



Long Valley Fire Protection District
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MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING August 12, 2026

Date: Wednesday, August 12, 2026

Time: 7:00 p.m.

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

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

Members Absent: Lorinda Beatty

Others Present: Division Chief Fred Stump, Equipment Manager Billy Czeschin, Captain Joseph Santos, Volunteer Firefighter Gerry LeFrancois, Secretary Kathryn Durgin (via Google Meet), Becky Davis, Hap Hazard, Scott Wing-Hartlein

Others Absent: None

1. Call to order, roll call, Pledge of Allegiance, and announcements. The meeting was called to order at 7:06pm. Roll call was taken. Captain Joseph Santos 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. Public did not address the Board.
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 Report:

- a. Discussion and possible action to begin architect search for the Sunny Slopes Station 2 Project. Division Chief Fred Stump provided an update on the Station 2 project and reported that he has begun researching potential architects for the project. He shared that he has contacted several architects and provided the Board with information gathered thus far. Division Chief Stump asked whether the Board would like him to continue the process through obtaining a potential proposal. The Board discussed moving forward with the architect search. A MOTION WAS MADE BY

COMMISSIONER GORDON, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER CZESCHIN, TO AUTHORIZE DIVISION CHIEF STUMP TO CONTINUE THE ARCHITECT SEARCH PROCESS THROUGH OBTAINING A PROPOSAL FOR THE STATION 2 PROJECT. Motion passed 4-0 with 1 absent.

Public Comment: Hap Hazard commented that while he does not claim to have a background in architecture, he has looked into similar situations in the past. He noted that existing fire station designs may already be available and suggested the district consider whether an existing design could be used or adapted and then taken through the approval process. He also provided an additional potential contact for the district to consider in its search for an architect and shared information regarding that contact.

4. Approval of the Minutes of July 1, 2026 Regular Board Meeting. A MOTION WAS MADE BY COMMISSIONER BLACKMAN, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER CZESCHIN, TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF JULY 1, 2026, REGULAR MEETING. Motion passed 4-0 with 1 absent.
5. Chief's Report.
 - A. Volunteer Report. Volunteer Firefighter Gerry LeFrancois provided a training update and reported that Paul Zastoupil is now serving as Training Officer and has put together several trainings for the department. He provided an overview of recent training activities, including training with the new extrication equipment received through the Office of Traffic Safety (OTS) grant.
 - B. Report on Current Fire Department Activities, Assignments, and Schedule for potential Board direction. Division Chief Fred Stump reported that the department responded to 25 calls since the last Board meeting. He provided an overview of the calls, which included medical aids, smoke investigations, traffic collisions, vegetation fire, and public service assists.
 - C. Long-Range Planning Discussion.
 - a) Personnel. No news
 - b) Airport. Division Chief Fred Stump provided an update on upcoming airport inspections and discussed the inspections that need to be completed. He asked if a Board member would be available to assist with the inspections, and Commissioner Gordon offered to help. Division Chief Stump provided additional information on the inspection process and noted that Secretary Durgin may have a prior district inspection letter that could be used as a template for the upcoming inspections.
 - c) Geothermal. No news.

- d) Station Maintenance. Division Chief Fred Stump reported that one of the volunteer firefighters is doing station cleaning and provided an update on various minor repairs being completed at the station. Equipment Manager Billy Czeschin provided an update on work to the station gate. He shared that a quote for the gate was received and approved by the Board during the prior fiscal year and that the work is now moving forward.
 - e) Vehicle and Equipment Maintenance. Division Chief Fred Stump provided an update on radio equipment, including radios that have been ordered, the apparatus they will be installed in, and related costs. Equipment Manager Billy Czeschin provided clarification to Secretary Durgin regarding the assignment of the radios to specific apparatus for billing purposes. Division Chief Stump also provided an update on the California Radio Interoperability System (CRIS) and discussed changes to the system being developed by the county.
 - f) Pack Fire Update. Division Chief Fred Stump reported that the Grand Jury report response has been released and provided an overview of the response. He shared that he disagreed with two of the county's responses and discussed his concerns. He provided additional details related to the responses to the dispatch issues.
 - g) County and Community Updates. Division Chief Fred Stump provided an update on the status of the Wilfred Site cleanup agreement and discussed where the agreement currently stands with CSA 1.
 - h) Grants. Division Chief Fred Stump provided a grant update and reported that the district currently has two outstanding grants, including the Whitebark Grant and CalFire Grant. He provided an update on the remaining items to be addressed for each grant, including the Whitebark Grant hose kit that will be placed in the Sunny Slopes community. For the CalFire Grant, he reported that approximately \$12,000 in additional items remain to be purchased under the 50/50 cost-share grant, with approximately \$6,000 to be reimbursed to the district. Division Chief Stump also provided an update on the OTS Grant, which is currently being wrapped up, with Quarter 4 reporting to be completed by the end of October. He discussed the extent of the grant's reporting and outreach requirements, including traffic safety and equipment presentations completed by Division Chief Stump and Commissioner Blackman and two Grant Performance Review meetings with OTS. He noted that the reporting requirements involved a significant amount of work and felt the requirements were worthwhile given the \$79,500 grant award but may be more difficult to justify for a grant with a smaller award amount.
6. Discussion and possible action concerning Office of Traffic Safety (OTS) Tentative Grant Award EM27009. Division Chief Fred Stump reported that the district was recommended for an award of up to \$15,000 for rescue equipment through the OTS Regional Crash Response and Extrication Improvement Program. He noted that the district has funds available to purchase the equipment and discussed whether accepting the grant would be worthwhile given the extent of the OTS reporting requirements. He

also noted that Gerry LeFrancois is currently listed as the Grant Director for the new grant. The Board discussed whether to accept the grant or purchase the equipment using district funds. A MOTION WAS MADE BY COMMISSIONER GORDON, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER CZESCHIN, TO DECLINE THE OTS GRANT AND USE DISTRICT FUNDS TO PURCHASE THE EQUIPMENT. Motion passed 4-0, with 1 absent. Division Chief Stump asked Secretary Durgin to notify OTS Grant Coordinator Dallas Saputra of the Board's decision regarding the tentative OTS grant.

Public Comment: Hap Hazard commented that Commissioners should carefully review the requirements of grants the district considers applying for. He noted that some grants may provide reimbursement for administrative or management costs, while others do not, and that the time and resources required to administer a grant should be weighed against the value of the award. He shared that this can be particularly challenging for volunteer organizations and provided an example from his past experience where the cost associated with preparing a grant application was nearly equal to the amount ultimately awarded. He encouraged the Board to thoroughly review grant requirements and associated administrative demands when considering future grants.

7. 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 has not received any further updates since the last regular Board meeting. He shared that he spoke with District Supervisor Rhonda Duggan, who indicated that the highway dedication is expected to move forward. He noted that he was unsure whether Supervisor Duggan had been in contact with Assemblyman Tangipa's Office. Division Chief Stump explained that the resolution does not require the Governor's signature, as it is a concurrent resolution requiring agreement by both houses of the Legislature. He reported that the language approved by the Senate differed slightly from the Assembly version and was therefore returned for reconciliation. He shared that he believes the language has since been reconciled.
8. Discussion and possible action on managing district funds. Secretary Durgin reported that there were no new updates on this item and that her understanding was that the district was waiting for the Grand Jury process to conclude before further discussing the matter with Counsel Chris Beck. She noted that the Eastern Sierra bank account was recently opened to process automated payroll tax payments and recommended allowing the new process to cycle through several times, including the Volunteer Year-End Stipend, before pursuing an account for broader operational purposes. She suggested revisiting the option at the beginning of next year after gaining more experience with the new account and the related process with the county. Division Chief Fred Stump agreed that this would allow the district to determine how well the new process with the county is working before potentially pursuing use of a bank account for vendor payments.
9. 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 GORDON, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER CZESCHIN, TO

APPROVE PAYMENT WARRANTS SINCE THE LAST MEETING. Motion passed 4-0 with 1 absent.

10. Board Secretary Report/Report on Records Management. Secretary Durgin provided updates on payroll, elections, and records management. Regarding payroll, she reported that the district has completed its first payroll cycle using the new Eastern Sierra bank account for automated payroll tax payments and provided an overview of the new process with the county.

Regarding elections, Secretary Durgin reported that the two Commissioners whose terms are ending have filed their Candidate Filing paperwork and that additional information regarding next steps will be provided by the county Elections Office. She also discussed the process for filling Commissioner Beatty's upcoming vacancy, noting that once the seat is officially vacant, the district can begin the required 15-day Notice of Vacancy period. She shared that the Board will then have 60 days from the date of the vacancy to make an appointment to fill the seat. She also noted that because the vacancy will occur during the second half of the term, the appointed individual will need to file as a candidate for a new four-year term.

Regarding records management, Secretary Durgin reported that she met with SyTech Solutions to review the district's scanned records in 1DocStop. She discussed challenges with how the records were organized and with locating records through the system. She shared that SyTech suggested SharePoint as a possible alternative, and a meeting will be held to review a sample of the district's records in SharePoint. Secretary Durgin requested that a Board member attend the meeting to provide additional input. She noted that the goal is to establish a user-friendly records management system that allows district records to be easily searched, located, and accessed, particularly during leadership and personnel transitions.

Secretary Durgin also reported that she is continuing to update outdated district procedures to reflect current operations and asked for Board feedback on continuing this work as time allows.

11. Review correspondence received since the last regular meeting. Secretary Durgin reported that as the district begins using the U.S. Bank CalCard for vendor payments, both Linde Gas & Equipment and Southern California Edison have indicated that credit card payments are subject to additional surcharges. Due to the significant surcharge on the most recent Southern California Edison invoice, she opted to process the payment through the county warrant process instead. Secretary Durgin also reported that the district received a Public Records Act (PRA) request from UnGov requesting information on PRA requests received during the prior fiscal year. She provided an overview of the request, her follow-up, and the information provided to fulfill the request, noting that Division Chief Fred Stump and legal counsel Sophie Bidet were copied on the correspondence. Division Chief Stump reported that an additional PRA request had been received two days ago.

12. Review and adjust current fiscal year budget line items as necessary and accept. Division Chief Fred Stump recommended increasing budget line item #304 Rescue Equipment to \$14,000 to cover the rescue equipment the Board previously approved purchasing with district funds. A MOTION WAS MADE BY COMMISSIONER GORDON, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER CZESCHIN, TO INCREASE BUDGET LINE ITEM #304 RESCUE EQUIPMENT TO \$14,000. Motion passed 4-0, with 1 absent.
13. New business and Board member reports. Commissioner Blackman noted that emails sent from the Fire Chief email account are still displaying former Chief Scott McGuire's name and requested that this be updated to reflect "Fire Chief" rather than an individual's name.
14. 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; Discussion and possible action on managing district funds.
15. **Closed Session: Public Employee Appointment (Government Code 54957), Title: Position of Fire Chief.** The Board entered into closed session at 8:33 p.m. A MOTION WAS MADE BY COMMISSIONER MELCHIOR, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER BLACKMAN, TO RETURN TO OPEN SESSION. Motion passed 4-0, with 1 absent. The Board returned to open session at 9:12 p.m. Commissioner Melchior reported that the Board discussed the Fire Chief position during closed session, with no action taken.
16. Adjournment. A motion was made by Commissioner Gordon, seconded by Commissioner Blackman, to adjourn the meeting and reconvene in regular session on September 9, 2026, at 7:00pm at the Long Valley Fire Station, 3605 Crowley Lake Drive, Crowley Lake, California. Motion passed 4-0 with 1 absent.

Katie Durgin
Secretary to the Board
Long Valley Fire Protection District