



Long Valley Fire Protection District  
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## MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING June 14<sup>th</sup>, 2023

Date: Wednesday, June 14<sup>th</sup>, 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: Fire Chief Scott McGuire, Division Chief Fred Stump, Volunteer Firefighter Paul Zastoupil, Board Secretary Katie Durgin (via Google Meet), Sunny Slope Resident Hap Hazard, Sunny Slope resident Becky Davis, Sunny Slopes Resident John Millane

Others Absent: None

1. Call to order, roll call, Pledge of Allegiance, and announcements. Commissioner Brown announced that the Sierra Star Golf Course opens on Friday, June 16<sup>th</sup>.
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 letters and paperwork have been sent by the department to both Race Communications and Southern California Edison (SCE). Fred has been in contact with Senior Planning Specialist Tim Rafferty from SCE, having reached out to him twice. During their communication, Tim left a voicemail that Fred played aloud for the Board to hear. In the voicemail, Tim mentioned that he has conducted an initial assessment of the site and needs to determine land ownership. He also noted that there is a considerable distance between his facilities and the project site, suggesting that the project seems to be an extensive amount of work. Tim estimated that it might take one to two months before he can provide a cost estimate to the department. He encouraged Fred to contact him if he had any questions. As far as Fred knows, there has been no correspondence between the department and Race Communications.

Fred's next step will be to contact the county and present the voicemail to determine if the department will need to proceed with the underground waiver process.

However, Fred believes that the department cannot initiate this process until SCE has prepared a plan for the site. To give an idea of potential costs, Fred mentioned that relocating two poles during the reconstruction of the Mammoth Fire main station cost around \$750,000. Additionally, Fred reported that he attended the Community Firewise meeting and provided an update on the progress of the Sunny Slopes Fire Station project.

Public Reports: Sunny Slopes resident Hap Hazard reported that he has been in contact with Raul Alcaraz, the President of Race Communications. Raul has received the letters sent by Long Valley Fire and had his engineers conduct an initial assessment of the site to determine their preferred approach. Hap presented a map of the site to the Board, illustrating Race Communication's current plan. Race provided a price estimate of \$50,000 per 500 feet. Given the department cannot afford this estimate, Hap inquired about alternative options. He suggested exploring the possibility of securing funding from Homeland Security, mentioning that similar funding had been available in the past for projects like the installation of digital 395. He stated that when digital 395 was first installed, there was quite a bit of money through Homeland Security to link all fire departments, libraries, Sheriff's departments, and emergency services at no cost to them. Hap also mentioned the California Public Utilities Commission's fund for extensions, where a brief form can be submitted for consideration of funding.

Hap emphasized that the project is still progressing and highlighted the need to identify resources that can support its completion without depleting the fire department's funds. Hap believes that a more cost-effective and efficient solution is attainable, and he presented a possible power cable route as a means to achieve this goal. He expressed concern about potential community opposition if above-ground utilities were required, emphasizing that from an emergency services perspective, an underground solution would be preferable.

Discussion was made by the Board concerning the information presented. Fred mentioned that he would follow up with Tim Rafferty and inform him about the ongoing discussions the department is having with Race Communications. He will specifically mention that Race is considering an underground option and inquire if it's possible to combine the facility infrastructure in a shared trench. Fred intends to request a second visit to the site to walk through it with Tim Rafferty for a better understanding. Additionally, he plans to inquire about the possibility of obtaining encroachment permits for the project.

4. Discussion and possible action concerning replacing fire hydrant signage. Fred shared the outcome of discussions with Dave Richman, a Board member of Mountain Meadows Mutual Water Company. They agreed that having one sign should be sufficient. Chief McGuire explained that, based on his research, typically in California the fire department covers the cost of the signs, while the water district takes responsibility for the poles and installation. The debate over one versus two poles was discussed by the Board. Chief McGuire expressed his view that having two poles with one sign does not provide any better indication of the fire hydrant location

compared to only one pole. The Board discussed the option of attaching an additional indication to the fire hydrants to better locate them. Chief McGuire emphasized the importance of having clear and highly visible reflective signs positioned at a suitable height above the ground. He estimated that each sign would cost around \$30-35, totaling approximately \$4,000 for the signs alone. Taking into account the costs of poles and installation, the total project expenses are estimated to be between \$8,000-\$10,000. Commissioner Shaw asked if the Board agreed with the fire department paying for the signs, and the water district covering the cost of poles and installation. Commissioner Brown suggested an alternative approach where the department pays for both the signs and poles, while the water district handles the installation. Further discussion revolved around clarifying each party's responsibilities. Commissioner Brown stressed the need for accurate information on the exact number of poles required and the operational status of hydrants to make an informed financial decision.

Chief McGuire recommended establishing a threshold with Mountain Meadows Mutual Water Company, stipulating that hydrants must have a minimum operational flow rate of 250gpm to be eligible for signs. If a hydrant does not meet this flow rate, it will not receive a sign. Fred shared that the hydrants with flow rate issues fall under the responsibility of Crowley Mutual Water Company (CMWC). Fred volunteered to discuss the matter with Jane Laughton from CMWC and assess the flow rates of questionable hydrants. In summary, the conclusions reached during the discussion were that fire hydrants must meet a flow rate threshold of 250gpm to be eligible for signs. Signs will have a single post, and the fire department will bear the cost of the signs. A MOTION WAS MADE BY COMMISSIONER BEVERIDGE, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER DAY, THAT LONG VALLEY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT WILL PURCHASE FIRE HYDRANT SIGNS FOR HYDRANTS THAT HAVE A MINIMUM FLOW RATE OF 250GPM. Motion passed 4-0.

5. Approval of the Minutes of the May 10<sup>th</sup>, 2023 regular meeting. A MOTION WAS MADE BY COMMISSIONER SHAW, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER BROWN TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MAY 10<sup>TH</sup>, 2023 REGULAR MEETING. Motion passed 4-0.
6. Chief's Report.
  - A. Volunteer's Report. Volunteer Firefighter Paul Zastoupil provided an update, stating that there have been a total of 11 calls since the last regular meeting. Chief McGuire shared details about one particular call, where they encountered an issue on Memorial Day weekend. Along a dirt road about a mile off Hot Creek Road, approximately 50 cars were parked with around 100-150 people dispersed camping. During the night, one of the campers suffered a seizure, and surprisingly, not a single person in the area offered to drive the individual to seek help. Chief McGuire also mentioned another call they responded to, involving a tire explosion on a semi-truck. In this past month, Paul reported that an average of seven personnel has been responding to calls.

B. Report on Current Fire Department Activities, Assignments and Schedule for potential Board direction. 11 calls since last regular meeting. Chief McGuire reported that Long Valley Fire recently organized a meeting at the fire station with the Whitebark Institute. During the meeting, one of their scientists shared valuable data on home hardening and defensible space. Chief McGuire also mentioned that there will be a Firewise meeting scheduled for tomorrow night at the Crowley Community Center. Both Chief McGuire and Fred Stump will be delivering presentations at the meeting. Long Valley Fire has received the distribution check from the Long Valley Fire Chief's Association. The fire department will be participating in upcoming activities, including the July 4th fireworks event at Crowley Lake and Bluesapalooza in Mammoth

C. Long Range Planning Discussion.

- (a) Personnel. Chief McGuire reported that Captain/ Assistant Training Officer Pete DeGeorge will be spending more time at his property in Idaho. As a result, there have been discussions regarding the handling of the Assistant Training Officer position. Instead of designating a specific salary for this role, it will now be allocated to those who are actively teaching on a regular basis.
- (b) Airport. The Aircraft Rescue and Firefighting (ARFF)/Snow Removal Equipment Building project is going back through a redesign phase in order to meet the allocated budget for the project.
- (c) Geothermal. The Casa Diablo IV plant has recently become operational and is now officially online. Chief McGuire noted that this new plant is not causing the shutdown of any older plants. During the discussion, Fred provided an overview of the history and establishment process of the geothermal plants. He noted that the CDIV plant is located within the district's boundaries and in turn the department should be receiving revenue from it.
- (d) Station Maintenance. Some of the LED lights have been replaced at the station. Chief McGuire has created a to do list posted at the station for volunteers to sign up to accomplish various maintenance tasks. Residents Michael, Fatima Baker, and their granddaughter completed the memorial at the front of the station.
- (a) Vehicle and Equipment Maintenance. The new vehicle 3200 is currently stationed at the fire station. Chief McGuire explained that they had a problem with wheels not fitting on the vehicle. He explained that the front brake calipers have been changed for this vehicle from last year's model to this year's model. He ordered wheels however the wheels do not fit because the brake calipers stick out and rub on the wheel. Additionally, Chief McGuire informed the Board that they are still waiting for the radio assembly equipment. They decided to cancel the purchase of radios for the new Chief vehicle, considering the upcoming implementation of the California Radio Interoperable System (CRIS) by the county. The new CRIS system, which has been approved, will be

put in place soon. However, a challenge with the CRIS system is that only one radio can scan or communicate at a time. The county will be providing a set of handhelds for all the new apparatus, including 3271, 3281, and 3232, each receiving two new CRIS radios. As for the other vehicles, 3280, 3270, 3225, and 3201, they will receive one new CRIS radio while retaining their original radio, which is already programmed.

Chief reported that the repairs for 3231 at Burton's Fire are still in progress. They have been addressing the necessary work however have discovered some leaks and transmission issues. They have been slowly working through every issue so that when the vehicle returns to the station it will be fully operational and ready for use.

(b) Board of Forestry Fire Safe Regulations Discussion and Possible Action. The Fire Safe Council adopted 14 rules as of April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023. After reviewing these rules, Chief confirmed that there were no significant changes that directly affect the department. However, Fred pointed out one notable difference: the updated regulations now allow a legal driveway to serve four parcels, whereas previously it could only serve two.

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. Adoption of Fiscal Year 2023-2024 Budget. A MOTION WAS MADE BY COMMISSIONER BROWN, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER BEVERIDGE, TO ADOPT THE NEXT FISCAL YEAR 2023-2024 BUDGET IN THE AMOUNT OF \$414,986.00. Motion passed 4-0.
9. Discussion and possible action to update 'Remote Meetings Notice' on Agendas. Chief McGuire stated that at current, the department can still use the AB361 rules for the Board meeting agendas. Once those expire, the department must update the agendas to include the new AB2449 rules.
10. Update on Education Revenue Augmentation Fund (ERAF). District Supervisor Rhonda Duggan informed Fred Stump about an upcoming meeting on Monday regarding ERAF, which Long Valley Fire was previously unaware of. The ERAF committee includes Interim CAO Mary Booher and District 4 Vice Chair John Peters from the county, as well as Chief McGuire, Commissioner Shaw, and Fred Stump from Long Valley Fire. All ERAF documents have been digitized for Mary Booher's review. Fred emphasized that it is essential for the Long Valley Fire representatives to be present at the ERAF Committee meeting as they hold vital information on the history between ERAF and Long Valley Fire. Fred restated to Mary Booher that the goal of Long Valley Fire is to reduce the percentage of ERAF payments to ensure fairness compared to other fire districts in the county. Commissioner Brown

mentioned that the department recently received \$19,001.94 through ERAF Redistribution.

11. Discussion on solar panel installation at the fire station. A MOTION WAS MADE BY COMMISSIONER BEVERIDGE, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER DAY TO PUBLISH THE PROJECT IN THE NEWSPAPER IN ORDER TO SOLICIT FORMAL BIDS. Motion passed 4-0.
12. Discussion and possible action regarding Long Valley Fire Department newsletter. Commissioner Shaw raised the question of how the department can effectively distribute the newsletter to the public in a way that makes it worthwhile. The Board discussed potential options for distributing the newsletter, considering both physical copies and digital copies, as well as the type of information that should be included. Chief McGuire will research different digital platforms for promoting the newsletter to the public and will follow up with the Board. Carry Over.
13. Discussion and possible action regarding district-wide burn ban. Chief McGuire emphasized the importance of the ongoing conversation about burn bans. He clarified that Long Valley Fire can establish its own burn ban requirements as long as they are more conservative than CalFire's. Currently, CalFire is extending their burn permit season due to recent rainfall. However, Long Valley Fire Protection District has the authority to impose a burn ban within its boundaries, regardless of CalFire's burn permit extension. The Board discussed the possibility of implementing a district-wide burn ban. Fred Stump suggested making a resolution for a district-wide burn ban declaring that there is no pile burning in the Long Valley Fire Protection District. The resolution for a district-wide burn ban will be added as an agenda item for the next regularly scheduled meeting.
14. Secretary to the Board's Report. Secretary Durgin reported on correspondence she received from the county concerning new Warrant Request Procedures that will be implemented at the start of the new fiscal year. The timeline for when warrant requests are due will also be changing to Wednesday by 5pm. Secretary Durgin suggested that the department adjust our in-house timeline accordingly in order to provide ample time to receive invoices and avoid any late fees. Durgin provided an update on the State Compensation Insurance Fund (SCIF) Workers Compensation Audit dispute that Broker Ben Romo filed on behalf of the department. He spoke with the Senior Payroll Auditor and Audit Resolution Team member regarding the matter. The case was presented to the California Industrial Board which governs class codes and determines how employees should be classified. The final position of the board and SCIF is that there are three positions within the volunteer fire department that will always be classified as 7706. These positions include Fire Chief, Assistant Fire Chief, and Training Chief. Basically, any position that includes the name 'Chief' will be classified under 7706.
15. Review correspondence received since the last regular meeting. Secretary Durgin reported on correspondence from State of California Employment Development Department. The State of California's bank for processing ACH Credit transactions is

changing from Union Bank to US Bank. The correspondence provided the new bank account number information. Secretary Durgin forwarded the letter to the county and they have updated Long Valley Fire's information. Other correspondence included a letter that was received from the Internal Revenue Service regarding a misapplication of taxes. The letter revealed that Long Valley Fire has a tax credit however the IRS misapplied the amount to quarter one tax period instead of quarter two. Secretary Durgin has followed up with the IRS to ensure the accurate application of those funds to quarter two tax period.

16. Review and adjust current FY budget line items as necessary and accept. The Board reviewed the current fiscal year budget. No adjustments were made.
17. New Business. No new business.
18. Call for Agenda items for next regular meeting. Discussion on proposed fire station in Sunny Slopes area; Update on ERAF; Resolution declaring a residential burn ban; Discussion on solar panel installation at the fire station; Discussion and possible action regarding Long Valley Fire Department newsletter.
19. Adjournment. A motion was made by Commissioner Brown, seconded by Commissioner Beveridge, to adjourn the meeting and reconvene in regular session on July 12<sup>th</sup>, 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