



Long Valley Fire Protection District
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MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
April 8, 2026

Date: Wednesday, April 8, 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: Fire Chief Scott McGuire, Division Chief Fred Stump, Paul Zastoupil,
Secretary Kathryn Durgin (via Google Meet), Richard Booher, Hap
Hazard, Scott Winghartwein

Others Absent: None

1. Call to order, roll call, Pledge of Allegiance, and announcements. The meeting was called to order at 7:01pm. Rich Booher 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: Chief McGuire provided an update on the Sunny Slopes Station 2 project, including progress toward Planning Commission review and ongoing evaluation of funding options, including grants, financing, and potential assistance from Ridgeline Municipal Strategies. He noted that if grant or appropriations funding is not secured, there may be building options that are potentially affordable for the district to finance, although it would be a stretch. Chief McGuire discussed potential building and financing options and general considerations related to design and community input. No action was taken.

Public Comment: Sunny Slopes resident Hap Hazard referred to the prior meeting where three different building and financing options were discussed and asked for clarification on those options. Chief McGuire reviewed the general building options, including a basic metal structure, a partially built-out facility, and a more complete station with additional improvements. He noted that total project costs would vary depending on the level of build-out, utilities, and site improvements, and discussed potential funding and grant opportunities. He further explained that a metal building could be designed with additional exterior improvements to enhance its appearance and better align with community desires. Chief McGuire also provided context regarding appropriations funding, noting that funding outcomes may vary depending on which office advances the request, and that full or partial funding may be awarded. He explained that developing a project option in the approximately \$1.5 million range would allow the district to move forward even if only partial funding is received, while maintaining flexibility to pursue additional appropriations, grants, or other funding opportunities if necessary. Division Chief Stump added that the Sunny Slopes Station 2 project is currently listed at the top of the funding request list, with other projects listed that are primarily focused on water system improvements. No action was taken.

4. Dump Voucher Availability. Chief McGuire reported that dump vouchers have been requested from Mono County Public Works but have not yet been received. He noted that once received, residents may call or come by the station to obtain vouchers, including on behalf of neighbors. He explained that the department requires the physical address and resident name, and that two vouchers are issued per parcel, with additional vouchers available upon request in certain circumstances. Chief McGuire also reported that CalFire is exploring vegetation management options, including a community chipper program and a potential curbside chipping program. He noted that the station property may be considered as a staging location if a chipper program is implemented. Discussion included alternative disposal options, such as potential roll-off containers and coordination with other agencies on vegetation removal efforts. No action was taken.

Public Comment: Sunny Slopes resident Hap Hazard asked about the potential use of a roll-off container for debris disposal in the community. He also commented that the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (DWP) has held a community meeting and according to Hap, plans to conduct fuel reduction work, including clearing the stream area, which may result in additional debris for residents to dispose of. He asked how that debris would be managed and encouraged coordination on disposal options. He suggested that a letter of support may be beneficial. Brief discussion followed.

5. Approval of the Minutes of the March 11, 2026, Regular Meeting. A MOTION WAS MADE BY COMMISSIONER BLACKMAN, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER GORDON, TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF MARCH 11, 2026, REGULAR MEETING. Motion passed 4-0 with one absence.

6. Chief's Report.

- A. Volunteer Report. Chief McGuire reported that the department has responded to 10 calls since the last meeting. He shared that there has been a strong volunteer turnout response for emergency calls. He noted a recent fatal emergency incident on Highway 395 and commended Long Valley FPD Chaplain Paul Zastoupil for his response and scene management.
- B. Report on Current Fire Department Activities, Assignments, and Schedule for potential Board direction. Chief McGuire reported that the department will be transitioning into wildland fire training earlier than usual due to low snowpack conditions.
- C. Long-Range Planning Discussion.
- a) Personnel. Chief McGuire discussed proposed restructuring of Duty Chief assignments, including implementation of a Duty Chief schedule to distribute operational responsibilities among department leadership and provide additional training and experience opportunities. Chief McGuire also reported the recent promotion of volunteer John Kokado to Captain and that he will be taking some of the Officer classes with Mammoth Fire in the next few weeks to provide support as he moves into this new role.
- b) Airport. Chief McGuire reported that CalFire plans to establish a presence at the Mammoth Airport, including details on staffing and apparatus that will be present beginning in June. He noted this development will enhance regional response capabilities and support long-term planning for airport and emergency operations.
- c) Geothermal. No news.
- d) Station Maintenance. Chief McGuire reported on recent maintenance and improvements to the station, including exterior painting, door repairs, lighting upgrades, and ongoing evaluation of fencing and landscaping needs. He provided additional information on fencing repairs to support snow removal and noted a \$7,500 quote to fully redo the Memorial Garden. He shared that this would place the district significantly over budget for the current fiscal year for Station Maintenance line item. He noted these funds were approved in a prior year, but the project was not completed and this can be discussed further under the budgeting agenda item. He also reported ongoing issues with the County IT system, noting service reliability challenges and delays. He shared that the district is planning to transition to a direct service provider and has obtained a quote from Onward for improved service at a lower cost. Chief McGuire noted that the district would move forward with terminating the County agreement in accordance with its terms once the new service is in place, and that the existing setup may allow for a more direct connection. No action was taken.

- e) Vehicle and Equipment Maintenance. Chief McGuire reported on ongoing vehicle and equipment maintenance and updates, including continued work on the base radio. He noted that outfitting of apparatus 3225 is in progress, with the shell completed and installation of radios, lighting, and graphics pending. He noted the unit is expected to be placed into service within approximately one month. He also reported that per Board approval from last regular meeting, he has initiated the purchase process for vehicle 3200 and provided additional details on pickup of the vehicle. Chief McGuire provided an update on apparatus rotation, noting that once apparatus 3280 is returned to service, apparatus 3282 will be sent out for additional outfitting, with the goal of maintaining adequate coverage and having three tenders available by early summer. He also noted ongoing mechanical concerns with the current 3200, which continue to be monitored. No action was taken.

- f) Pack Fire Update. Chief McGuire reported that cleanup efforts related to the Pack Fire are expected to move forward, with funding support in place through state and county processes. He noted that property owners must sign over cleanup rights to the county in order to participate. Chief McGuire also reported that an after-action review has been completed. He further stated that an investigation into the incident remains active and that progress is taking place. Division Chief Stump provided additional updates regarding the trailer park, noting that power has been restored to a portion of the hydrant system. He shared that delays in reopening are related to utility requirements, including the need for a new service application before power can be reconnected. He noted that power restoration is pending and that reopening is dependent on utility service being restored. No action was taken.

- g) County and Community Updates. Chief McGuire reported on ongoing coordination with Mono County and partner agencies. He provided an update on the Office of Emergency Management (OEM), noting that a consultant has been engaged and that discussions are taking place regarding staffing, interagency coordination, training, and grant support. He shared that feedback from fire agencies identified gaps in current operations and emphasized the need for additional staffing and support. Chief McGuire also reported that the Board of Supervisors has approved up to \$20,000 for the Wilford site cleanup. He noted that the district will coordinate volunteer labor and reimbursement processes to support the project. He added that contract details and tracking of labor hours are still being worked out and provided additional information regarding disposal of materials and potential tipping fees. Chief McGuire also provided updates on regional communications, including the CRIS radio system. He noted that a CRIS radio group meeting is scheduled to discuss programming updates, and that a county radio cooperators meeting has not yet been scheduled. No action was taken.

- h) Grants. Chief McGuire reported that multiple grants remain pending, including Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) and Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) Grant. He noted that federal grant processes have experienced delays and that the district continues to pursue additional funding opportunities.
7. Discussion and possible action concerning the dedication of a portion of Highway 395 to former Captain Vidar Anderson. Division Chief Stump provided an update on the status of the ACR 126 designation request, noting that the item is scheduled for consideration by the California Assembly Transportation Committee on April 20, 2026. He also provided information on other ACRs scheduled for the same agenda, including designations honoring a congressman and a member of the Navy. He noted that the district Board previously approved \$10,000 in a prior fiscal year to support signage. He shared that if the designation is approved and moves forward, next steps would include Caltrans requiring the district to fund the signage and associated installation costs. No action was taken.
8. First Review of Fiscal Year 2026-2027 Budget. Chief McGuire presented the initial draft of the Fiscal Year 2026–2027 budget, including proposed adjustments to personnel costs, operational expenses, and projected revenues. Discussion included proposed restructuring of Duty Chief position, adjustments to compensation, and changes to various operational line items. Chief McGuire also presented a proposed Capital Improvement Plan, including prioritization of major projects such as the Sunny Slopes Station 2 project, apparatus replacement, and training facility improvements. Board discussion occurred regarding budget priorities, compensation adjustments, and long-term planning considerations. No action was taken.
9. Fire Chief Position Ad Hoc Committee Report. Chief McGuire reported on the preliminary plan being developed by the Fire Chief Position Ad Hoc Committee, noting that it will be reviewed further with officers to finalize roles and responsibilities. He explained that the plan includes clarification of the leadership structure, including administrative responsibilities of the Fire Chief and expanded operational roles for Division Chief and Duty Chief positions, and noted that the proposed Duty Chief structure would provide daily coverage and distribute responsibilities among leadership to improve response coordination and operational support. Chief McGuire also reported that training responsibilities will be transitioned to a designated Training Officer and discussed considerations related to fire prevention, inspections, and long-term staffing needs, including opportunities for regional coordination and potential grant funding. Board discussion followed. No action was taken.

Public Comment: Sunny Slopes resident Hap Hazard commented that in situations where the State has responsibilities but lacks capacity, grant programs are sometimes developed to fund local staffing to fulfill those duties. He suggested this may be a potential option to consider for fire prevention and inspection needs.

10. Grants Ad Hoc Committee Report. Chief McGuire reported that AFG and SAFER grant opportunities have not yet opened. He reported that the committee is working together to draft, review, and search for grants and track progress. Chief McGuire also reported that the district continues to serve as a fiscal sponsor for Firewise communities seeking grant funding, and Division Chief Stump commented that additional requests may be received from groups that are in the process of becoming formally established. Chief McGuire then provided an overview of current grant activity, including current grant applications for deployable hose kits, and provided additional details on how the district will work with the community to implement and utilize the hose kits. Board discussion followed. No action was taken.
11. Discussion and possible action on managing district funds. Chief McGuire reported that no new updates were available at this time. He noted that he plans to reach out to Mono County Counsel Chris Beck for additional information. He also reported that he has begun transitioning utility vendors to credit card payments to improve payment efficiency. No action was taken.
12. Board review/approval of payment warrants since the last meeting. The Board reviewed payment warrants issued since the last meeting. A MOTION WAS MADE BY COMMISSIONER BEATTY, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER GORDON, TO APPROVE PAYMENT WARRANTS SINCE THE LAST MEETING. Motion passed 4-0 with one absence.
13. Board Secretary Report/Report on Records Management. Secretary Durgin reported that the district's financial audit is in progress and that additional information requested by the auditor has been submitted. She noted that a new contact, Mike Conley, has been assigned to the audit and that a draft report is expected soon. She also reported that the State Controller's Office Government Compensation Report has been completed and will be sent to Chief McGuire for review prior to submission, with a deadline of April 30. Secretary Durgin reported that payroll will be processed next week and that quarterly tax reports will also be completed this month. She noted upcoming limited availability due to travel from April 24-27. Secretary Durgin also provided an update on district records management, noting that she is approximately halfway through indexing archived records and is working toward getting this finished soon. She provided additional details on the indexing structure to support implementation within the 1DocStop software for district records.
14. Review correspondence received since the last regular meeting. Secretary Durgin reported on correspondence received regarding the Volunteer Length of Service Award Program (VFLSA), noting that the actuarial study determined the program is not financially sustainable in its current form and that amendments have been adopted to address long-term stability and participation requirements. She reported that approximately 11 district volunteers may be affected and that she is working to obtain updated records and clarification from VFLSA prior to notifying affected volunteers. Secretary Durgin also reported on upcoming election requirements, noting that two Board seats will be up for election in November 2026 and that candidate filing

information will be provided soon to the two Commissioners whose terms are ending. She further explained that if only two candidates file, the seats may be appointed in lieu of election, and more than two candidates file, the seats will go to election. She noted that the district is required to adopt a resolution to participate in the election and that informational webinars are being offered by the County Elections Office for those interested. Secretary Durgin reported that she provided the Board with information regarding required Board member trainings and recent changes in state law, including Senate Bill 707 (annual distribution of the Brown Act) and Senate Bill 827 (Local Agency Officials Fiscal and Financial Training). She noted that she will confirm requirements related to website posting to ensure compliance. No action was taken.

15. Review and adjust current fiscal year budget line items as necessary and accept. Chief McGuire reported that the district is tracking well in the current fiscal year budget. He reviewed expected revenue items, including anticipated reimbursement from the CalFire grant. He noted an overage in Breathing Bottles as expected and highlighted ongoing and planned station maintenance expenses, including painting, lighting upgrades, and a \$7,500 quote to complete the Memorial Garden. Chief McGuire estimated an overage in the Station Maintenance line item but noted that the district is still projected to carry over a significant balance into Fiscal Year 2026–2027. He also reviewed balances in both the operating and capital accounts and reported that the district is in a strong financial position. Chief McGuire requested approval to proceed with the station maintenance expenses including the proposed quote to complete the Memorial Garden. Board discussion followed. A MOTION WAS MADE BY COMMISSIONER BEATTY, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER BLACKMAN, TO APPROVE STATION MAINTENANCE ADJUSTMENTS TO THE CURRENT FISCAL YEAR BUDGET. Motion passed 4-0 with one absence.
16. New business and Board member reports. No reports.
17. 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 move to sub-item in Chief’s Report; Discussion and possible action on managing district funds; Second Review of Fiscal Year 2026-2027 Budget.
18. Adjournment. A motion was made by Commissioner Beatty, seconded by Commissioner Gordon, to adjourn the meeting and reconvene in regular session on May 13, 2026, at 7:00pm at the Long Valley Fire Station, 3605 Crowley Lake Drive, Crowley Lake, California. Motion passed 4-0 with one absence.

Katie Durgin
Secretary to the Board
Long Valley Fire Protection District