



Long Valley Fire Protection District
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**MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
March 11, 2026**

Date: Wednesday, March 11, 2026

Time: 7:00 p.m.

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

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

Members Absent: Kim Czeschin

Others Present: Division Chief Fred Stump (reporting on behalf of Fire Chief Scott McGuire), Secretary Kathryn Durgin (via Google Meet), Equipment Manager Billy Czeschin, John Kokado, Richard Booher, Hap Hazard, Kasey Kapitske, Lorinda Movrule

Others Absent: Fire Chief Scott McGuire

1. Call to order, roll call, Pledge of Allegiance, and announcements. The meeting was called to order at 7:00pm. Equipment Manager Billy 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 comments were made.
3. Report and provide direction on the progress of the Sunny Slopes Station 2 project. Commissioner Melchior opened the discussion with staff reports followed by public comment.

Staff Reports: Division Chief Fred Stump reported on behalf of Fire Chief McGuire, reading the Fire Chief's written report into the record. He reported that Chief McGuire met with County staff to review the consultant's initial archaeological and soils survey, which confirmed the presence of artifacts within the proposed build area, contrary to what was reported by community members hearing from staff on the ground. He further reported that Mono County Community Development provided a final quote of \$17,786 for continued site work and, consistent with prior Board direction, staff has been directed to proceed. He noted the consultant team anticipated being onsite the week of March 16

to complete the work, after which the County will advise on next steps for project approval.

Division Chief Stump further reported on behalf of the Fire Chief regarding Station 2 planning. He shared that the Chief obtained a quote for a two-bay, four-apparatus metal building designed to replicate the previously submitted footprint. He reported that the quote includes a basic functional structure (foundation, insulation, doors, lighting, and basic utilities), with other improvements such as office space, meeting room, and restroom to be completed in the future. He noted the estimated cost of this option is approximately \$400,000, with total project costs, including site work, utilities, and future improvements, estimated at approximately \$1 million.

Division Chief Stump further reported that the Fire Chief requested an additional quote for a fully built-out structure, including interior facilities, generator, and heating, estimated at approximately \$1.5 million. He also reported a third option involving a fully completed structure with enhanced exterior treatments (e.g., stone or landscaping) to improve community aesthetics, estimated at approximately \$2.5 million, which the Chief identified as a potential alternative depending on federal funding outcomes. Division Chief Stump further reported that the original Station 2 project estimate was approximately \$4.2 million, which was submitted as part of the District's federal appropriations request for fiscal year 2026–2027 and is sponsored by Congressman Kiley. He provided additional details regarding the appropriations request.

Public Comment: Sunny Slopes resident Hap Hazard commented that his only question was related to the project timeline and noted that his question had been answered.

4. Approval of the Minutes of the February 11, 2026 Regular Meeting. A MOTION WAS MADE BY COMMISSIONER GORDON, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER BLACKMAN, TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 11, 2026 REGULAR MEETING. Motion passed 3 with 1 abstention.
5. Chief's Report.
 - A. Volunteer Report. Division Chief Fred Stump reported that there were seven calls since the last regular meeting, including four EMS calls, one traffic collision, and two calls involving hazardous conditions. He provided additional detail regarding the hazardous incidents. Division Chief Stump further reported on recent training activities, noting that two representatives from Southern California Edison provided safety training. He shared that personnel from Paradise Fire Department and Wheeler Crest Fire Department were invited to attend. Division Chief Stump thanked John Kokado for being present at the Board meeting and for providing IT support.
 - B. Report on Current Fire Department Activities, Assignments, and Schedule for potential Board direction. Division Chief Fred Stump reported on current activities, including the First Due fire reporting software, noting that setup is complete and the system is expected to go live in the coming weeks. He provided additional details regarding the project, including updates on iPads, mounts, and installations.

C. Long-Range Planning Discussion.

- a) Personnel. Division Chief Fred Stump reported on behalf of Fire Chief McGuire, referencing the Fire Chief's written report. He shared that the anticipated timing for Chief McGuire's departure is not as imminent as July and noted that further discussion is warranted, referring to Item 7 on the agenda. Division Chief Stump further reported that volunteer firefighter John Kokado has been approached regarding a transition into a Captain role, with training and onboarding to follow.
- b) Airport. Division Chief Fred Stump reported on behalf of Fire Chief McGuire, referencing the Fire Chief's written report, that CalFire is interested in moving to the airport as soon as space can be confirmed, potentially utilizing a temporary building. He further reported that the Town of Mammoth Lakes continues to pursue a full build at the site to serve as an Emergency Operations Center and regional support facility.

Public Comment: Hap Hazard provided comment regarding Mono County history related to placing an Emergency Operations Center at the airport. He shared that a former elementary school foundation remains in the area and stated his understanding that it is located on an earthquake fault line. He expressed concern about constructing an Emergency Operations Center at that location given the potential seismic risk. Division Chief Fred Stump responded that he could raise this concern with his contact during future discussions regarding the project.

- c) Geothermal. No news.
- d) Station Maintenance. Division Chief Fred Stump reported on behalf of Fire Chief McGuire, referencing the Fire Chief's written report, that LED tubes have been ordered for all remaining fixtures at the station and are now on site. He further reported that Equipment Manager Billy Czeschin has received a commitment from a garage door contact regarding needed repairs. Division Chief Stump also provided updates on outdoor garden planting and additional station painting.
- e) Vehicle and Equipment Maintenance. Division Chief Fred Stump reported on behalf of Fire Chief McGuire, referencing the Fire Chief's written report, and provided updates on District vehicles. He shared that the new 3225 has been registered and that buildout is underway. He reported that the former 3225 may be transferred to Hilton Creek CSD, pending a CARB review to allow registration. He further reported that the new water tender 3282 has had a radio installed, with additional work pending, and is expected to be sent to Burton's Fire for upgrades and completion in the coming months. He shared that 3200 has had oil issues addressed but continues to experience unresolved wheel, brake, and axle concerns. He also reported that repairs to tender 3280 are expected to be completed soon and that it will be returned to service while 3282 is at Burton's

Fire. Equipment Manager Billy Czeschin provided additional details regarding the repair timelines for apparatus 3280 and 3282.

- f) Pack Fire Update: Division Chief Fred Stump reported that work is progressing toward approval of final asbestos cleanup, with the next phase to include general debris removal. He shared that properties already confirmed to be clear of asbestos have begun cleanup independently. He further reported that the County has received information that the State of California intends to utilize the California Disaster Assistance Act (CDAA) to support cleanup efforts. Division Chief Stump additionally reported that, based on information shared by the Mono County Board of Supervisors, the current funding structure would require a 25% local match from the County, estimated between \$700,000 and \$800,000. He provided additional overview of the cost share and general processes for property owners, including permitting and insurance coordination. Division Chief Stump also acknowledged local and regional representatives for their involvement in supporting and advancing these efforts.
 - g) County and Community Updates. Division Chief Fred Stump reported on behalf of Fire Chief McGuire, referencing the Fire Chief's written report, that the Unified Incident Command held a meeting focused on the Incident Command System (ICS). He shared that discussions included the role and structure of the County Office of Emergency Management (OEM), including potential changes in oversight. He noted that there was broader discussion regarding emergency management operations within the County. Division Chief Stump further reported that the Mono County Board of Supervisors approved a contract with a consultant to evaluate the Office of Emergency Management and its future structure. Division Chief Stump provided additional updates regarding County Dispatch. He reported that California Radio Interoperability System (CRIS) radios are anticipated to be delivered between May and August, according to County IT. He further noted that partner agencies, including Forest Service, have not yet been fully engaged regarding operational integration, particularly given current interoperability limitations.
 - h) Grants. Division Chief Fred Stump reported on behalf of Fire Chief McGuire, referencing the Fire Chief's written report, that the district is still waiting on award confirmation for the 2025–2026 Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) and the 2025–2026 Office of Traffic Safety (OTS) grant. Division Chief Stump further reported that the district has a surplus gasoline-powered Hurst tool that remains functional. He shared that if there is no interest within Mono County, he has been in contact with Konowa Fire Protection District, which has expressed interest in receiving the equipment.
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 the bill has been submitted to the Assembly Transportation Committee. He provided information

on how to register on the Committee's website and submit a letter of support. He offered a brief overview of the effort for members of the public in attendance.

7. Discussion and possible action regarding Fire Chief position, Duty Chief Program, and possible establishment of an Ad Hoc Committee. Division Chief Fred Stump reported on behalf of Fire Chief McGuire, referencing the Fire Chief's written report, regarding Duty Chief coverage. He shared that, as discussed in the prior closed session, the Fire Chief believes changes are warranted to distribute Duty Chief responsibilities among multiple individuals. He noted that this would require additional training, scheduling commitments, and budget considerations, and that the district is not currently staffed to fully implement this model but could work toward it over time. Division Chief Stump further reported that the Fire Chief's written report outlined three proposed Chief-level roles: Duty Chief operations, Fire Prevention, and Administration. He shared that the Duty Chief role would involve a rotating schedule among multiple individuals responsible for on-call coverage and incident command readiness. He reported that the Fire Prevention role would include inspections, pre-plans, and related activities, noting this area represents a growing workload and may require additional resources or partnerships. He further reported that the administrative function includes responsibilities such as budgeting, human resources, and overall department operations, which the Fire Chief indicated are currently being managed.

Division Chief Stump further reported that the Fire Chief recommended formation of an Ad Hoc Committee to evaluate a multi-year plan and associated budget for these roles and bring recommendations back to the Board. By consensus, the Board agreed to form an Ad Hoc Committee consisting of Commissioner Melchior, Commissioner Gordon, Fire Chief McGuire, and Division Chief Stump. Division Chief Stump stated he would reach out to volunteers regarding potential participation and coordinate meeting scheduling. Secretary Durgin confirmed that updates from the Ad Hoc Committee would be included as a regular agenda item for Board meetings.

Public Comment: Hap Hazard provided comment suggesting that the Board consider including a member of the public on the Ad Hoc Committee to allow for community input. Commissioner Gordon responded that the Ad Hoc Committee is primarily focused on internal operational structure within the Chief-level roles and may not directly impact the public. Hap Hazard further commented that the Committee's work could have budget implications and reiterated that public representation may be beneficial.

8. Discussion and possible action to move forward with new apparatus 3200. Division Chief Fred Stump reported on behalf of Fire Chief McGuire, referencing the Fire Chief's written report, regarding the current 3200 command unit. He shared that the unit is operational but continues to experience issues. He further reported that, in consideration of a future staffing model with separate Chief and Duty Chief roles, the Fire Chief is proposing the addition of a second command unit. This would include reassigning the current 3200 to 3201 and purchasing a new 3200, modeled similarly to the recently acquired 3225. Division Chief Stump reported that the proposed project budget is estimated at

approximately \$130,000 or less and would incorporate improvements based on lessons learned from the current unit, including enhancements to radio communications and command functionality. He further reported that the Fire Chief is requesting Board approval to proceed with the purchase and buildout of the new 3200. Division Chief Stump provided the proposed budget for the Board's review. Discussion was held by the Board. A MOTION WAS MADE BY COMMISSIONER GORDON, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER BLACKMAN, TO APPROVE THE PURCHASE OF A NEW 3200 APPARATUS AND THE PROPOSED BUDGET FOR BUILDING OUT THE APPARATUS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$125,700.00. Motion passed 4-0, with one absent.

9. Discussion and possible action to establish an Ad Hoc Grant Committee. Division Chief Fred Stump reported on behalf of Fire Chief McGuire, referencing the Fire Chief's written report, that Fire Chief McGuire, Commissioner Blackman, Secretary Durgin, and Volunteer Firefighter Meg Alston met to review grant opportunities and next steps. He shared that a draft grant wish list has been developed and that the Fire Chief is recommending formation of an Ad Hoc Committee to formalize a team approach to researching and pursuing grant funding. Commissioner Blackman commented that she initiated the discussion to help support and reduce the workload of the Fire Chief. She noted that if participating in this effort as a Commissioner, she would like formal Board authorization through an Ad Hoc Committee to ensure the process remains transparent and appropriate. Secretary Durgin commented in support of forming an Ad Hoc Committee to formalize the effort and coordinate as a team to pursue grant funding. She shared that she requested to be involved to gain experience with grant processes and provide administrative support where needed. Secretary Durgin screen-shared Chief McGuire's draft grant wish list to the Board for review. Commissioner Blackman provided additional information regarding a California Fire Foundation grant opportunity, including the district's application for Wildland Urban Interface kits, and responded to Board questions. A MOTION WAS MADE BY COMMISSIONER GORDON, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER BLACKMAN, TO APPROVE THE FORMATION OF A GRANT AD HOC COMMITTEE CONSISTING OF FIRE CHIEF MCGUIRE, COMMISSIONER BLACKMAN, VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTER MEG ALSTON, AND SECRETARY DURGIN. Motion passed 4-0, with one member absent.
10. Discussion and possible action on managing district funds. Division Chief Fred Stump reported on behalf of Fire Chief McGuire, referencing the Fire Chief's written report, that the Fire Chief is continuing efforts to meet with Chris Beck from County Counsel regarding their perspective on establishing an imprest petty cash fund.
11. Board review/approval of payment warrants since the last meeting. A MOTION WAS MADE BY COMMISSIONER BLACKMAN, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER GORDON TO APPROVE PAYMENT WARRANTS SINCE LAST REGULAR BOARD MEETING. Motion passed 3-0 with one abstention.
12. Board Secretary Report/Report on Records Management. Secretary Durgin reported on activities since the last regular meeting. She reported receipt of the State Controller's Office Government Compensation in California (GCC) report for calendar year 2025, due

April 30. She noted that she has not yet received an update from Fechter Financial regarding the fiscal year 2024–2025 financial audit and will provide the final report to the Board and agendaize it for review and approval once received. Secretary Durgin reported that payroll will be processed the following week and that she will coordinate with Fire Chief McGuire regarding any Duty Chief timesheets to be included. She further reported on progress in completing National Association for Certified Public Bookkeepers (NACPB) trainings and expressed appreciation to the Board for supporting this training. Secretary Durgin reported that the first draft of the fiscal year 2026–2027 budget will be presented at the April meeting to begin the budget approval process. She noted ongoing issues with her webmail account, resulting in sent emails not being received, and reported that she will temporarily be using the Long Valley Secretary Gmail account until the issue is resolved. Regarding records management, Secretary Durgin reported that SyTech Solutions has provided the invoice for scanning services and records management software, which has been paid. She further reported that a master Excel file of scanned records has been received and that she has begun the indexing process, noting that completion will take longer than initially anticipated and will continue over the coming months.

13. Review correspondence received since the last regular meeting. Secretary Durgin reported on correspondence, including a letter of support submitted by Hap Hazard to Lori Wilson, Chair of the Assembly Transportation Committee, in support of the Vidar Anderson Highway Dedication. She noted that the letter recognized Vidar Anderson's service and dedication to the district. Secretary Durgin expressed appreciation to Hap Hazard for preparing and submitting the letter.
14. Review and adjust current fiscal year budget line items as necessary and accept. Division Chief Fred Stump reported on behalf of Fire Chief McGuire, referencing the Fire Chief's written report, that there are no changes to the budget. Secretary Durgin reported that the general ledger received from the County reflects receipt of December property tax revenue in the Operating Account since the last regular meeting. She further reported that the district received a District Audit Fee of \$5,000 and an Audit Fee Subsidy of \$3,500, both recorded under #100 Administrative Fees.
15. New business and Board member reports. No new business and no Board member reports.

Public Comment: Hap Hazard provided comment that, while the district conducts strong volunteer firefighter training, there may be opportunities to expand training in certain areas. He shared his prior experience developing a safety program for the Sheriff's Department and noted the importance of training for on-water emergency response. He described differences between fire response on water versus land and suggested that the district consider incorporating on-water fire rescue training into its program. Commissioner Melchior thanked Hap Hazard for his comments and noted that the Board will take the suggestion under consideration.

16. Call for Agenda items for the next regular meeting. Report and provide direction 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; Fire Chief Position Ad Hoc Committee Report; Grants Ad Hoc Committee Report; Discussion and possible action on managing district funds; First Review of Fiscal Year 2026-2027 Budget.
17. Adjournment. A motion was made by Commissioner Beatty, seconded by Commissioner Blackman, to adjourn the meeting and reconvene in regular session on April 8, 2026, at 7:00pm at the Long Valley Fire Station, 3605 Crowley Lake Drive, Crowley Lake, California. Motion passed 4-0.

Katie Durgin
Secretary to the Board
Long Valley Fire Protection District