



Long Valley Fire Protection District  
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**MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING  
December 10, 2025**

Date: Wednesday, December 10, 2025

Time: 7:00 p.m.

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

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

Members Absent: Dan Gordon (present via Google Meet as a member of the public)

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

Others Absent: None

1. Call to order, roll call, Pledge of Allegiance, and announcements. Commissioner Beatty called the meeting to order at 7:01pm. Commissioner Czeschin 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. No public comment.
3. Pack Fire Report; Resolution R25-04 Acknowledgement of Support. Chief McGuire provided a debrief on the Pack Fire, including a summary of structures lost or damaged, acreage burned, and a general timeline of events beginning with a call responded to the night prior to the fire. He outlined the initial response, deployment of apparatus and personnel, and the progression of the fire, noting that Long Valley Fire's primary focus was structure protection in the McGee area and preventing fire spread toward the Crowley Lake community. Chief McGuire also identified the assisting agencies and resources involved in the response.

Chief McGuire reported challenges related to emergency communications and evacuation coordination with the Office of Emergency Management (OES) during the incident, including evacuation classifications affecting Crowley Lake, McGee, Long Valley, the Industrial Park, and Convict Lake. He reported that there were multiple complaints regarding OES communication and evacuation messaging during the

incident and shared concerns about confidence in OES's management of the situation. He noted ongoing issues experienced with dispatch during the Pack Fire that will need to be addressed. Chief McGuire stated that an after-action review with all cooperating agencies is scheduled for December 18 and expressed hope that feedback would be considered.

Chief McGuire confirmed that there were no fatalities and shared that his own family sustained loss of property and animals. He acknowledged the actions of Detective Flores and a California Highway Patrol (CHP) officer who initiated evacuations in McGee Canyon due to observed smoke and fire conditions. Commissioner Blackman commented on her experience responding with Search and Rescue and noted the importance of additional training for future incidents.

Chief McGuire reported that the California Governor declared a state of emergency and that he and Division Chief Stump participated in damage assessments with CalOES, the Small Business Administration, LADWP, and other agencies to evaluate impacts to properties, infrastructure, wildlife, and watershed conditions. He noted that the assessments supported the emergency declaration and access to cleanup and recovery resources. Additional questions from the Board and public were addressed by Chief McGuire regarding fire behavior, hazardous materials, cleanup, rebuilding, and the overall incident timeline. Division Chief Stump noted that the fire was a wind-driven event influenced by local topography.

Chief McGuire emphasized the importance of defensible space, stating that structures with defensible space and hardened construction remained intact and allowed safer firefighter access. Commissioner Blackman commented that this information would be valuable for Firewise community outreach.

Chief McGuire acknowledged the fire crew's efforts and reported that, beginning the day after the fire, Long Valley Fire escorted homeowners into affected areas to view their properties. He stated that this approach was emotionally difficult but beneficial for residents and should be considered for future incidents. Chief McGuire also reported the loss of apparatus 3280 and provided a brief explanation of the incident.

Commissioner Blackman inquired about crew wellbeing following the incident. Division Chief Stump responded that the incident had a significant emotional impact, particularly for volunteers, and noted that while the event will have short, medium, and long-term effects, it has also resulted in renewed dedication among the volunteers. He stated that the Fire Chaplain is available for support. Division Chief Stump and Chief McGuire expressed concerns regarding the duration and scope of county recovery operations following the fire.

Chief McGuire stated that additional information would be provided at the January Board meeting following completion of the after-action review. He acknowledged assisting agencies and noted that many responded proactively and of their own volition. Commissioner Beatty acknowledged the support provided by teachers and families in

the Crowley Lake community during the incident. Division Chief Stump also acknowledged the Crowley Lake Store and broader community support.

Chief McGuire read aloud Resolution R25-04 Acknowledgment of Support. A MOTION WAS MADE BY COMMISSIONER BEATTY, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER BLACKMAN, TO APPROVE RESOLUTION R25-04 ACKNOWLEDGING MUTUAL AID DURING PACK FIRE. Motion passed 4-0 with one absent.

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 stated that there is no new news to report on at this time. He shared that he has yet to hear back on the completion of California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) survey.

Public Comment: No public comment was made.

5. Approval of the Minutes of the November 12, 2025 Regular Board Meeting. A MOTION WAS MADE BY COMMISSIONER MELCHIOR, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER CZESCHIN, TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 12, 2025 REGULAR BOARD MEETING. Motion passed 4-0 with one absent.

6. Chief's Report.

- A. Volunteer Report. Chief McGuire reported that since the last Board meeting, the department responded to 11 emergency calls, two of which exceeded two hours in duration. He shared that year to date, emergency call volume is up approximately 20 percent, while overall volunteer response has decreased slightly, which he noted is typical for this time of year.

- 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 several reinspections have been completed and provided an overview of the reinspection process. He reported that plans are being developed for a new airport building intended for equipment storage. Chief McGuire shared that he has been coordinating with the Town of Mammoth Lakes regarding an agreement for plan certification, noting that the prior agreement is no longer in effect. He reported that he is currently working to establish a new agreement and provided a general timeline for the plan certification process. Chief McGuire also reported that the Town of Mammoth Lakes is actively pursuing

development of an Emergency Operations Center, with a long-term goal of creating a regional training center at the airport.

- c) Geothermal. No news.
- d) Station Maintenance. No news.
- e) Vehicle and Equipment Maintenance. Chief McGuire reported that the department is still waiting to receive the base radio. He reported that the department has purchased a new Unit 3225 utility vehicle for Sunny Slopes. Chief McGuire shared that there is an estimated 12-week timeframe before the vehicle shell is delivered and that, during this period, the fire crew staff will focus on installing radios, a console, lighting, graphics, decals, and other necessary equipment. He thanked the Board for its support in approving the purchase.

Chief McGuire provided an update on the Board-approved purchase of a new water tender. He reported on two potential acquisition options and provided general cost information for each. He noted that the cost to build a new water tender through Rosenbauer has increased significantly, with estimates of approximately \$600,000. Chief McGuire also reported that an already built Ikon water tender located in Colorado is currently available, includes approximately 90% of the department's operational needs, and is priced at approximately \$488,000 plus tax. He shared that, following discussions with fire personnel, he is leaning toward the available Ikon unit. Division Chief Stump commented that if the department is in a position to purchase a second water tender and the available vehicle meets approximately 90% of operational needs, it appears to be a reasonable option. Further discussion was held regarding the water tender acquisition options.

- f) County and Community Updates. Chief McGuire reported on the Crowley Lake Dam emergency evacuation plan, noting that an updated version has been received and will be posted at the station. He stated that no major changes were made, aside from updated contact information. Chief McGuire reported that Mammoth Fire is beginning an Advanced Life Support (ALS) program that will place paramedics on fire engines and provided a general overview of the program. He also reported that California Radio Interoperability System (CRIS) radio antennas in the Antelope area are fully installed and operational. Chief McGuire reported that Long Valley Fire is in the process of establishing a new website address. Chief McGuire reported that Office of Emergency Services (OES) fees are being reduced and that the department will receive a charge. He noted that a request has been submitted to revise the change in fees and that OES is responding to the request. He also reported on the upcoming Long Valley Fire Christmas party scheduled for Friday and provided brief details.

Chief McGuire shared that he would like to begin discussion on a succession plan for the Fire Chief position, as he has been offered another position that he is

currently considering. He reported that the new role would require a significant time commitment and would not allow him to continue serving as Fire Chief. Chief McGuire stated that he wanted to notify the Board early to allow adequate time for planning and transition. Board discussion followed regarding succession planning. Commissioner Beatty commented that it is uncommon for a Fire Chief to excel both in emergency response and in administrative/management responsibilities and acknowledged Chief McGuire's exceptional skills in both areas.

- g) Grants. Chief McGuire reported that invoicing for the Office of Emergency Services (OES) grant has been submitted. He reported that the department has not yet received confirmation regarding approval of the FEMA grant for either a Type 6 or Type 3 engine. Chief McGuire shared that he is working to secure the Crowley Lake Community Center for a meeting in January 2026 with OES to review the federal disaster relief grant process. He reported that OES has expressed interest in holding the meeting in the Crowley Lake community to provide an overview of the process and keep the public informed.
- 7. Discussion and possible action concerning the dedication of a portion of Highway 395 to former Captain Vidar Anderson. Division Chief Stump reported that draft legislation related to the project has been prepared. He noted that one requirement is that the dedicated segment be less than five miles in length and shared that he provided a suggested highway segment to the staff of Senator Tangipa. Division Chief Stump reported that the legislation is currently in process and could be considered as early as February. He also reported that a former volunteer firefighter, now residing in Fresno, has offered to serve as a liaison for the department during the legislative process. Division Chief Stump provided general information regarding the proposed location of the dedication.
- 8. Discussion and possible action on managing district funds. Chief McGuire reported that Mono County provided information regarding the requirements for the district to manage its own funds and noted that the county does not appear supportive of the district pursuing this option. He reported that he contacted the California Special Districts Association (CSDA) for guidance and shared that, according to CSDA, the district is permitted to manage its own funds if all statutory requirements are met. Chief McGuire reported that those requirements include bonding and compliance with regulations related to appointing a bonded treasurer, as well as adoption of a resolution. He stated that his research confirms the district may manage its own funds provided all requirements are satisfied. Chief McGuire noted that the decision before the Board is whether to proceed with this option. Board discussion followed. Chief McGuire reported that the next step would be to obtain additional details regarding the bonded treasurer role, including associated costs and timelines.
- 9. Discussion and possible action on Records Digitization/Management Solution. Secretary Durgin reported that SyTech Solutions collected all banker boxes and subsequently provided photographs of the boxes along with a proposed indexing list.

She reported that the proposed list is a broad overview and shared that she is working with SyTech staff to further organize and refine the indexing to better meet the district's needs.

10. Board review/approval of payment warrants since the last meeting. A MOTION WAS MADE BY COMMISSIONER CZESCHIN, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER MELCHIOR TO APPROVE PAYMENT WARRANTS SINCE LAST BOARD MEETING. Motion passed 4-0 with one absent.
11. Board Secretary Report. Secretary Durgin reported that the State Compensation Insurance Fund workers' compensation year-end audit notification has been received and that the requested payroll and personnel information has been submitted. She also reported that she is waiting to receive the initial notifications for the Fechter Financial audit. Secretary Durgin reported on Mono County's holiday warrant processing schedule and shared that, after talking with Chief McGuire, she plans to continue processing weekly warrants so they will be received by the county upon their return from the holiday. She noted that, for the next two weeks, warrants will be processed on Monday rather than Tuesday. Secretary Durgin reported that she personally plans to pursue additional bookkeeping and payroll certifications through the National Association of Certified Public Bookkeepers (NACPB) to support professional development and better serve in her current position.
12. Review correspondence received since the last regular meeting. Secretary Durgin reported that she received correspondence from Queenie Barnard regarding Form 700 filers, as well as a request for district information for the Registry of Public Agencies.
13. Review and adjust current fiscal year budget line items as necessary and accept. Chief McGuire reported that the primary budget item requiring review at this time is a potential overage in Line Item #219, Breathing Bottles. He also reported that grant funds are still pending to offset the overage in Line Item #304, Rescue Equipment. Chief McGuire noted that, overall, the district is currently operating under budget. No public comment.
14. New business and Board member reports. Commissioner Beatty reported that due to changes in her family's retirement timeline, she anticipates stepping down from the Board in August 2026. She suggested that consideration be given to appointing a new Board Chair beginning in January, with her serving as Chair Pro Tem as needed. Commissioner Melchior reported that he has a contact, Sophie Bidet, who has expressed interest in serving as district attorney for Long Valley Fire. Equipment Manager Czeschin commented on the possibility of the district funding professional certifications for Secretary Durgin. Chief McGuire stated his support for the district funding the certifications, noting that training funds are available to support professional development that benefits the department. Following discussion, the Board reached consensus to fund the trainings and certifications for Secretary Durgin.

15. Call for Agenda items for the next regular meeting. Discussion and possible action on Board Officer Appointments; Staff report on the progress of the Sunny Slopes Station 2 project; Pack Fire update (to be included under Chief's report); Discussion and possible action concerning the dedication of a portion of Highway 395 to former Captain Vidar Anderson; Discussion and possible action on managing district funds; Discussion and possible action on Records Digitization and Management Solution.
  
16. Adjournment. A motion was made by Commissioner Melchior, seconded by Commissioner Czeschin, to adjourn the meeting and reconvene for regular session on January 14, 2025 at 7:00pm at the Long Valley Fire Station, 3605 Crowley Lake Drive, Crowley Lake, California. Motion passed 4-0 with one absent.

Katie Durgin  
Secretary to the Board  
Long Valley Fire Protection District