter. However, upon examining the associated expenses, he informed the MMMWC Board members before proceeding. Unfortunately, Dave encountered resistance from the Board, and he lacks their approval to provide total funding for this need. However, he clarified that there may be a possibility to cost share with other entities in the district in order to fund the project.

Dave mentioned that the desired design for the hydrant signage entails double posts, with a requirement of 38 posts and an additional 62 signs to replace faded or missing ones. After conducting research, Dave estimated a cost of approximately \$23 per sign. Commissioner Shaw requested Chief McGuire to research the total number of posts that would need replacement. Discussion was made regarding different aspects of signage design, such as double posts and double signs, associated costs, who is responsible for replacing fire hydrant signage, as well as National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) signage requirements. Commissioner Shaw expressed her reluctance to make any decisions regarding the department's preferences for signage design in the absence of Chief McGuire. Commissioner Shaw suggested the Board create a list of questions for Chief McGuire including exactly what is needed for this endeavor, NFPA requirements, the design of signage, and total costs of the project. She acknowledged that this agenda item will need to be carried over to the next regularly scheduled meeting for further discussion.

5. Approval of the Minutes of the April 12th, 2023 regular meeting. A MOTION WAS MADE BY COMMISSIONER BROWN, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER DAY TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE APRIL 12TH, 2023 REGULAR MEETING. Motion passed 3 with 1 abstention.
6. Chief's Report.
 - A. Volunteer's Report. Fleet Equipment Manager Billy Czeschin reported that there have been three calls since last regular meeting. These included a flowing hydrant, a brush fire near the trailer park, and a truck tire explosion on a trailer. Additionally, Billy mentioned that the volunteers had undergone ice rescue training in preparation for the Fishing Opener event. Commissioner Beveridge inquired about the involvement of the Sunny Slopes volunteer firefighters. Volunteer Soibian Spring responded positively, stating that they have been actively participating.

Division Chief Fred Stump shared information about two recent funding requests made by County Supervisor Rhonda Duggan regarding the Station 2 project. Fred attended a joint meeting where Supervisor Duggan expressed her desire to allocate \$4 million in the federal budget to finance the Sunny Slopes Station 2 project. Furthermore, during the initial county budget workshop, she requested an allocation of \$100,000 to cover the preliminary costs of the project. Fred clarified that these discussions were still in the early stages, and the department will not know if this funding will be possible until the budget is finalized.

Fred also mentioned that the county had expressed interest in parking snow removal equipment at the fire station. However, the decision to allow this would ultimately rest with the Long Valley Fire Board of Commissioners.

B. Report on Current Fire Department Activities, Assignments and Schedule for potential Board direction. 3 calls since last regular meeting.

C. Long Range Planning Discussion.

(a) Personnel. Billy reported that the current volunteer roster stands at 22 volunteers. He informed the Board that Chief McGuire had attended the Fire Department Instructors Conference (FDIC) International training in Indianapolis. Commissioner Brown inquired about the availability of drivers for 3280. Billy responded that while the department has a few drivers, there is always a need for more. Billy also reported that Long Valley Fire had dispatched a crew to Mammoth High School to participate in the Every 15 Minutes Program. He shared that Chief McGuire has been engaged in ongoing discussions with the Department of Water and Power (DWP) regarding the flood risk at Rock Creek as the snow begins to melt. Furthermore, Chief McGuire reached out to Mammoth Fire to inquire about the possibility of using their woodchipper. He is currently exploring liability insurance options and seeking ways to effectively organize a community chipper day. The Board discussed the requirements for hosting such an event, as well as alternative methods for the community to dispose of slash. Billy mentioned that the county has provided Long Valley Fire with vouchers for the entire year. These vouchers, which are valid for 580 pounds of slash or 1 cubic yard, can be distributed to residents. Each voucher will need to be signed and include the residential address it is intended for. Lastly, Billy reported that the county has expressed interest in revitalizing the department's Mass Casualty Incident (MCI) program and aims to make it a county-wide initiative.

(b) Airport. Volunteer Soibian Spring provided an update on the Aircraft Rescue and Firefighting (ARFF)/Snow Removal Equipment Building project. She informed the Board that the project did not receive any bids and is going back to a redesign phase. The initial proposed budget for the project was \$6.4 million, while the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) had granted up to \$8.2 million in funding. Soibian explained that the height of the building exceeded the normal tolerances, which resulted in higher pricing from contractors. The project estimates from the contractors that Mammoth Airport had been in discussion with were pricing at around \$10 million. As a result, efforts are underway to scale down the project to make it more affordable within the allocated budget.

(c) Geothermal. No news.

- (d) Station Maintenance. Division Chief Fred Stump reported that the chain link fence at the station does need repair. Billy will pass this information along to Chief McGuire. Billy shared that the volunteers are continuing to replace the LED lights at the station.
- (e) Vehicle and Equipment Maintenance. Billy provided an update on the status of vehicle 3231, stating that it is currently undergoing servicing in Modesto. Burtons Fire conducted both the annual and bit servicing and identified several issues that required repairs, including shocks in the front, rear brake pads, and valve leaks. Regarding the new Fire Chief Command vehicle, Billy and Chief McGuire have decided to make some adjustments to the shell of the vehicle in order to save costs. Secretary Durgin informed the Board that Kasandra Ramirez from county finance has processed the sales tax check. The check is expected to arrive at the station in a few days. Once received, Chief McGuire will hand deliver the payment to the Department of Motor Vehicles. The insurance coverage has been updated to include the new Chief command vehicle.
- (f) Board of Forestry Fire Safe Regulations Discussion and Possible Action. No news.

Division Chief Fred Stump reported on an additional item regarding a surplus of equipment the department has. Chief McGuire has inventoried equipment that is still serviceable, however can no longer be used according to NFPA and Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) requirements. These items can be dropped off in Lone Pine and will be donated to the Ukrainians.

- 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 TO APPROVE PAYMENT WARRANTS SINCE LAST REGULAR MEETING. Motion passed 4-0.
- 8. Public Hearing of Fiscal Year 2023-2024 Budget. Commissioner Shaw opened the public hearing of the fiscal year 2023-2024 Budget. Commissioner Brown emphasized that the department should be budgeting \$414,986.00 for the 2023-2024 budget. The draft budget is at \$414,865. The excess of \$121 will be allocated to Budget Item #213 Food to ensure we are in sync with the AB8 report. No public is present to comment on the budget. Commissioner Shaw closed the public hearing. A MOTION WAS MADE BY COMMISSIONER BROWN, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER BEVERIDGE, TO APPROVE THE 2023-2024 FISCAL YEAR BUDGET IN THE TOTAL AMOUNT OF \$414,986.00. Motion passed 4-0.
- 9. Discussion and possible action to update 'Remote Meetings Notice' on Agendas. No news. Carry over.

10. Update on Education Revenue Augmentation Fund (ERAF). Division Chief Fred Stump reached out to Assistant County Administrative Officer Mary Booher concerning ERAF. He has not yet heard back from her. Carry over.
11. Discussion on solar panel installation at the fire station. Commissioner Day made some modifications to the Request for Proposals (RFQ) for the solar project, notably including the relocation of the panels to the fascia of the building. He informed the Board that the next course of action involves publishing the project in the newspaper for a 30-day period to solicit formal bids. Additionally, Commissioner Day has the option to contact three different contractors he is knows to inquire if they are interested in submitting a bid for the project.
12. Secretary to the Board's Report. Secretary Durgin provided an update on the State Compensation Insurance Fund (SCIF) Workers Compensation Audit. She expressed some concerns regarding how the auditor reported payroll specifically related to Class Code 7706 for Firefighter Non-Volunteers. To address these concerns, she consulted with broker Ben Romo, who agreed that certain figures were inconsistent. A dispute was filed with SCIF by Ben Romo to seek clarification on the audit findings as well as on how to accurately report for future bi-annual workers compensation reports. Secretary Durgin is currently awaiting a response from Ben Romo regarding SCIF's feedback on the matter.
13. Review correspondence received since the last regular meeting. No new correspondence to report aside from the information that has already been discussed.
14. Review and adjust current FY budget line items as necessary and accept. The Board reviewed the current fiscal year budget. No adjustments were made.
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 to update 'Remote Meetings Notice' on Agendas; Update on ERAF; Adoption of Fiscal Year 2023-2024 Budget; Discussion on solar panel installation at the fire station; Discussion and possible action concerning fire hydrant signage.
17. Adjournment. A motion was made by Commissioner Brown, seconded by Commissioner Shaw, to adjourn the meeting and reconvene in regular session on June 14th, 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