



Long Valley Fire Protection District
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MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
March 12th, 2025

Date: Wednesday, March 12th, 2025

Time: 7:00 p.m.

Location: 3605 Crowley Lake Drive, Crowley Lake, CA 93546

Members Present: Ron Day, Kim Czeschin, Dan Gordon, David Melchior

Members Absent: Lorinda Beatty

Others Present: Fire Chief Scott McGuire, Division Chief Fred Stump (via Google Meet),
Secretary Kathryn Durgin (via Google Meet), Equipment Manager Billy
Czeschin, Becky Davis, Scott Winghartlein, Rich Booher, Hap Hazard

Others Absent: None

1. Call to order, roll call, Pledge of Allegiance, and announcements. Commissioner Melchoir directed the meeting in Commissioner Beatty's absence. The meeting was called to order at 7:04pm. Commissioner Melchior led all in attendance to the Pledge of Allegiance. No announcements were made.
2. Opportunity for the public to address the Board on items of interest to the public that are not agendized and within the jurisdiction of the Board. Becky Davis expressed her gratitude to the Board and Chief McGuire for their ongoing support of the Sunny Slopes Station 2 project, as well as for serving as the fiscal sponsor for the Fire Wise Community. She shared that the Fire Wise Community has submitted a grant application to help fund their efforts. Chief McGuire added that he and Secretary Durgin connected with county staff to ensure the department could serve as a fiscal sponsor, as the Fire Wise Community does not have an EIN and is therefore unable to directly apply for, receive, or manage grant funds. Chief shared that the department will handle the receipt and distribution of the funds on behalf of the Fire Wise Community. Becky Davis noted that the grant funds will be used to acquire a 20-cubic-foot roll-off container, which is planned to be placed on the fire department's property along Old Dam Road – the future site of Station 2. The placement of the roll-off was discussed. Chief McGuire stated that he would follow up with Gerry LeFrancois to ensure that placing the roll-off on the Station 2 parcel would not interfere with the ongoing planning process. He emphasized the importance of making it clear to the county that no unauthorized site work is being

conducted. There was also discussion about the roll-off being in place during the month of May, and the potential overlap with the cultural study scheduled for that time. The need to coordinate the timing and location of both activities to avoid conflicts was acknowledged.

3. Report and provide direction on the progress of the Sunny Slopes Station 2 project. Commissioner Melchoir opened the discussion with staff reports followed by public comment.
 - a. Board action on letter of support for Mono County pursuit of federal funding for Station 2 project. Chief McGuire provided the drafted letter of support for Mono County to pursue federal funding for the Station 2 project. A MOTION WAS MADE BY COMMISSIONER GORDON, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER DAY TO APPROVE AND SIGN THE LETTER OF SUPPORT STATING THE LONG VALLEY FIRE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS SUPPORTS MONO COUNTY PURSUIT OF FEDERAL FUNDING FOR THE STATION 2 PROJECT. Motion passed 4-0 with one member absent.

Staff Reports: Chief McGuire reported that he, Fred Stump, and the Station 2 ad hoc committee—including Commissioner Day and Commissioner Gordon—met with R.O. Anderson to clarify several elements from the site plan presented at the last regular meeting. Chief McGuire explained that one of the main clarifications was that the wall shown on the plan is a retaining wall. He also clarified that the feature labeled as a pond was a low spot to collect drainage, serving as a water catchment area to ensure that runoff does not flow toward nearby homes or Owen Gorge Road. Chief McGuire further shared that the group discussed possible design adjustments, including the removal of the landscape island at the front of the property to improve snow removal. Chief shared that they discussed providing calculations for the non-permeable surface in order to provide further information for the water flow studies to be done on the site. He also noted that the county will require a cultural study for the site. He further reported that changes have been made to the parking layout to widen the spaces in order to comply with county requirements. Chief McGuire confirmed that R.O. Anderson has already included the proposed locations for the 1,000-gallon septic tank and the leach field on the site plan. Commissioner Day reiterated that the current goal is to bring the project before the county to secure a conditional-use permit.

Chief McGuire reported that there is a request from the county for a letter of support from the Board of Commissioners to support Mono County in pursuing federal funding for the Station 2 project. He stated that the county is moving forward with an appropriations request in the full amount as discussed at last regular meeting. Chief McGuire shared that he has spoken with other fire departments about their station rebuild efforts and associated costs. He shared an example of a Mammoth Lakes resident who recently constructed a 1,500-square-foot steel building, noting that while the initial cost of the structure was relatively low, the total project cost ended up being much higher—highlighting that overall construction expenses can far exceed the base price of

the building itself. He added that the ad hoc committee has reviewed a quote for a steel building to better understand cost comparisons and options. Lastly, Chief McGuire reiterated that the department is proceeding with the appropriations request as originally proposed. He stated that one of the next steps for the county is to complete a cultural study. He also noted that the project is not exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and that a CEQA study will be required as the project moves forward.

Fred Stump provided an update stating that County Public Works has made it clear that drainage is a major concern, especially regarding any potential impact to Crowley Lake Dam Road. Fred Stump emphasized that erosion control measures to protect the road are a priority for the county. He added that while the drainage plans do not need to be finalized when the project goes to the Planning Commission for entitlement, they will be required at the time of grading and septic permits.

Public Comment: Sunny Slopes resident Hap Hazard reported that he, along with Fred Stump and Ray Turner, had a conversation with California State Senator Alvarado-Gil regarding the highway dedication. Hap stated that at the conclusion of that discussion, he requested a follow-up conversation with the Senator's office focused on fire-related issues, noting that since legislation is being developed and discussions are progressing, he wanted to provide input on behalf of the community. Hap shared that during this separate conversation—unrelated to the highway dedication—the Senator's office indicated that Senator Alvarado-Gil has made a commitment to provide a letter of support for any funding needs or assistance related to the project at this stage. Chief McGuire responded that it would be helpful to receive that information from Hap as soon as possible, as the county submitted documents earlier today requesting letters of support. Chief McGuire noted that he had asked the county to delay final submission by one day to allow the Board time to provide direction. However, he explained that if a letter from Senator Alvarado-Gil is not already included in the County's submission, it will not be part of the current appropriations request cycle. In response, Hap suggested submitting a document that states the Senator intends to provide a letter of support for the project.

4. Approval of the Minutes of the February 12th, 2025 Regular Meeting. A MOTION WAS MADE BY COMMISSIONER DAY, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER GORDON, TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 12TH, 2025 REGULAR MEETING. Motion passed 4-0 with one member absent.
5. Chief's Report.
 - A. Volunteer Report. Chief McGuire reported on the department's year-to-date statistics for volunteer personnel and emergency calls. He reported that over the past 12 months, the department has responded to 145 calls, up from 111 calls during the same period last year—representing a 30% increase in call volume. He noted that despite having fewer volunteers overall, the average number of personnel responding per call has slightly increased from 8.09 last year to 8.32 this year, showing strong participation from the current volunteer base. Since the last regular

meeting, Chief McGuire reported that the department has responded to 12 calls, including several significant incidents. He shared one notable call that was to a structure fire, where mutual aid was provided by Mammoth Fire and CalFire. He stated that there was also a strong volunteer turnout from the Long Valley Fire crew for that call. He reported on other recent calls including a few traffic collisions and a medical emergency involving a three-year-old child who became entangled in window blinds. According to the Chief, the child was airlifted to the ICU but has since made a full recovery and is now home safe. Chief McGuire provided an update on volunteer training efforts, emphasizing the department's ongoing focus on Emergency Medical Responder (EMR) courses. He stated that these courses will continue over the coming weeks and that approximately 80% of the department's volunteers are participating.

Chief McGuire also discussed recent incidents in the Rock Creek area and reported that he has been in communication with the Chiefs of Wheeler Crest Fire Department and Paradise Fire Department regarding response protocols in that area. He explained that there has long been some jurisdictional ambiguity because Rock Creek does not fall within any specific fire district. Chief McGuire stated that, following those conversations, all three departments have agreed that all agencies should be paged to respond to calls in the grade area to ensure better and more consistent coverage.

- B. Report on Current Fire Department Activities, Assignments, and Schedule for potential Board direction.
- C. Long-Range Planning Discussion.
 - a) Personnel. No news.
 - b) Airport. Chief McGuire reported that the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Airport and the Town of Mammoth Lakes has been finalized and signed. He stated that negotiations are currently underway to determine the structure of the inspection program at the airport. Chief McGuire explained that the Office of the State Fire Marshal, through CalFire, offers inspection services for volunteer fire departments that are unable to perform certain inspections themselves. He noted that these inspections typically cover facilities such as jails, high-rises, schools, churches, hotels, and similar occupancies. He shared that he has requested the State Fire Marshal to consider inspecting several local sites, including Convict Lake Resort, McGee Creek Lodge, Crowley Christian Church and school, among others. Chief McGuire discussed the high cost of inspections conducted by the Office of the State Fire Marshal, which charges \$240 per hour. To reduce expenses, he stated that he is working to limit how many of these inspections are performed within the district and is evaluating how the department can enforce inspection requirements, especially at the airport and hangar facilities. He explained that the fire district's current inspection fee structure includes a free first inspection, a \$250 charge for the second, and a \$500

fee plus an hourly rate for a third visit. He noted that CalFire uses a similar enforcement method, placing non-compliant properties on fire watch and billing for on-site engine crews until compliance is achieved – according to the Chief, a strategy that has proven effective. Chief McGuire reported that he has proposed a similar enforcement model to the Town of Mammoth Lakes for the airport inspection program. He shared that under this proposal, the district would follow the same escalating fee structure and enforcement process as CalFire to ensure compliance. He emphasized that this method has consistently led to successful outcomes in fire inspection enforcement.

- c) Geothermal. No news.
- d) Station Maintenance. No news.
- e) Vehicle and Equipment Maintenance. Chief McGuire shared that when the county radio was installed in 3225 the siren was somehow disabled. He stated that a request has been submitted to the county to have the issue repaired. Chief McGuire also shared that, in the near future, he would like to have a discussion about replacing 3225 altogether, rather than continuing to invest money into it. He suggested the possibility of acquiring a second utility vehicle to replace 3225 and adding in the essential equipment.
- f) County and Community Updates. Chief McGuire reported that Crystal from CalFire will be conducting defensible space inspections in the area and he should be notified when those inspections are taking place within the district. Chief McGuire requested that “Grants” be added as a standing item on future agendas under the Chief’s Report. He shared that he has submitted an application for an Office of Traffic and Safety (OTS) grant to obtain additional extrication equipment. He also noted that the CalFire grant application period opened today, and he is currently working on a request for additional personal protective equipment (PPE).

Chief McGuire reported that there is an emergency Chiefs meeting scheduled for Monday evening to address ongoing issues with dispatch. He outlined several concerns, including operational inefficiencies and the lack of data sharing needed for state compliance. He explained that fire districts are required to report dispatch times and other details to the state, and while dispatch previously provided this data, they no longer do. According to Chief, multiple fire districts have requested this information, but have been met with significant resistance. As a result, discussions have now escalated to include the Sheriff, County CAO, and legal counsel. Chief McGuire stated that there is broad support among fire districts to push for a fundamental change in the dispatch system, which could also require software and equipment upgrades for the department.

Chief McGuire also reported regarding the California Radio Interoperable System (CRIS), sharing that according to his understanding, individuals within the

County IT department have said that there is a very real possibility that 30% of the IT department is not going to be working for Mono County within the next couple of months. If that happens, he shared that the county plans to transfer full responsibility for the CRIS project back to the State. He noted that this would mean that special districts, which have been working with the county on installations, programming, and repairs, would now need to coordinate directly with State personnel in Sacramento.

Fred Stump provided comment stating that he has researched the background of the county action plan related to the Governor's order on remote state employees. He shared that the Governor recently issued an order requiring all State employees to work in the office four days per week. According to Fred, while this order applies only to State employees, it was mirrored by San Mateo County for their workforce. Fred noted that Mono County appears to be reviewing its own staffing policies in light of these developments, though the Governor's directive is specific to State employees. He added that Mono County might be exploring workarounds similar to their current arrangement with their information officer, who works under contract rather than as a county employee and is therefore not subject to the same in-office requirements. Fred emphasized that he does not fully understand why Mono County feels compelled to act on this unless there is language in the Governor's order that he has not seen.

Lastly, Chief McGuire shared a potential future agenda item related to the district's finances. He reported that during the next regular meeting, the Board will review the first draft of the fiscal year 2025-2026 budget. Chief McGuire anticipates a surplus of approximately \$150,000. He proposed that the Board consider retaining only the necessary amount in the operational 320 account to cover expenses through the end of the year, and transferring any remaining funds into the capital 321 account to support the district's capital improvement plan.

6. Board action on support for Mono County efforts to secure funding for EMS station upgrades. Chief McGuire presented a standard letter drafted by the county, which expresses the fire district's support for the county's efforts to pursue appropriations and request funding to upgrade EMS stations. He noted that he has already signed the letter in his capacity as Fire Chief. However, after consulting with Commissioner Beatty, Chief McGuire felt it was important to bring the letter before the full Board, as it represents the position of the Board of Commissioners and not just the Fire Chief. A MOTION WAS MADE BY COMMISSIONER DAY, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER MELCHIOR, TO APPROVE AND SIGN THE LETTER STATING THAT THE LONG VALLEY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS SUPPORTS MONO COUNTY EFFORTS TO SECURE FUNDING FOR EMS STATION UPGRADES. Motion passed 4-0 with one member absent.
7. Board review/approval of payment warrants since the last meeting. A MOTION WAS MADE BY COMMISSIONER DAY, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER GORDON TO

APPROVE PAYMENT WARRANTS SINCE LAST REGULAR BOARD MEETING.
Motion passed 4-0 with one member absent.

8. Discussion and possible action concerning the dedication of a portion of Highway 395 to former Captain Vidar Anderson. Division Chief Fred Stump provided an update on the highway dedication efforts, reporting that he, Hap Hazard, and Ray Turner held a Zoom meeting with State Senator Alvarado-Gil about two weeks ago. They later followed up with the Senator's administrative assistant, Valerie Spake, who indicated that the meeting went well and that the Senator appeared supportive of the district's request. Fred stated that he has not received any further updates but plans to follow up again within the next week. Fred explained that if the legislation is approved, the dedication request would move to Caltrans, who would then select the highway segment for dedication. He noted that the Senator's office expressed some concern about placing the dedication near the section already dedicated to Dave McCoy. In response, Fred included in his letter to Caltrans an alternate segment – between South Landing Road and Owens Gorge Road – which he felt would be meaningful, as Vidar Anderson had lived in the Sunny Slopes area.

Hap Hazard added that during his conversations with the Senator's office, there was a suggestion to consider placing a tribute within the community rather than along the highway, given Vidar's role in the fire department. However, both he and Fred emphasized that a highway dedication was more appropriate and important to the district. Hap also shared that in a second conversation with Valerie Spake, it was confirmed that the Senator would support the Station 2 project with letters of support if the department contacts her and lets her know what is needed.

9. Discussion and action on refurbishment of the Memorial Garden. No news.
10. Board Secretary Report. Secretary Durgin provided an update on administrative activities since the last regular meeting. She reported that the financial auditor from Fechter has requested additional information regarding grants and payroll, which she has submitted. She is currently waiting for further instructions on the next steps in the audit process. She also reported that the State Compensation Insurance Fund's end-of-year Workers' Compensation audit has been completed. The final audit statement showed that the department received a credit of \$944.41. Secretary Durgin shared that the County transferred the Education Revenue Augmentation Fund (ERAF) agreement payout last week, which was recorded in the general ledger as \$15,590.66. She noted that she had some questions about the calculation and amount, and after speaking with Shannon LeGrand at County Finance, she was informed that Kim Bunn will be sending an explanatory email by Friday. Secretary Durgin explained that the calculations were unclear based on the agreement and AB8 report. She also reported that payroll will be processed next week, and that the first draft of the fiscal year 2025–2026 budget will be included on the agenda for the April Board meeting. Additionally, she received notice from the State Controller's Office regarding the 2024 Government Compensation in California Report and will begin working on it soon, with a submission deadline of April 30th. Lastly, Secretary Durgin noted that the district has received Property Tax Fund

Interest Apportionment revenue in both the 320 operating account and 321 capital account since the last regular meeting.

11. Review correspondence received since the last regular meeting. All correspondence was included in prior agenda item reports.
12. Review and adjust current fiscal year budget line items as necessary and accept. Chief McGuire reported that outside of his prior conversation around possibly moving surplus funds to the capital 321 account, there are no changes needed at this time to the budget.
13. New business and Board member reports. No news.
14. Call for Agenda items for the next regular meeting. Staff report on the progress of the Sunny Slopes Station 2 project; Discussion and action on refurbishment of the Memorial Garden; Discussion and possible action concerning the dedication of a portion of Highway 395 to former Captain Vidar Anderson; First Look at Fiscal Year 2025-2026 Budget; add Grants as a standing item to Chiefs report. Chief McGuire requested rescheduling the April Board meeting due to a conflict with the newly postponed Winter Trauma Series, which is now set for the same evening. He noted that the event will include a review from ski patrol of the recent incident at Mammoth Mountain, and he would like the opportunity to attend. Chief McGuire stated that he will follow up with the Board to coordinate a new date for the meeting.
15. Adjournment. A motion was made by Commissioner Day, seconded by Commissioner Czeschin, to adjourn the meeting and reconvene in regular session on a date to be determined in April at 7:00pm at the Long Valley Fire Station, 3605 Crowley Lake Drive, Crowley Lake, California. Motion passed 4 -0 with one member absent.

Katie Durgin
Secretary to the Board
Long Valley Fire Protection District