



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
September 10, 2025**

Date: Wednesday, September 10, 2025

Time: 7:00 p.m.

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

Members Present: Lorinda Beatty, Donna Blackman, Dan Gordon, David Melchior, Kim Czeschin

Members Absent: None

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

Others Absent: None

1. Call to order, roll call, Pledge of Allegiance, and announcements. Commissioner Beatty called the meeting to order at 7:02pm. Commissioner Melchior led all in attendance to the Pledge of Allegiance. No announcements were made.
2. Administer Oath of Office to newly appointed Commissioner Donna Blackman: Commissioner Beatty administered the Oath of Office to newly appointed Commissioner Donna Blackman, who signed the Oath, making her appointment official.
3. 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. The public did not address the Board on any items.
4. Report and provide direction on the progress of the Sunny Slopes Station 2 project. Commissioner Beatty opened the discussion with staff reports followed by public comment.

Staff Reports: Chief McGuire reported that the department is still waiting for the county to assign a consultant to conduct the cultural study survey. He noted that the district informed the county back in June of the consultant they preferred, but no follow-up has been received from the county regarding the assignment. Chief outlined the timeline of

when the Board selected the consultant and formally notified the county, emphasizing that the project continues to be delayed due to the county's lack of action. The Board discussed possible ways to apply pressure on the county to help move the process forward.

Public Comment: Hap Hazard from the Sunny Slopes community commented that the delay is unacceptable. He shared that he would reach out to community members to gauge their satisfaction with the situation and determine whether they wish to take further action. Division Chief Fred Stump noted, based on his experience as a Mono County District Supervisor, that organized community turnout on issues has been effective. Mr. Hazard added that the community has a strong interest in this project and has already been patient. He emphasized that residents should be informed of the delay at the county level and should be offered the opportunity to meet and address the county on why the project is being stalled.

5. Approval of the Minutes of the August 13, 2025 Regular Meeting. A MOTION WAS MADE BY COMMISSIONER MELCHIOR, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER GORDON, TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF AUGUST 13, 2025 REGULAR MEETING. Motion passed 5-0.
6. Chief's Report.
 - A. Volunteer Report. Chief McGuire reported that the department has responded to 115 calls so far this year, compared to 102 at this time last year. He stated that there have been 10 emergency response calls since the last regular meeting, the majority being fire related. Chief McGuire noted that Captain Billy Czeschin provided Duty Chief coverage during this period. He also reported that a potential Fire Wise Community training may be scheduled in Aspen Springs and that he will follow up with Commissioner Blackman regarding this training.
 - 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 reported that most of the inspection corrective actions have been completed with a few re-inspections to take place.
 - c) Geothermal. Chief McGuire reported that geothermal plant 4 training and inspection was completed a few weeks ago. Chief explained how inspections are completed year-to-year between the different geothermal plants.

- d) Station Maintenance. Chief McGuire reported that the flagpole has been installed. He also noted that the Dam Road remains closed; however, the department has access for emergency response if needed.
 - e) Vehicle and Equipment Maintenance. Chief McGuire noted that 3225 has a bad transmission and 3200 is currently having electrical and fuel pump issues.
 - f) County and Community Updates. Chief McGuire reported that he will be sharing at the Regional Planning Advisory Committee (RPAC) meeting in the next couple of weeks where Firewise Communities will be discussed. He stated that there is a California Radio Interoperability System (CRIS) radio group and noted that CRIS is now live with several sites operational. He further reported that the county was able to get two radios functioning on the CRIS system. Chief McGuire shared details on the progress of CRIS but emphasized that full implementation is still a long way off. He expressed concerns regarding interoperability between the CRIS and Legacy systems during the time frame for CRIS to become fully functional. Chief McGuire also reported that AmeriGas has contacted the district and plans to conduct a full-site survey of all tanks, systems, and pumps within the district.
 - g) Grants. Chief McGuire reported that the Office of Traffic Safety (OTS) grant has been approved for \$80,000, with extrication equipment to be ordered once the grant agreement is signed. He noted that OTS will no longer award grants to agencies without at least one “.gov” email address. Chief McGuire explained this requirement further and stated that he and Paul Zastoupil are working to establish an appropriate email system to ensure eligibility for future grants.
7. Resolution R25-02: A Resolution of the Board of Commissioners of the Long Valley Fire Protection District Honoring Former Commissioner Ron Day for his Service and Dedication. Chief McGuire read the resolution aloud in honor of Ron Day. A MOTION WAS MADE BY COMMISSIONER GORDON, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER MELCHIOR, TO APPROVE RESOLUTION R25-02. Motion passed 5-0.
8. Discussion and possible action on apparatus repairs or procurement. Chief McGuire reported that Engine 3225 had a transmission failure with approximately 185,000 miles on it. He noted that he and volunteer firefighter John Kokado, who recently received his endorsement to drive apparatus, had previously discussed moving 3232 Reserve to Sunny Slopes in the summer so that water would be available in that community.

Chief McGuire suggested that instead of putting more money into repairing 3225, the Board consider replacing it with a utility vehicle that would be easier to drive but still carry essential equipment and water for emergency response. He said he believes the department could purchase a solid utility vehicle for under \$100,000. He added that a grant application is in for a Type 6 vehicle, though he is looking at smaller options that could still carry water and be effective for calls.

Chief McGuire also proposed purchasing a Water Tender. He noted that the department's current tender can be driven by most volunteers, but the second tender is a 1968 model that only two or three volunteers can operate. He said Water Tender prices are increasing and, with planning for a second station in Sunny Slopes, it may be wise to purchase one now. He explained that he is looking at a tender that is easier to drive, can go on wildfires, and can be used outside the district if needed. He provided a price range and reported that Burton's Inc. advised a delivery date of 2027-2028 if an order is placed now. He reminded the Board that a Water Tender is included in the district's Capital Improvement Plan (CIP).

Commissioner Beatty asked if the department could pursue both vehicles. Chief McGuire responded that he believes it is possible by putting a deposit down on the Water Tender now, which would allow the department to spread out the cost until delivery. He provided further details on this option.

The Board discussed the proposals, including costs and the benefits of purchasing four-wheel drive vehicles. The Board expressed support. Chief McGuire said he will provide a budget for the Board to review at the next regular meeting. Commissioner Beatty then opened public comment.

Public Comment: Hap Hazard asked about positioning the reserve vehicle at Sunny Slopes during the summer for water. He stated that he knew of a resident in Sunny Slopes who might be open to housing the vehicle year-round and asked if the Board would like him to explore that option. Chief McGuire noted that liability would need to be considered. Division Chief Fred Stump shared that this type of arrangement has been done before in the Town of Mammoth Lakes and may be worth exploring.

Commissioner Beatty inquired whether there was a consensus from the Board to authorize the Fire Chief to proceed with acquiring quotes and a budget for the vehicle proposals. The Board reached consensus in support (5-0).

9. Discussion and possible action on managing district funds. Secretary Durgin reported that she emailed Janet Dutcher requesting further information and clarification on why the department needs a Board of Supervisors approved Bonded Treasurer. She stated that she has not received a response and has nothing further to report. Chief McGuire also reported that he has not received any additional information on the matter. No public comment.
10. Discussion and possible action concerning the dedication of a portion of Highway 395 to former Captain Vidar Anderson. Division Chief Fred Stump reported that he emailed documents to Legislative Director Belle Castro in Assemblymember Tangipa's office. He stated that the office has verbally committed to support legislation for this effort. He noted that Belle Castro requested a follow-up conversation with he and District 2 Supervisor Rhonda Duggan. He reported that he has spoken with Supervisor Duggan and sent additional information to Belle Castro

to assist with drafting the legislation. Division Chief Stump also shared that a former Long Valley Fire volunteer from the early 1980s visited last week and has already gone to Assemblymember Tangipa's office to advocate for the dedication, expressing strong motivation to help move the effort forward. No public comment.

11. Board review/approval of payment warrants since the last meeting. A MOTION WAS MADE BY COMMISSIONER GORDON, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER CZESCHIN TO APPROVE PAYMENT WARRANTS SINCE LAST REGULAR BOARD MEETING. Motion passed 5-0.
12. Board Secretary Report. Secretary Durgin reported that she is continuing to research records management software and digitization services. She and Commissioner Blackman attended a Laserfiche demonstration this week to review their system, and she has also contacted SyTech Solutions to request a demonstration to compare usability. She noted that she hopes to provide a cost comparison at the October regular meeting for discussion and possible action.

Secretary Durgin stated that she is continuing work on the QuickBooks chart of accounts and ProAdvisor training courses. She further reported that she attempted to submit information for the Volunteer Firefighter Length of Service Award (VFLSA) but was unable to do so because VFLSA is currently going through an actuarial study. She shared that she spoke with her VFLSA contact, Vicki Wright, who said she would provide more details once the study is complete.

Secretary Durgin reported that the department is currently in the renewal period for liability and workers' compensation insurance. Since the last regular meeting, she and Chief McGuire completed the liability insurance renewal questionnaire with George Petersen Insurance Agency and addressed workers' compensation renewal questions earlier today.

Secretary Durgin also reported that September payroll will be processed next week. She noted upcoming items including initial information requests from Fechter Financial for the annual audit are expected earlier this year, as well as the end-of-year volunteer firefighter stipend that will be processed with November payroll.

13. Review correspondence received since the last regular meeting. Secretary Durgin reported that she had no correspondence to present other than what was already covered in her earlier reports.
14. Review and adjust current fiscal year budget line items as necessary and accept. Chief McGuire reported on the status of the department's self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA) bottles. He stated that 43 thirty-minute bottles and eight sixty-minute bottles are going out of service. He noted that the department received donated bottles from the county, released in 2020, that can be put into service. He further reported that approximately 20 bottles need to be re-tested. Chief McGuire proposed increasing budget line item #219 to \$18,000 to cover the costs. A MOTION

WAS MADE BY COMMISSIONER MELCHIOR, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER CZESCHIN, TO INCREASE THE OVERALL BUDGET BY \$8,000, WITH THESE FUNDS ALLOCATED TO LINE ITEM #219 BREATHING BOTTLES (FROM \$10,000 TO \$18,000), TO COVER HYDROSTATIC TESTING FOR THE SCBA BOTTLES. Motion passed 5-0. No public comment.

15. New business and Board member reports. No new business and no Board member reports. No public comments.

Public Comment: Hap Hazard stated that at the last Board meeting he reported he was working to obtain insurance discounts for Firewise Communities but that the process has become more complicated. He said he is still seeking insurance acknowledgment for his Firewise Community. He reported that initially a certificate confirming Firewise Community status was required, but he has now been asked to provide a boundary map for the established community. He noted that if anyone in the district is working with Firewise Communities, they should be aware that insurance discounts are not automatically available.

16. Call for Agenda items for the next regular meeting. Staff report on the progress of the Sunny Slopes Station 2 project; Discussion and possible action concerning the dedication of a portion of Highway 395 to former Captain Vidar Anderson; Discussion and possible action on apparatus/vehicle procurements; Discussion and possible action on managing district funds.
17. Adjournment. A motion was made by Commissioner Czeschin, seconded by Commissioner Blackman, to adjourn the meeting and reconvene for regular session on October 8, 2025 at 7:00pm at the Long Valley Fire Station, 3605 Crowley Lake Drive, Crowley Lake, California. Motion passed 5-0.

Katie Durgin
Secretary to the Board
Long Valley Fire Protection District