



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  
February 11, 2026**

Date: Wednesday, February 11, 2026

Time: 7:00 p.m.

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

Members Present: Donna Blackman (attending remotely as nonvoting member), David Melchior, Kim Czeschin, Daniel Gordon

Members Absent: Lorinda Beatty

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

Others Absent: None

1. Call to order, roll call, Pledge of Allegiance, and announcements. Commissioner Melchior called the meeting to order at 7:01pm. Division Chief Fred Stump 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. Report and provide direction on the progress of the Sunny Slopes Station 2 project. Chief McGuire provided an update on the Station 2 project. He reported that there was a challenge with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) survey where additional work is being needed. He reported that the county had gone back to the consultant for the additional work and that the consultant initially requested \$22,000 without supporting scope or detail on the reasons why. He shared that after the county requested clarification, the consultant reduced the amount to \$18,000. Chief McGuire explained the district could wait for a detailed proposal, accept the \$18,000 quote to keep the project moving forward, or find a different consultant altogether. He recommended requesting a proposal from the county by March 1 and, if none is received, proceeding with the \$18,000 quote. He noted the cost would come from the \$100,000 Preliminary Funding Agreement with the county.

Chief McGuire also reported he contacted an El Dorado Hills contractor constructing a station in Mono City and confirmed that project is funded through private donations and not subject to prevailing wage. He noted the Station 2 project will require prevailing wage because it is a district-owned, publicly funded project. Chief McGuire reported he provided the Sunny Slopes Station 2 plans to the contractor and requested a prevailing wage quote for comparison. Division Chief Fred Stump reported that he and Paul Zastoupil met with District Supervisor Rhonda Duggan to review the consultant's write-up in Washington D.C. regarding the Pack Fire and Forest Service resource concerns. Chief Stump reported District Supervisor Rhonda Duggan forwarded their comments to the county's consultant and the district expects to receive the revised narrative. Chief Stump further reported the U.S. Forest Service is preparing a letter of support for the Station 2 project. Board discussion followed. A MOTION WAS MADE BY COMMISSIONER GORDON, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER CZESHIN, AUTHORIZING THE FIRE CHIEF, BETWEEN NOW AND MARCH 1, 2026, TO APPROVE AND DIRECT MONO COUNTY TO PROCEED WITH ANY CONSULTANT QUOTE OR PROPOSAL FOR SUBSURFACE SOILS TESTING THAT IS UNDER \$18,000 AND DETERMINED BY MONO COUNTY TO BE FAIR AND REASONABLE. IF BY MARCH 1, 2026, THE COUNTY OR DISTRICT HAS NOT RECEIVED AN ACCEPTABLE QUOTE, THE FIRE CHIEF IS AUTHORIZED TO DIRECT THE COUNTY TO PROCEED WITH THE \$18,000 QUOTE TO AVOID FURTHER PROJECT DELAY. Motion passed 3-0.

Public Comment: Hap Hazard provided public comment on the CEQA issue. Mr. Hazard shared he spoke with the staff member who conducted the onsite survey and was told no significant findings were identified during testing. He stated his understanding at that time was that the report would be submitted early the following week, with approximately 10-14 days needed for internal review and submittal to the county. Mr. Hazard expressed concern about proceeding with the current consultant without documentation supporting the need for additional work. He shared the proposed additional cost and lack of detailed explanation were concerning and that the company should be able to clearly identify what was found and what justifies the additional work, cost, and time. Mr. Hazard recommended the district follow up and noted he questions the proposed additional expense and extension.

4. Approval of the Minutes of the January 14, 2026 Regular Board Meeting. A MOTION WAS MADE BY COMMISSIONER GORDON, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER CZESCHIN, TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 14, 2026 REGULAR BOARD MEETING. Motion passed 3-0.
5. Chief's Report.
  - A. Volunteer Report. Chief McGuire reported there have been five emergency calls since last regular meeting. He further reported that volunteer trainings have been very well attended.
  - B. Report on Current Fire Department Activities, Assignments, and Schedule for potential Board direction.

C. Long-Range Planning Discussion.

- a) Personnel. Chief McGuire acknowledged and thanked Paul Zastoupil for his service, noting he is stepping into an ordained role and serving as Chaplain for Mono County Law Enforcement, as well as supporting Search and Rescue and other first responder agencies. Chief McGuire expressed appreciation for Paul Zastoupil's service to the community and first responders.
- b) Airport. No news.
- c) Geothermal. No news.
- d) Station Maintenance. Chief McGuire reported that, with assistance from Division Chief Fred Stump, a vendor visited the station to evaluate converting the station lighting to LED. Division Chief Stump provided additional information regarding the LED conversion. Division Chief Stump also reported he met with another individual to walk the building and requested a quote for painting the gas shed, including patching the hole and painting the doors. He further reported he is obtaining a quote to plant the station Memorial area. Chief Stump noted he has not yet finalized arrangements with the company for the garage door repair but will be following up with his contact.
- e) Vehicle and Equipment Maintenance. Chief McGuire reported that Equipment Manager Billy Czeschin continues to work on vehicle and equipment maintenance. Chief McGuire reported 3225 is back in service and operational and that registration for the new 3225 is still in process. He noted 3200 has undergone repairs related to prior stalling issues. Chief McGuire reported the new 3282 water tender has been delivered to the station. He shared that Division Chief Stump and crew have begun outfitting the apparatus and that radio installation is the only remaining item, which is expected to be completed within the next few days. Chief McGuire further reported 3280 is currently being repaired. He noted a repair quote has been received and the insurance claim funds have already been issued.
- f) County and Community Updates. Chief McGuire reported that Mono County continues to have a Request for Proposals (RFP) open for a consultant to support the Office of Emergency Management (OEM). He stated that, to his knowledge, the county has not yet contracted with a consultant. Chief McGuire noted the Sheriff's Office is eager to bring OEM back in-house. Chief McGuire also reported that several pile burns are planned and will be visible from Highway 395. He further reported the California Radio Interoperability System (CRIS) radio project continues to move forward.
- g) Grants. Chief McGuire reported that the Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) and the Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) grant cycles have not yet opened. He noted that, unlike typical years when the cycles alternate,

both are expected to occur concurrently this year. Chief McGuire provided additional information on the grant timelines. He reported the district has received the California Office of Traffic Safety (OTS) grant funds for extrication equipment and that the funds have been reconciled in the budget. He further reported the district's prior-year AFG application remains pending and that he has submitted an OTS grant application for rescue equipment. Chief McGuire also reported that FirstDue preplan installation is progressing, though the system is not expected to go live for some time.

- h) Pack Fire Update. Chief McGuire reported that he and Division Chief Fred Stump spent part of the afternoon touring the site with a cleanup contractor. He shared that the visit was helpful and noted it was beneficial for Public Works to observe the damage firsthand. Division Chief Stump added that representatives from Mono County Environmental Health, Public Works, the Assistant County Administrative Officer, and District Supervisor Rhonda Duggan were also present for the site tour. Chief McGuire reported he filed a formal complaint with the Mono County Grand Jury regarding the county's response to the Pack Fire and stated the Grand Jury has opened an investigation. He further reported County Counsel received a community complaint regarding the quality of emergency dispatch, including concerns related to a CPR incident. Chief McGuire reported that County Counsel has hired a retired California Highway Patrol dispatch manager from Sacramento to conduct an investigation into dispatch and radio issues within Mono County. Chief McGuire further reported he continues to work with Mammoth Hospital on a patient review. He noted he attended the Winter Trauma Series that focused on pediatric trauma, particularly traumatic brain injuries, and found the training beneficial.
- 6. 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 the Board information regarding the status of the legislation required for the dedication to proceed. He referenced the letter of support template provided by Legislative Director Belle Castro for ACR 126, which according to Chief Stump, is scheduled to be heard by the Assembly Transportation Committee. He noted that, as previously discussed, personal letters of support may carry more weight than formal letters. He reported he has the original resolution adopted by the Long Valley Fire Protection District Board, as well as the resolution from Mono County, and plans to submit both to the Assembly Transportation Committee. He emphasized that additional letters of support would be beneficial. Chief Stump also provided information on how to access the bill through the Assembly Transportation Committee website.
- 7. Discussion, possible action, and Resolution on Federal Excess Property Agreement. Chief McGuire provided a brief overview of the resolution and its purpose. He noted the district is not actively seeking excess property at this time but recommended having the agreement in place so the district is prepared should an opportunity come up. Chief McGuire read the resolution aloud. A MOTION WAS MADE BY

COMMISSIONER GORDON, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER CZESCHIN, TO APPROVE RESOLUTION R26-02 OF THE LONG VALLEY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT AUTHORIZING APPLICATION TO THE FEDERAL EXCESS PROPERTY PROGRAM. Motion passed 3-0.

8. Discussion and approval of apparatus divestment, purchase, and repair needs (3200, 3201, 3225). Chief McGuire reported that current 3225 is operational but has experienced two transmission replacements and will be replaced by the new 3225. He requested Board direction on what to do with the existing unit. Chief McGuire explained that 3225 cannot be sold for regular use within California but could potentially be transferred to another special district for \$1 if registered as exempt, or otherwise sold at auction with restrictions. He also reported that 3201 is functional but has ongoing issues, and requested guidance on its future use. He noted 3200 remains operational but currently has high mileage. Equipment Manager Billy Czeschin confirmed the vehicle is functional but continues to experience issues. Chief McGuire and Division Chief Fred Stump provided recommendations regarding vehicle planning and equipment prioritization. Board and staff discussion followed.

Chief McGuire suggested the district consider divesting older equipment that requires ongoing time and maintenance and focus resources elsewhere. He recommended offering the current 3225 to neighboring special districts for \$1 and maintaining 3201 in service for the time being while obtaining pricing for eventual replacement of 3200, at which time the current 3200 could transition to the 3201 role. Commissioners Gordon and Commissioner Melchior agreed with moving toward getting rid of 3225 and planning for a future command vehicle replacement. By consensus, the Board directed the Fire Chief to offer 3225 to Hilton Creek Community Services District and Birchim Water District. If declined, the Chief will offer the unit at the regional Chiefs' meeting and, if it is still declined, proceed to auction. The Board also directed the Chief to obtain pricing for replacement of 3200 and to continue maintaining 3201 in operational status.

9. Discussion and possible action on managing district funds. Chief McGuire reported there has been little progress on this item since the last regular meeting. He stated he has been in communication with County Counsel, who has indicated they will be providing input. Chief McGuire reported he will follow up with County Counsel regarding options for establishing an imprest petty cash fund. He further reported he has a credit card available for utility payments and noted that he and Secretary Durgin increased the credit limits on two district Cal Card accounts.
10. Discussion and possible action on Records Management. Secretary Durgin reported there is no significant update at this time. She stated SyTech Solutions is currently completing the scanning process and she is waiting to receive the master Excel file. Secretary Durgin reported that once received, she will begin indexing and organizing the scanned files and will provide the list to Commissioner Blackman for review. She noted the finalized index will then be returned to SyTech Solutions for organization within 1DocStop.

11. Board review/approval of payment warrants since the last meeting. A MOTION WAS MADE BY COMMISSIONER CZESCHIN, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER GORDON TO APPROVE PAYMENT WARRANTS SINCE LAST BOARD MEETING. Motion passed 3-0.
12. Board Secretary Report. Secretary Durgin reported the Fechter Financial Audit is in progress, with Courtney Stephen serving as auditor. She stated all requested materials were submitted last month and that she responded to several follow-up requests this week. Secretary Durgin noted additional follow-up inquiries are typical prior to issuance of the final report. She reported that once the final audit is received, it will be provided to the Board and Fire Chief for review and agendaized for formal approval. Secretary Durgin also reported she continues to work on the National Association of Certified Public Bookkeepers (NACPB) certification courses. She further reported she contacted Vicki Wright regarding the Volunteer Firefighter Length of Service Award (VFLSA) program and was advised the actuarial study remains in progress with no update at this time. Secretary Durgin reported the district received the final audit statement from the State Compensation Insurance Fund (SCIF) Workers' Compensation Audit and that the district owes additional premium. She noted she has requested clarification from the auditor to better understand why there was an additional payment owed. Looking ahead, Secretary Durgin reported February payroll will be processed next week and that the initial review of the Fiscal Year 2026-2027 Draft Budget will be placed on the April meeting agenda. She also noted the notification for the 2025 California Government Compensation Report is expected soon, with the report typically due in April.
13. Review correspondence received since the last regular meeting. Secretary Durgin reported there has been no additional correspondence beyond her report and routine duties. She noted a minor error occurred in Employment Development Department (EDD) tax period reporting by the county due to staff training, resulting in a tax period being misapplied. Secretary Durgin reported the issue has been corrected but the district may receive a notice reflecting the adjustment. Secretary Durgin also reported receiving correspondence from Sandra Moberly regarding a Mono County Office of Emergency Services project for emergency evacuation route improvements seeking congressionally directed funding. She stated three letters of support have been prepared for Congressman Kiley, Senator Padilla, and Senator Schiff should the district wish to participate, with a submission deadline of March 2, 2026. Fire Chief Scott McGuire provided additional information on the project. By consensus, the Board supported submitting the letters of support.
14. Review and adjust current fiscal year budget line items as necessary and accept. Chief McGuire reported there are no significant changes. He noted receipt of funds related to the #104 Firefighters, as well as grant funds for extrication equipment. Chief McGuire reported that, based on current updates and calculations, the district is tracking approximately \$180,000 in budget carryover for the fiscal year. No action was taken.

15. New business and Board member reports. No news.
16. Closed Session: Public Employee Position – Fire Chief (per Gov. Code 54957, 54957.6). *Discussion regarding the Fire Chief position and related considerations.* Closed Session was called to order at 8:28 p.m. The Board returned to open session at 9:27 p.m. No reportable action was taken. Direction was given to agendaize consideration of establishing an ad hoc committee to discuss the Fire Chief position as well as staffing at the next regular meeting.
17. Call for Agenda items for the next regular meeting. 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; Report and possible action on Records Management; Discussion and possible action to establish an Ad Hoc Committee to review staffing and the Fire Chief position.
18. Adjournment. A motion was made by Commissioner Czeschin, seconded by Commissioner Gordon, to adjourn the meeting and reconvene for regular session on March 11, 2026 at 7:00pm at the Long Valley Fire Station, 3605 Crowley Lake Drive, Crowley Lake, California. Motion passed 3-0.

Katie Durgin  
Secretary to the Board  
Long Valley Fire Protection District