



Long Valley Fire Protection District
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MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
July 10th, 2024

Date: Wednesday, July 10th, 2024
Time: 7:00 p.m.
Location: 3605 Crowley Lake Drive, Crowley Lake, CA 93546

Members Present: Dan Gordon, David Melchior, Lorinda Beatty, Ron Day, Kim Czeschin

Members Absent: None

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

Others Absent: None

1. Call to order, roll call, Pledge of Allegiance, and announcements. The meeting was called to order at 7:02 pm. 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. Division Chief Fred Stump addressed the Board with three items. First, he reported that during the memorial for former Long Valley Fire Commissioner Hank Brown, the department displayed an American flag on one of the fire engines. After discussing with Diane Brown, she expressed a desire to keep the flag that was displayed at the memorial. He shared that Diane Brown is planning to attend the August Board meeting where the Board can present the flag to her at that time. Secondly, Fred informed the Board that former Fire Chief Vince Maniaci will undergo heart surgery this coming Friday morning. Lastly, Fred mentioned that he and several others held a Firewise Committee formation meeting at the station last night. Several community members attended, and there was enough interest to continue forming the committee. Fred has shared the contact information of the attendees with Beth Burnam, CalFire's Regional Firewise Coordinator for Mono and Inyo counties. He plans to keep the Board updated on the progress of the Firewise committee's development.

3. Staff report on the progress of the Sunny Slopes Station 2 project. Commissioner Day opened the discussion with staff reports to be followed by public comment.

Report from Long Valley Fire Volunteer Gerry LeFrancios: Gerry reported that since the last regular meeting, he has contacted several companies to arrange for a site plan. He reached out to Eastern Sierra Land Surveying, but they declined the work. He also contacted Nathan Taylor with High Sierra Architecture, who indicated that if he were to take on the project, it would likely happen in the fall or winter. Additionally, Gerry managed to get in touch with Tom Platz from TRIAD. Gerry mentioned that Platz was very apologetic for the delayed response. They met at the office and discussed various aspects related to the site plan, including the conditions set by the Land Development Technical Advisory Committee necessary to move the conditional use permit forward. Gerry emphasized to Platz that the delay in acquiring a site plan is holding up the project's entitlement process with the county. He noted that Tom Platz, like the other companies contacted, is very busy, which might delay obtaining a site plan until the fall. Chief McGuire suggested that if Gerry does not hear back from TRIAD by Monday, he should reach out to Joe Adler with Sierra Geotechnical, who might be able to handle the site plan. Chief McGuire also confirmed that Commissioner Day has signed and submitted the agreement for preliminary funding from Mono County for the Station 2 project.

Report from Long Valley Fire Division Chief Fred Stump: Fred Stump reported that Southern California Edison has completed their revised plan for the site. He expressed satisfaction, stating that the plan met his expectations. Fred provided a brief description of the plan, detailing how the power utility will be brought to the site.

Public Comment from Sunny Slopes Resident Hap Hazard: Hap Hazard suggested that the Board consider offering to pay overtime for TRIAD staff to help expedite the project's progress.

4. Approval of the Minutes of the June 12th, 2024 Regular Meeting. A MOTION WAS MADE BY COMMISSIONER CZESCHIN, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER MELCHIOR, TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE JUNE 12TH, 2024 REGULAR MEETING. Motion passed 5-0.

5. Chief's Report.

- A. Volunteer Report. Chief McGuire reported on recent staffing changes within the department. Three new volunteers have joined, including one who had previously been with the department and is now returning. Chief McGuire also mentioned that Captain Soibian Spring is in the process of purchasing a house in Mono City and will be leaving the department soon. He further reported on a volunteer firefighter from the Sunny Slopes area who had multiple incidents with law enforcement and sent inappropriate texts to the Sunny Slopes volunteer crew. As a result, this volunteer firefighter has been removed from the department.

Chief McGuire provided an update on emergency calls since the last regular meeting, noting a total of 25 calls with an average of nine volunteers responding per call. He highlighted that this is a significant response rate given the current low number of volunteers. Chief McGuire shared details of a challenging call where they performed CPR for an extended period after detecting a pulse, but unfortunately, the patient passed away after being transported to the hospital.

He also reported that volunteer firefighter trainings are currently focused on wildland fires, small engines, CPR, and water system draft point operations. Lastly, Chief McGuire noted that the July 4th event was very successful.

- B. Report on Current Fire Department Activities, Assignments, and Schedule for potential Board direction. Chief McGuire reported that CalFire inspections are starting for designated hazard areas in the community. These inspections will focus on road access in Juniper Loop, Pearson, and Sunny Slopes. A CalFire crew is in the area and will begin these inspections tomorrow, along with defensible space inspections, which will continue over the next three weeks.

Chief McGuire provided an update on the department's radios. He shared that the installation of the California Radio Interoperability System (CRIS) is facing several issues, so it is not expected to be completed anytime soon. The department is also waiting for the arrival of new handheld radios that have been purchased. Additionally, Chief McGuire has applied for a grant to update all apparatus radios to the newer mountain CRIS radios. He explained the current plan for the apparatus radios and provided a brief description of how radio operations will function in the process of waiting for the installation and activation of the CRIS system.

Chief McGuire also mentioned that he is awaiting a response on the Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) he applied for, expecting to hear back next month. He is also waiting for feedback from Inland Counties Emergency Medical Aid (ICEMA) regarding the challenges fire districts face in purchasing medical equipment that is not covered under ICEMA protocols. Chief McGuire attended a meeting last Monday to address these challenges, where it was suggested that fire departments acquire their own medical control by designating a local medical provider as the medical director. He noted that there is a Chief's Association meeting next Monday, during which he expects to receive an update on ICEMA protocols.

- C. Long-Range Planning Discussion.

(a) Personnel. Chief McGuire noted that in the past, the department has offered to either pay for EMT courses or other training taken by personnel outside of the department or provide up to \$1,000 towards the cost of such courses. He asked the Board if they wished to continue this policy. The Board agreed to continue providing up to \$1,000 towards outside training costs.

(b) Airport. Chief McGuire reported that the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Airport and the Town of Mammoth Lakes has been delayed

by the Town's lawyers, who have a few minor questions that need to be addressed before proceeding. One of the requirements is an approved and adopted District Fee Schedule, which will be included as an addendum to the MOU (to be addressed during this meeting). Once the District Fee Schedule is approved and adopted, the MOU will be presented to the Town Council for their approval and adoption.

(c) Geothermal. No news.

(d) Station Maintenance. Chief McGuire reported an unusual incident at the station where 69 gallons of gas went missing. Despite investigating, he and other department personnel found no evidence of siphoning. At this time, there is no clear explanation for how it went missing. Chief McGuire and the department will continue to monitor the area using security cameras and investigate the situation further.

(e) Vehicle and Equipment Maintenance. Chief reported on the self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA) bottles, stating that, after reviewing all department bottles and National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) standards, several need replaced due to being out of date. He has already purchased four 60-minute bottles and eight 45-minute bottles, exceeding the budget by \$3,000 for the past fiscal year. He also noted that additional bottles still need to be replaced and that each bottle has a lifespan of 15 years.

(f) Board of Forestry Fire Safe Regulations Discussion and Possible Action. No news.

6. 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 REGULAR BOARD MEETING. Motion passed 5-0.

7. Discussion and Possible Action on the Dedication of a portion of Highway 395 to former Long Valley Fire Captain Vidar Anderson. Fred Stump reported that he has been forwarding all correspondence to the Board regarding the potential highway dedication. He provided a brief summary, mentioning that he submitted Resolution R24-06 to the county and the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans). Fred mentioned that it was recommended to contact the office of State Senator Alvarado-Gil, so he spoke with one of the Senator's staff members and sent them information to review.

Fred noted that the section of the highway between mile marker 203 and the Convict Lake exit has just been approved to be dedicated in honor of Dave McCoy. He added that there are other sections of the highway still available for potential dedication in honor of Captain Vidar Anderson. Caltrans has sent Fred press releases and resolutions to use as references in this process, and he is continuing to work with the necessary personnel to move the dedication forward.

Fred emphasized to the Board that there will be costs associated with the highway dedication, specifically for the initial purchase and ongoing maintenance of the sign. He proposed adding an action item to the agenda for the August Board meeting to discuss

whether the Long Valley Fire District is willing to cover these costs. Fred is waiting on a quote for the expenses and will keep the Board updated with any further correspondence regarding the highway dedication.

8. Discussion and action on refurbishment of the Memorial Garden. Commissioner Beatty reported that after discussing with Billy Czeschin and others involved, the main points raised were that the volunteers would like Captain Vidar Anderson's memorial to remain unchanged, while the other memorials could be altered. She noted that the Chief has a vision for the memorial garden's design, and the volunteers have expressed that they trust him with this vision. Commissioner Beatty shared that a volunteer suggested using cinder blocks matching the station as a background wall for placing the plaques. She reported that there was also a discussion about making the memorial garden a place where people can sit, and concerns were raised about potential snow removal damage with the suggestion to place a guard around the garden to prevent damage. Chief McGuire added that he would like to keep the garden at a height suitable for seating. He also mentioned the possibility of softening the garden's corners to facilitate snow removal and ease the backing out of apparatus in that area.
9. Public Hearing and Adoption for District Fee Schedule. Chief McGuire provided copies of the District Fee Schedule to the Board. Chief McGuire reviewed the fee schedule with the Board and public providing a brief explanation of each item listed on the fee schedule. Commissioner Day opened the public hearing concerning the District Fee Schedule. No public comment was made. Commissioner Day closed the public hearing. A MOTION WAS MADE BY COMMISSIONER BEATTY, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER GORDON TO ADOPT THE DISTRICT FEE SCHEDULE AS PRESENTED. Motion passed 5-0.
10. Adoption of Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Airport and the Town of Mammoth Lakes. Chief McGuire announced that there will not be an adoption at this meeting because the approved District Fee Schedule, which will be included in the MOU, still needs to go to the Town Council for review. Fred Stump suggested that the department reference the original fee schedule and resolution approved by the Long Valley Fire Board in 2002 on the district fee schedule.
11. Review and approve the Official Comment from Long Valley Fire on Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) Proposed Emergency Response Standard. Chief McGuire shared that it was suggested to focus on one to three key issues from the Proposed Emergency Response Standard and provide comments specifically on those issues. He is currently finalizing a draft of the official comment from Long Valley Fire and read it aloud to the Board. He highlighted concerns about new required training standards and their associated costs, the physical test requirements for professional firefighting standards, the mandatory medicals for all firefighting personnel and related expenses, and the new turnout gear requirements. Fred Stump recommended that the comment should also convey the overall picture of the Proposed Emergency Response Standard, emphasizing that it may not be a viable operating system for volunteer fire

departments. The Board approved Chief McGuire to finalize and submit the official comment.

12. Resolution R24-08 Ordering Election, Requesting County Elections to Conduct the Election, Requesting Consolidation of Election, and Specifications of the Election Order. A MOTION WAS MADE BY COMMISSIONER BEATTY, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER GORDON TO APPROVE RESOLUTION R24-08 AND WAIVE THE READING OF THE RESOLUTION. Motion passed 5-0.
13. Board Secretary Report. Secretary Durgin provided a report on recent activities since the last regular meeting. She announced that the Candidate Filing Period begins next week, running from July 15th to August 9th, 2024. Three Board members will need to complete Candidacy Filing forms. She informed the Board that these forms will be available on Monday, July 15th, and she will email them to the necessary Board members. She noted that the forms require an original signature from the District Secretary, but since she is working remotely, Queenie Barnard will sign on her behalf.

Secretary Durgin explained the US Bank carryover balance discussed at the June Board meeting. After thorough research and discussions with multiple US Bank representatives, she identified that the carryover balance resulted from two unpaid invoices. The first invoice, from May 2022, was overlooked, while the second, from November 2022, was possibly never received by the department. She requested approval from the Chief and Board to pay these amounts on the next US Bank invoice. Additionally, she prepared a report detailing each item paid since April 2022, indicating how each purchase should be allocated in the budget as well as for any questions that may come up in the upcoming audit.

She also reported that the Quarterly Tax Reports for the second quarter of 2024 are complete and have been submitted. Lastly, Secretary Durgin requested time off for an unexpected family trip next week. While she will be available for the regular warrant schedule, she will not be available from Wednesday evening through Sunday for any urgent matters. The Board approved her request for time off.

14. Review correspondence received since the last regular meeting. Secretary Durgin reported on correspondence from the IRS regarding the misapplication of quarterly tax payments during 2023. She has been working with the IRS for the past two to three months to resolve the issue and has confirmed that all payments are now correctly applied, with the account showing a zero balance. She has requested that the IRS send a notice for each quarter confirming these payments, which will be kept for department records.
15. Review and adjust current FY budget line items as necessary and accept. The Board reviewed the current budget and expenditures summary. Chief McGuire noted that for fiscal year 2023-2024 there will be an overage of \$7,000 for line item #219 Breathing Bottles for the purchase of breathing bottles to replace the outdated ones. Chief noted that the CalFire grant check for radios did come in and is reflected in line item #210 Equipment-Maintenance-Radios.

16. New business. No new business.

1. Call for Agenda items for the next regular meeting. Staff report on the progress of the Sunny Slopes Station 2 project; Discussion and action on approving the costs for creating, installing, and maintaining the sign dedicating a portion of Highway 395 in honor of former Captain Vidar Anderson; Discussion and action on refurbishment of the Memorial Garden; Adoption of MOU between the Airport and the Town of Mammoth Lakes (tentative based on approval from Mammoth Lakes Town Council).

17. Closed Session pursuant to California Government Code Section 54957 (b)(1): Employee Performance Reviews. Commissioner Day started the closed session for employee performance reviews. Commissioner Day opened the session and employee performance reviews were completed.

18. Adjournment. A motion was made by Commissioner Beatty, seconded by Commissioner Czeschin, to adjourn the meeting and reconvene in regular session on August 14th, 2024, at 7:00 pm 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