Long Valley Fire Protection District
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MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
June 10, 2026

Date: Wednesday, June 10, 2026
Time: 7:00 p.m.
Location: 3605 Crowley Lake Drive, Crowley Lake, CA 93546

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

Members Absent: None

Others Present: Fire Chief Scott McGuire, Division Chief Fred Stump, Equipment Manager Billy Czeschin, Chaplain/Training Officer Paul Zastoupil, Secretary Kathryn Durgin (via Google Meet), Rich Booher, Angie Plastaid, Hap Hazard

Others Absent: None

1. Call to order, roll call, Pledge of Allegiance, and announcements. The meeting was called to order at 7:03pm. Roll call was taken. Commissioner Gordon 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. Community member Angie Plastaid addressed the Board on behalf of the Crowley Lake Firewise 3 Group. She announced that the group had been awarded a grant through the Whitebark Institute to support a community wildfire mitigation project. Ms. Plastaid described an upcoming community slash collection event and requested permission to use the Long Valley Fire Protection District fire station as the collection site for the event. Discussion followed regarding the event logistics and site needs. The Chief confirmed the station could be made available for the roll off location.

   Public comment: Hap Hazard commented on his community's experience using a dumpster for fire mitigation debris. He shared observations regarding dumpster placement and loading efficiency, noting that access from only one side can make it more difficult to place debris in the container. He recommended positioning dumpsters, when possible, so they can be accessed from both sides. Further discussion followed regarding dumpster location, efficient use of the dumpster, debris placement, and disposal costs. Division Chief Stump reminded those present that the debris must be green waste only.

3. **Closed Session**: Potential Litigation Pursuant to Government Code § 54956.9(d)(4); Number of Cases: 1 (Long Valley Fire Protection District vs. Benefit Advantages for Emergency Responders (BAER)). Commissioner Melchoir moved into closed session at 7:14pm. Commissioner Melchior reconvened the meeting in open session at 7:26pm. The Board reported action to direct legal counsel regarding potential litigation including authorization to proceed with actions consistent with counsel's recommendations.

4. Discussion and take action on Retainer Agreement with the Law Office of Sophie C. Bidet. Commissioner Melchior recused himself from discussion and action on this item due to a potential conflict of interest, as his wife is employed by the Law Office of Sophie C. Bidet. Vice Chair Donna Blackman led the discussion for this agenda item. A MOTION WAS MADE BY COMMISSIONER BEATTY, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER GORDON, TO APPROVE THE RETAINER AGREEMENT WITH THE LAW OFFICE OF SOPHIE C. BIDET. Motion passed 4-0 with Commissioner Melchior recused.

5. 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 Fire Station project, sharing that he had contacted the County for an update on the project and if it is moving forward toward the Planning Commission. He read the County's response aloud reporting that the County is currently preparing the environmental documentation and staff report required before the project can move forward to the Planning Commission. He shared that the County was unable to provide a timeline for completion. Chief McGuire forwarded the County's response to District 2 Supervisor Rhonda Duggan and expressed frustration with the continued delays, emphasizing the importance of moving the project forward as it may be considered for federal appropriations funding. He further stated that there is no additional action the district can take until the County completes the required environmental documentation and the project is scheduled before the Planning Commission.

   Division Chief Fred Stump shared that the County Board of Supervisors today changed Public Facility by adding housing as a legitimate use for properties that are deemed Public Facility. Chief McGuire noted that the changes do not include fire departments and stated that including fire departments as a Public Facility use could eliminate the current process that is delaying the project from becoming shovel ready.

The Board discussed possible ways to communicate with the Mono County Board of Supervisors regarding the project's progress. Community member Hap Hazard offered to address the Board of Supervisors during public comment at an upcoming meeting and requested that a Board member attend as well. Chair Melchior stated that he would attend the meeting with Mr. Hazard.

6. Approval of the Minutes of May 13, 2026 Regular Meeting and the Minutes of May 26, 2026 Special Meeting. A MOTION WAS MADE BY COMMISSIONER BLACKMAN, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER GORDON, TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF MAY 13, 2026, REGULAR MEETING AND THE MINUTES OF THE MAY 26, 2026 SPECIAL MEETING. Motion passed 5-0.

7. Chief's Report.

   A. Volunteer Report. Chief McGuire reported that the department has responded to 15 calls since the last meeting. He shared that volunteer response has been very good recently, with an average of 9.5 responders per call. Chief McGuire also reported that the district has responded to 145 calls over the past year, averaging 8.5 volunteers responding per call, which he noted is nearly identical to the previous year's statistics.

   B. Report on Current Fire Department Activities, Assignments, and Schedule for potential Board direction.

   C. Long-Range Planning Discussion.

      a) Personnel. Chief McGuire reported that there are a couple of new volunteers on the department, as well as a couple of new juniors. He acknowledged Chaplain Paul Zastoupil for assuming the role of Training Officer and shared that he has been doing an excellent job in that position. Chief McGuire also acknowledged Equipment Manager Billy Czeschin for his dedication in serving as Duty Chief, noting that he has devoted many hours to fulfilling those responsibilities.

      b) Airport. Chief McGuire reported that CalFire is officially on site at the Mammoth Airport and that a helicopter is now stationed there. He also shared additional information regarding the presence of Sierra Lifeflight at the airport.

      c) Geothermal. No news.

      d) Station Maintenance. Chief McGuire reported that he continues to work on items related to the California Radio Interoperability System (CRIS). He also shared that the BK radios still need to be installed.

      e) Vehicle and Equipment Maintenance. Chief McGuire reported that Billy Czeschin and the crew have installed the shell, bumper, and lights on the new 3225. He shared that a few additional items remain before the vehicle can have its radios and graphics installed. Chief McGuire also reported that the new 3200 and its bumper have arrived at the station and that work will begin soon on outfitting the vehicle. He further reported that the old 3200 continues to experience brake and squealing issues. Chief McGuire also provided updates on the status of other department vehicles.

f) Pack Fire Update. Chief McGuire reported that there was an issue with the contract for cleanup at the site. He shared that the county is going back through the contracting process and has not yet provided the community with a clear timeline for when the cleanup is expected to begin.

g) County and Community Updates. Chief McGuire reported on the Morrison Fire, sharing that he believes the fire may have originated from an exploded transformer on a power pole, although the exact cause has not been confirmed. He made the Board aware of an incident involving an inebriated driver of a U.S. Forest Service vehicle that responded to the scene, which resulted in an investigation by the U.S. Forest Service. Chief McGuire shared that he was contacted by investigators and asked to provide a statement regarding his observations. He provided additional information to the Board regarding the incident. Chief McGuire further reported that the department has not yet had an opportunity to complete work at the Wilford Tower site. He shared that the agreement between Mono County and the Long Valley Fire Protection District regarding work at the site is nearing completion. Chief McGuire provided an update on the California Radio Interoperability System (CRIS) radios, including changes to the county's implementation plan. He also shared information regarding the Chiefs Association's involvement in the rollout process and provided additional details on the implementation of the CRIS radio system.

h) Grants. Chief McGuire reported that the district's 2024–2025 Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) application was officially denied. He shared that he is currently working on the 2025–2026 AFG grant application and provided additional details regarding the application. Chief McGuire also reported that the district was awarded the Whitebark Institute grant and that the contract has been signed. He shared that he is waiting for final approval before making purchases for the hose pack kit for Sunny Slopes. Chief McGuire further reported that the district received notice of approval for the Office of Transportation Safety (OTS) grant for new rescue equipment.

8. Discussion and possible action regarding Fire Chief position. Chief McGuire confirmed with the Board that they had received his resignation letter. He provided additional information regarding his decision to resign, including increased travel and limited availability. Commissioner Beatty asked whether he had any suggestions for a successor. Chief McGuire shared that there are several individuals within the district who are capable of serving as Fire Chief, but that the determining factor would be whether they have the time available to fulfill the responsibilities of the position. Discussion followed regarding next steps in the succession process. Chief McGuire shared his thoughts on evaluating the various responsibilities of the Fire Chief position, including Duty Chief

coverage, administrative oversight of day-to-day operations, inspections, and other responsibilities. Division Chief Stump suggested that the Board hold a Special Meeting to discuss the Fire Chief position and invite department personnel to provide their input. Commissioner Blackman asked whether the district is required to follow a particular process for filling the position. Chief McGuire shared that the district would need to publicly post the position and that the timeline for filling the vacancy would be determined by the Board. Further discussion was held regarding the process for filling the Fire Chief position.

> Public Comment: Hap Hazard asked the Board to clarify the discussion, stating that he was unaware of Chief McGuire's resignation. The Board clarified that Chief McGuire had submitted his resignation letter earlier that day, with an effective date of July 15, 2026.

Equipment Manager Billy Czeschin thanked Chief McGuire for his years of service and all that he has done for the district. He shared that Chief McGuire has been an outstanding Fire Chief. The Board expressed its appreciation to Chief McGuire for his service and shared that he would be greatly missed. The Board agreed to hold a Special Meeting to discuss the Fire Chief position and scheduled the meeting for Wednesday, June 24, 2026, at 7:00 p.m.

9. Discussion and possible action concerning the dedication of a portion of Highway 395 to former Captain Vidar Anderson. Division Chief Stump reported that ACR 126 unanimously passed the California Assembly Transportation Committee and has advanced to the Senate Appropriations Committee with a recommendation that it be placed on the consent agenda. He provided additional information on the status of ACR 126 and shared that he is hopeful it will be approved. Commissioner Melchior thanked Division Chief Stump for all of his work on the project.

> Public Comment: Hap Hazard commented that things typically slow down toward the end of the year in Sacramento as well. He shared that this is generally the timeline for getting things completed.

10. Public Hearing and Adoption of Fiscal Year 2026-2027 Budget. Commissioner Melchior opened public hearing for the fiscal year 2026-2027 budget. No public comment was made. Commissioner Melchior closed public hearing. A MOTION WAS MADE BY COMMISSIONER BEATTY, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER GORDON, TO APPROVE AND ADOPT THE FISCAL YEAR 2026-2027 BUDGET AS PRESENTED. Motion passed 5-0.

11. Resolution R26-06 Appreciation to Congressman Kiley for Support of the Sunny Slopes Station 2 Project. Chief McGuire read the resolutions and gave an overview of the resolutions for agenda items 11-13 aloud. A MOTION WAS MADE BY COMMISSIONER BEATTY, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER GORDON TO APPROVE RESOLUTION OF APPRECIATION R26-06, RESOLUTION OF APPRECIATION R26-07, AND

RESOLUTION OF APPRECIATION R26-08 (AGENDA ITEMS 11-13). Motion passed 5-0.

12. Resolution R26-07 Appreciation to Senator Schiff for Support of the Sunny Slopes Station 2 Project. Refer to agenda item 11 for report and approval.

13. Resolution R26-08 Appreciation to Assembly member Tangipa and Staff for Support of the Captain Vidar Anderson Memorial Highway Dedication. Refer to item 11 for report and approval.

14. Discussion and possible action on managing district funds. Chief McGuire reported that, at the last Special Meeting, the Board approved two resolutions to open separate bank accounts: one for payroll and one for operations/vendor payments. He shared that the county approved the payroll bank account, and that the transition is being completed. Chief McGuire further reported that, according to Chris Beck, the county will not provide an opinion regarding the operations/vendor payment bank account until the pending Grand Jury report is complete. Chief McGuire discussed the possibility of utilizing the new bank account to pay district vendors. He provided additional details regarding how funds would be transferred and tracked. Secretary Durgin noted that, while she agrees with the proposal, one of the conditions established by county staff for approving the payroll bank account was that it be used solely for automated payroll tax filings and that no deposits by the district, other than the initial opening deposit, will be made into the account. The Board discussed the matter further. Chief McGuire clarified that the intent of the operations/vendor payment account was not to remove all district funds from the county treasury, but rather to transfer a portion of funds on a quarterly or as-needed basis to allow the district to pay vendors in a timely manner. Given the county's requirements, Chief McGuire recommended continuing to use the payroll bank account solely for payroll purposes while moving forward with efforts to implement the separate operations/vendor payment bank account.

15. Board review/approval of payment warrants since the last meeting. The Board reviewed payment warrants issued since the last regular meeting. A MOTION WAS MADE BY COMMISSIONER CZESCHIN, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER BLACKMAN, TO APPROVE PAYMENT WARRANTS SINCE THE LAST MEETING. Motion passed 5-0.

16. Board Secretary Report/Report on Records Management. Secretary Durgin reported that the county issued the $50 check required to open the approved payroll bank account and that it should arrive at the station soon. She shared that someone from the department will need to take the check to the bank to open the account and complete the necessary paperwork once it arrives. Secretary Durgin emphasized that the bank account must be opened and connected to QuickBooks Online no later than June 30 in order to continue processing payroll beginning in July. Secretary Durgin shared that she would like additional review and support regarding the district's QuickBooks Online account, including the chart of accounts and tracking of district expenditures beyond payroll. After discussing the matter with Chief McGuire and Chair Melchior, she shared that she plans to enroll in a QuickBooks Online bookkeeping assistance program to obtain

additional guidance. Secretary Durgin reported that the program offers a 30-day free trial and that she has a meeting scheduled with a QuickBooks representative the following week to learn more about the program. She noted that if the program is not beneficial, she will cancel before the trial ends, and if it proves helpful, she anticipates using it for one to two months at a cost of $30 per month. Secretary Durgin reported that June payroll will be processed next week and will include Commissioner compensation for attendance at the May 26 Special Meeting.

Regarding Records Management, Secretary Durgin reported that she and Commissioner Blackman met with the SyTech Solutions team to review the scanned records being indexed into 1DocStop. She shared that the indexing was not yet complete and that another meeting is expected to be scheduled within one to two weeks to review the completed indexing. She further reported that she will be traveling to Utah July 23–27 and will have limited availability during that time, although she will have her computer with her if needed.

Secretary Durgin also reported that the Mono County Elections Office will be hosting a Candidate Filing Workshop on Tuesday, June 23, from 12:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m. for interested candidates. She shared that the workshop will cover the required paperwork, filing process, and deadlines. Secretary Durgin shared that candidate filing paperwork will become available on July 13, 2026, with completed forms due by 5:00 p.m. on August 7, 2026.

17. <u>Review correspondence received since the last regular meeting</u>. No correspondence reported outside of what has already been reported.

18. <u>Review and adjust current fiscal year budget line items as necessary and accept</u>. Chief McGuire reported that a correction was made under line item 201 Utilities. He shared that a FirstDue invoice had been incorrectly applied to that line item and should have been charged to line item 100 Administrative Fees. Chief McGuire reported that the correction has been made. He also reviewed the budget line items that were over budget, provided explanations for those variances, and reported that, aside from the correction, no additional budget changes are needed at this time. A MOTION WAS MADE BY COMMISSIONER BEATTY, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER BLACKMAN, TO ACCEPT THE CURRENT FISCAL YEAR BUDGET LINE ITEMS AS AMENDED. Motion passed 5-0.

19. <u>New business and Board member reports</u>. No reports.

20. <u>Call for Agenda items for the next regular meeting</u>. 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; Discussion and possible action on managing district funds.

21. <u>Adjournment.</u> A motion was made by Commissioner Czeschin, seconded by Commissioner Gordon, to adjourn the meeting and reconvene in rescheduled session on

July 1, 2026, 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