



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

Date: Wednesday, July 12th, 2023
Time: 7:00 p.m.
Location: 3605 Crowley Lake Drive, Crowley Lake, CA 93546

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

Members Absent: None

Others Present: Fire Chief Scott McGuire (via Google Meet), Division Chief Fred Stump, Volunteer Firefighter Paul Zastoupil, Volunteer Firefighter Gerry LeFrancios (via Google Meet), Captain/Fleet Manager Billy Czeschin, Insurance Broker Ben Romo, Board Secretary Katie Durgin (via Google Meet), Sunny Slope resident Becky Davis

Others Absent: None

1. Call to order, roll call, Pledge of Allegiance, and announcements. 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. Division Chief Fred Stump pointed out that the Town of Mammoth Lakes plans to acquire two properties in the district for housing purposes. While he does not have all the specific details, he remembers a past affordable housing proposal for one of these properties from his time as Chief. Recently, Fred drafted a letter in response to a proposed accessory dwelling unit (ADU) at the Appleton Property. In this letter, he educated the new county staff about the district's professionalism, adherence to codes, and decision not to provide a "will-serve" letter for the ADU. Fred admitted that during his time as Chief, he lacked knowledge of certain codes, missed significant meetings due to other commitments, and felt unprepared when the county Board of Supervisors pushed for affordable housing. He believes that Chief McGuire, while performing well, might also encounter similar challenges. Given this, Fred stressed the importance of writing letters that strongly highlight the fire district's professionalism and commitment to codes and requirements as well as information about past projects where "will serve" letters were withheld. Furthermore, Fred stressed the significance of providing similar letters in response to the larger properties being purchased by the Town of Mammoth Lakes and other upcoming projects. He also believes it is crucial for a fire district representative to attend meetings concerning these larger property acquisitions.

Insurance Broker Ben Romo addressed the Board on a non-agendized item. He brought to the attention of the Board that insurance premiums will be increasing. He mentioned that several insurance carriers have left California, resulting in a 27% rise in Workers Compensation for non-volunteer fire departments. Although he's uncertain about the exact increase for volunteer departments, he anticipates a substantial rise and is proactively working to organize a fundraiser on behalf of Long Valley Fire to offset the impact of the increase.

3. Discussion on Proposed Fire Station in the Sunny Slopes Area. Commissioner Shaw opened the discussion with staff reports.

Staff Report: Division Chief Fred Stump thanked Commissioner Day and Gerry LeFrancois for attending the meeting with Southern California Edison (SCE), where they were joined by a member of the Birchim Community Service District (BCSD) Board and two SCE planners. The meeting involved a site walk to discuss plans for obtaining power to the site. Volunteer Firefighter Paul Zastoupil successfully marked all property boundaries, revealing that the property is larger than previously thought. The overall report is that if the department wants three-phase power then they may have to tap into a source near Hap Hazard's property. SCE will be providing two proposals in the next couple of months to address this. A Race Communication diagram previously shared by Hap Hazard was found to only offer single-phase power, which isn't suitable for the department's needs. Billy Czeschin explained the differences between single-phase and three-phase power. Chief McGuire commented on the advantages that three-phase power will provide for the department (i.e., a cleaner power source, more consistent power with less variation). Gerry LeFrancois reported that SCE Senior Planning Specialist Tim Rafferty is investigating the possibility of using the planned pole to cross the creek, depending on the BCSD well upgrade location. Additionally, Gerry is collaborating with Sean Robison at the county to obtain right-of-way maps for Owen Gorge Road. Gerry is still waiting to hear back from Sean Robison. Carry over.

4. Approval of the Minutes of the June 14th, 2023 regular meeting. A MOTION WAS MADE BY COMMISSIONER BROWN, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER SHAW TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE JUNE 14TH, 2023 REGULAR MEETING. Motion passed 4 with 1 abstention.

5. Chief's Report.

- A. Volunteer Report. Chief McGuire reported that there are currently 25 volunteer firefighters on the roster.
- B. Report on Current Fire Department Activities, Assignments and Schedule for potential Board direction. Since the last regular meeting, there have been a total of 12 calls, most of which were related to injuries. One notable incident involved an extended carry-out operation at Mosquito Flat, lasting approximately three hours. The delay occurred due to a conflict between Inyo Search and Rescue and Mono

Search and Rescue, as the latter was not notified. Consequently, Long Valley Fire, with assistance from CalFire and US Forest Service, handled the situation, which ideally should have been managed by a search and rescue response. In response to this issue, Fred Stump initiated discussions with the Inyo County Sheriff, which eventually led to conversations with the Mono County Sheriff. The aim is to improve communication and better coordinate responses between the two entities in the future. Additionally, Chief McGuire provided updates on Firewise committee meetings, which are ongoing. Two weeks ago, during the Chiefs Association meeting, they discussed radios and installation timelines. The contractors responsible for the radios aim to have all installations completed before the California Radio Interoperable System (CRIS) system goes live. While the exact timing remains to be determined, they are tentatively aiming for early fall. Chief McGuire also reported that the Fourth of July event primarily proceeded without any major incidents. There was a decrease in illegal firework activity compared to previous years. Lastly, Chief reported that Bluesapalooza, the department's largest fundraiser of the year, is scheduled to take place in about a month.

C. Long Range Planning Discussion.

- (a) Personnel. Pete De George has notified the department that he will not be in the area as much throughout the upcoming winter months. He will be spending most of his time in Idaho.
- (b) Airport. The new bids for the Aircraft Rescue and Firefighting (ARFF)/Snow Removal Equipment Building project were not even remotely close to what is budgeted. The project is going back through a redesign phase in order to meet the allocated budget.
- (c) Geothermal. The Casa Diablo IV plant has recently become operational and is now officially online. Long Valley Fire will have a department tour and review with their safety team next week.
- (d) Station Maintenance. Residents Michael and Fatima Baker have touched up the planter at the front of the station. The LED lights still need to be installed in the station bays.
- (a) Vehicle and Equipment Maintenance. Chief McGuire reported that they are still waiting on the shell and parts for the new 3200 vehicle. Vehicle 3231 had some extensive work done beyond just the tank. It is now finished and ready for pickup.
- (b) Board of Forestry Fire Safe Regulations Discussion and Possible Action. The Fire Safe Council adopted 14 rules as of April 1st, 2023. Chief McGuire emphasized the importance of informing the county about these regulations, echoing Fred Stump's remarks. He clarified that the department can choose not to issue "will serve" letters if the regulations are not being met. However, the county retains the authority to proceed with granting building permits even without a "will serve" letter.

6. Board review/approval of payment warrants since last meeting. The Board of Commissioners reviewed payment of warrants since last regular meeting. Commissioner Brown inquired about the Mono County Information Technology Reimbursement for the purchase of Digital 395 in the amount of \$3,408. In response, Fred Stump clarified that the county acquired broadband services for the district. Rather than making monthly payments to Race Communications, the department reimburses the county every two years. This setup allows the Long Valley Fire to access broadband at a wholesale rate, and the county takes responsibility for replacing the station router in case of any failure. A MOTION WAS MADE BY COMMISSIONER BROWN, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER DAY TO APPROVE PAYMENT WARRANTS SINCE LAST REGULAR MEETING. Motion passed 5-0.
7. Resolution R23-02 Declaring a Residential Burn-Ban. Carry over.
8. Update on Education Revenue Augmentation Fund (ERAF). Chief McGuire shared information from Interim CAO Mary Booher regarding a proposal that is in evergreen agreement between the county and the fire district. The agreement would obligate the county to reimburse the fire district for 31.5% of net ERAF each year. Fred Stump shared that the agreement is currently being drafted in the Mono County council office. Commissioner Shaw asked Chief McGuire to follow up with the county regarding the agreement.
9. Discussion and possible action regarding roof repair at the fire station. Commissioner Day has two quotes for the roof repair. Commissioner Day explained the different approaches the contractor can take to repair the roof along with the associated price estimates. The new silicon-based product costs \$14,700, while the alternative approach is estimated at \$23,800. Commissioner Day recommends choosing the silicon-based repair and assessing its durability over time. A MOTION WAS MADE BY COMMISSIONER BROWN, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER BEVERIDGE TO REPAIR THE ROOF USING THE SILICONE-BASED APPROACH WITH A PRICE ESTIMATE OF \$14,700. Motion passed 5-0. Chief McGuire will follow up with the county to determine if the winter damage funds received from FEMA can be used to partially cover the repair expenses.
10. Discussion on solar panel installation at the fire station. Commissioner Day had a thorough discussion with Berger Electric regarding the proposed changes. After careful consideration and being informed about California's Solar Panel and Battery Backup Mandate, Commissioner Day is now inclined not to proceed with the installation of solar panels. As a result, the Board agreed to postpone further consideration of this item for the time being.
11. Discussion and possible action regarding Long Valley Fire Department newsletter. Chief McGuire suggested using Constant Contact or a similar service to send out the newsletter via email. The department can create an email distribution list where people can sign up for notifications from the department. Chief McGuire does not yet know if the department can access the email list from Mono County sign up, but he

believes the best way to move forward is providing a digital newsletter via email. Commissioner Shaw stressed the importance of making the newsletter accessible to the community. Chief McGuire suggested starting small with existing contacts and gradually expanding the list. Additionally, Fred Stump mentioned that Firewise is also gathering email addresses to send out their own information. Fred suggested given the two entities have a commonality, the department should wait to see if Firewise obtains an email list and possibly collaborate with Firewise to produce a newsletter to reach the community. In conclusion, the department aims to collect as many email addresses as possible and proceed with creating the newsletter. Chief McGuire will work with Paul Zastoupil to find suitable software for the department website and will follow up with the Board. Carry over.

12. Secretary to the Board's Report. Secretary Durgin informed the Board that given the new warrant request timeline with the county, she will be running payroll on the third Tuesday of every month. She requested that all timesheets be submitted to her by the third Monday of each month at 5pm following the Board meetings. Quarterly Tax Reports have been submitted. Secretary Durgin noted that she will be gone July 19th through the 26th however she will still be able to complete and submit the warrants before she leaves and on her return.
13. Review correspondence received since the last regular meeting. No new correspondence.
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. Secretary Durgin notified the Board that the county does not close out the 2022/2023 fiscal year general ledger until September. At the October Board meeting, she will send the final 2022/2023 expenditures summary and budget balance sheet for Board approval.
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 regarding potential development in the district; Update on ERAF; Resolution declaring a residential burn ban; Discussion and possible action regarding Long Valley Fire Department newsletter.
17. Adjournment. A motion was made by Commissioner Beveridge, seconded by Commissioner Czeschin, to adjourn the meeting and reconvene in regular session on August 9th, 2023 at 7:00 p.m. at the Long Valley Fire Station, 3605 Crowley Lake Drive, Crowley Lake, California. Motion passed 5-0.

Katie Durgin
Secretary to the Board