



Long Valley Fire Protection District  
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MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING  
August 14<sup>th</sup>, 2024

Date: Wednesday, August 14<sup>th</sup>, 2024  
Time: 7:00 p.m.  
Location: 3605 Crowley Lake Drive, Crowley Lake, CA 93546

Members Present: Dan Gordon (attending as a member of the public via Google Meet),  
David Melchior, Kim Czeschin, Lorinda Beatty, Ron Day

Members Absent: None

Others Present: Fire Chief Scott McGuire, Division Chief Fred Stump, Equipment Manager  
Billy Czeschin, Secretary Kathryn Durgin (via Google Meet), Diane  
Brown, Paul Zastoupil, Becky Davis, 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. No announcements were made.
2. Discussion and Election of Board Chair. Commissioner Day asked the Board members who would be willing to take on the role of Board Chair. Commissioner Beatty volunteered to serve as Board Chair Elect, while Commissioner Melchior volunteered for the position of Vice Chair. A MOTION WAS MADE BY COMMISSIONER CZESCHIN, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER DAY, TO ELECT COMMISSIONER BEATTY AS BOARD CHAIR ELECT AND COMMISSIONER MELCHIOR AS VICE CHAIR ELECT. Motion passed 4-0 with one absent.
3. Presentation of Memorial Flag to Diane Brown. *The Long Valley Fire Board of Commissioners will present the flag flown at former Commissioner Hank Brown's memorial service to Diane Brown, spouse of the late former Commissioner Hank Brown, in recognition of his dedicated service and in honor of his memory.* Chief McGuire shared a tradition at Long Valley Fire, where Commissioner Brown would read aloud any resolution related to an individual's service in their honor. Chief McGuire noted that a few months ago, there was a resolution acknowledging the life and service of Commissioner Brown. To honor his memory, Chief McGuire asked Division Chief Fred Stump to read the

resolution aloud, which he did. Chief McGuire also shared that the department recites the Pledge of Allegiance at every Board meeting because of Commissioner Brown. He highlighted that Commissioner Brown's influence spans the tenure of three Fire Chiefs, and his impact on the department is deeply felt. The Board of the Long Valley Fire Protection District presented the memorial flag to Diane Brown in recognition of Commissioner Brown's dedicated service.

4. 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.
5. Staff report on the progress of the Sunny Slopes Station 2 project. Commissioner Beatty opened the discussion with staff reports to be followed by public comment.

*Report from Long Valley Fire Chief Scott McGuire:* Chief McGuire reported that TRIAD has continued to be busy and there has not been progress made on acquiring a site plan. He shared that the department will need to look for someone in Nevada, as they have not found a local provider for the site plan. He noted that Gerry LeFrancois is currently working to identify an appropriate company that can deliver a site plan within a reasonable timeframe. Chief McGuire also reported that he will collaborate with Secretary Durgin to determine the best way to issue a check to the California State Board of Equalization for the jurisdictional boundary change application fees. The application is being submitted by the Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO) on behalf of Long Valley Fire and Birchum Community Service District (BCSD).

*Public Comment from Sunny Slopes Resident Hap Hazard:* Hap Hazard provided feedback on the wording of the agenda for the Sunny Slopes item. He requested that the agenda item be revised to include direct staff to be involved in the report on the Sunny Slopes Station 2 project.

6. Approval of the Minutes of the July 10<sup>th</sup>, 2024 Regular Meeting. A MOTION WAS MADE BY COMMISSIONER CZESCHIN, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER DAY, TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE JULY 10TH, 2024 REGULAR MEETING. Motion passed 4-0 with one absent.
7. Chief's Report.
  - A. Volunteer Report. Chief McGuire reported that CalFire inspections have taken place at Juniper Loop, Pearson region, and Sunny Slopes. Chief shared that the two individuals performing the survey decided that Juniper Loop did not warrant any further action, however they did note the heavy overgrowth in the area. For Pearson region and Sunny Slopes, CalFire recommended improving existing access roads and creating reliable secondary routes. Chief shared that the defensible space inspections by CalFire are ongoing, and the department will be notified once they are complete. Additionally, he reported that Long Valley Fire participated in a C17 program at Mammoth Airport, where they observed a Blackhawk helicopter being loaded into a

C17 aircraft. Chief McGuire mentioned that the installation of CRIS radios for Long Valley Fire is expected to occur soon. He also reviewed the department's past mitigation fee studies, finding that the last study was conducted in 2004, with an update attempted but not completed in 2017. Moving forward, he shared that the department has two options: hiring a company to perform a new study for approximately \$10,000 or exploring a more complex, potentially cheaper option, which is dependent on county council. On the topic of Inland Counties Emergency Aid (ICEMA), Chief McGuire highlighted the challenges fire districts face in purchasing medical equipment not covered by ICEMA protocols. He is currently exploring potential candidates for medical direction within the community and is waiting on possible county-wide solutions at the direction of the Mono County Chief's Association. Chief reported that the Long Valley volunteer firefighters recently attended a social event at Mammoth Lakes Fire to strengthen relationships and prepare for the upcoming Triannual MCI training at Mammoth Airport on September 28th. He shared that the focus of volunteer trainings over the next few weeks will be on trauma to prepare for this event. Lastly, Chief McGuire reported that there have been 16 emergency calls since the last meeting, including medical aids, vehicle fires, traffic collisions, and an armed shooting incident, for which Billy Czeschin provided additional details.

Public Comment from Sunny Slopes resident Hap Hazard: Hap Hazard raised concerns about the CalFire report on the access road to the Sunny Slopes subdivision, highlighting that this section of road is a significant source of dust. He noted that in the past, there were suggestions to seal the road to address the issue. However, due to several jurisdictional challenges in improving the road, Hap suggested that the matter be brought to the Mono County Local Transportation Commission (LTC). This would allow multiple agencies that use the road to collaborate on getting it paved. He recommended that Long Valley Fire discuss supporting this effort and consider formally writing a letter to the county, emphasizing that this road provides the fastest route for emergency response to the area.

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 Captain Soibian Spring will be moving soon. He shared that after a conversation with the Long Valley Fire leadership team, they have identified a few individuals including Paul Zastoupil that will be taking on leadership roles in the department. Chief reported regarding staffing changes that there are also a couple of new volunteers who have come on the department. Chief shared that he would like to start running background checks on new incoming personnel. The Board is in agreement with this decision.

(b) Airport. Chief McGuire reported that the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Airport and the Town of Mammoth Lakes is pending given some

questions related to the mitigation fees. Chief has suggested that the MOU move forward using the mitigation fees that have already been approved.

(c) Geothermal. No news.

(d) Station Maintenance. No news.

(e) Vehicle and Equipment Maintenance. Chief McGuire reported that pump testing and testing of self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA) are both scheduled for this week.

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

8. Board review/approval of payment warrants since the last meeting. A MOTION WAS MADE BY COMMISSIONER DAY, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER MELCHIOR TO APPROVE PAYMENT WARRANTS SINCE LAST REGULAR BOARD MEETING. Motion passed 4-0 with one absent.
9. 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. Division Chief Fred Stump reported that the Caltrans estimate for creating and installing the sign is approximately \$5,000, with additional long-term costs for maintenance. He emphasized the importance of having an entity responsible for covering these costs to move forward with the highway dedication. Fred has provided the Board with copies of the sign requirements and the order form. He shared that if the Board of Commissioners agrees to cover these expenses, the next step is to arrange a video call with the State Senator's office to initiate the necessary legislation process. Fred also noted that the Board of Supervisors might pass a resolution supporting this dedication next Tuesday, and if that happens, he will send out a confirmation to the Board. A MOTION WAS MADE BY COMMISSIONER DAY, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER MELCHIOR, TO AMEND THE AMOUNT TO COVER THE COSTS OF THE SIGN CREATION AND INSTALLATION TO \$10,000 AS WELL AS COVER THE COST OF FUTURE SIGN REPAIRS. Motion passed 4-0 with one absent.
10. Discussion and action on refurbishment of the Memorial Garden. Chief McGuire reported that there has been little progress on the Memorial Garden since the last regular meeting. No action is required at this time.
11. Adoption of Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Airport and the Town of Mammoth Lakes. Chief McGuire distributed a copy of the MOU to the Board for review and highlighted several key items, including new construction reviews by the district, the agreement between the Town of Mammoth Lakes and the fire district to develop an inspection program, and the district fee schedule included in the MOU. Commissioner Beatty opened public comment. No public comment was made. A MOTION WAS MADE BY COMMISSIONER DAY, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER MELCHIOR, TO APPROVE AND ADOPT THE MEMORANDUM OF

UNDERSTANDING AS PRESENTED BETWEEN THE AIRPORT AND THE TOWN OF MAMMOTH LAKES. Motion passed 4-0 with one absent.

12. Discussion regarding the CalFire Subdivision Survey Reports for Pearson and Sunny Slopes. Chief McGuire covered this topic under Chief's Report.
13. Board Secretary Report. Secretary Durgin reported on recent activities since the last regular meeting. She received a Candidate Filing Forms Notice from Queenie Bernard, confirming that all required candidacy forms have been submitted. The notice stated that according to California Elections Code section 10515, the Board of Supervisors will appoint the Long Valley Fire members who filed candidacy forms in lieu of an election. Additionally, Secretary Durgin noted that the Volunteer Firefighter Length of Service Award (VFLSA) report for 2023-2024 has been submitted. However, an invoice generated during submission had incorrect credit years for one of the volunteers. She has contacted VFLSA to correct the issue and will forward the revised invoice to the Chief for approval. Lastly, Secretary Durgin received a Notice of Policy Conditional Renewal from Volunteer Fireman's Insurance Services (VFIS) regarding updates to their insurance policies. She has reached out to Long Valley Fire's insurance brokers, Simone and Christian Mello of George Petersen Insurance Agency, to follow up on the notice. They have not yet reviewed the changes but will inform the department of any significant updates related to the policy and renewal once they do.
14. Review correspondence received since the last regular meeting. Secretary Durgin reported that since the last regular meeting, correspondence has involved notices of late or unpaid invoices from Southern California Edison, Linde Gas & Equipment, and Crane's Waste Oil. She has followed up with each vendor and the county, confirmed that payments have been made, and the issues have been resolved.
15. Review and adjust current FY budget line items as necessary and accept. The Board reviewed the current budget and expenditures summary. No adjustments were made.
16. New business. Chief McGuire suggested adding a discussion on compensation for the Fire Chief and Board Secretary positions to the agenda for the next regular meeting. Commissioner Beatty mentioned that the August 6th Board of Supervisors meeting was particularly insightful regarding fire departments and public utilities. She noted that the Board of Supervisors is considering providing assistance to special districts, potentially by appointing a liaison to help with tasks such as navigating grants, offering support for secretaries, and addressing other needs specific to special districts.
17. Call for Agenda items for the next regular meeting. Staff report on the progress of the Sunny Slopes Station 2 project; Discussion and possible action on Compensation for the Fire Chief and Board Secretary position; Discussion and action on refurbishment of the Memorial Garden.
18. Adjournment. A motion was made by Commissioner Day, seconded by Commissioner Czeschin, to adjourn the meeting and reconvene in regular session on September 11th,

2024, at 7:00 pm at the Long Valley Fire Station, 3605 Crowley Lake Drive, Crowley Lake, California. Motion passed 4-0 with one absent. Meeting adjourned at 8:14pm.

Katie Durgin  
Secretary to the Board  
Long Valley Fire Protection District