



Long Valley Fire Protection District  
3605 Crowley Lake Drive • Crowley Lake • California 93546  
760.935.4545 / 760.935.4436 (facsimile)  
longvalleyfd@gmail.com

**MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING  
October 9<sup>th</sup>, 2024**

Date: Wednesday, October 9<sup>th</sup>, 2024

Time: 7:00 p.m.

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

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

Members Absent: None

Others Present: Fire Chief Scott McGuire, Division Chief Fred Stump, Secretary Kathryn Durgin (via Google Meet), Gerry LeFrancois, Hap Hazard, Becky Davis

Others Absent: None

1. Call to order, roll call, Pledge of Allegiance, and announcements. The meeting was called to order at 7:07pm. Commissioner Melchior 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 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 the Sierra Geotechnical soil reports have been completed. He received two quotes for a site survey: one from R.O. Anderson Engineering at \$4,500 and another from Eastern Sierra Engineering at \$15,000. Despite the significant price difference, Chief McGuire noted that the site plan proposals were quite similar. He favored the R.O. Anderson quote, as it included a clear timeline of eight to nine weeks, whereas Eastern Sierra Engineering did not provide a timeline. Chief McGuire recommended selecting R.O. Anderson for the survey.

Chief McGuire also provided a project timeline update for Station 2, noting that the project is nearly a year behind his initial schedule. He now anticipates starting the Design phase in the summer or fall of 2025, with construction likely beginning in 2026. Division Chief Fred Stump added that this updated timeline aligns with funding discussions he's had with District Supervisor Rhonda Duggan.

Regarding project costs, Chief McGuire reported that expenses for the Planning and Development phase, including the soils report and site plan, total between \$20,000 and \$25,000. The Design phase is projected to cost around \$100,000, bringing the total anticipated cost to approximately \$125,000 through the Design phase. This aligns with available funding from the County and the Board of Commissioners. Chief McGuire indicated that, based on current projections, the project is on track with both funding and planning to be shovel-ready by 2026. He expects limited updates on the project until January or February 2025.

*Comment from Gerry LeFrancois:* Gerry LeFrancois commented that although the process to obtain a full site plan and complete the Conditional Use Permit has taken considerable time, it's encouraging to see progress now being made. He noted that TRIAD has already created a topographical map for the project parcel, yet R.O. Anderson is proposing to create a new one. Gerry expressed that, given the cost already incurred for TRIAD's map, he would like to look into obtaining the existing file from TRIAD to avoid the expense of producing a new topographical map.

*Public Comment:* Hap Hazard shared his appreciation for the department's efforts, acknowledging the challenges Fred and Gerry are navigating in this process. He expressed gratitude on behalf of the community for their dedication to the project. Becky Davis also voiced her thanks to the department for their hard work and commitment.

4. Approval of the Minutes of the September 11<sup>th</sup>, 2024 Regular Meeting. A MOTION WAS MADE BY COMMISSIONER GORDON, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER MELCHIOR, TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER 11<sup>TH</sup>, 2024 REGULAR MEETING. Motion passed 5-0.
5. Chief's Report.
  - A. Volunteer Report. Chief McGuire provided an update on department activities since the last regular meeting, noting that the volunteer roster has remained steady at 26 volunteers. He reported that there have been nine calls since the previous meeting. He shared that there have been some members of the community that he anticipates having more emergency calls from over the next four to six months.
  - B. Report on Current Fire Department Activities, Assignments, and Schedule for potential Board direction. Chief McGuire reported that Mono County recently hosted a multi-agency Mass Casualty Incident (MCI) drill, marking the largest MCI drill in the county's history. Chief McGuire briefly recapped the drill, highlighting both challenges and successes. He shared that the exercise involved two simultaneous

events: a medical drill and a fire response drill simulating a 40-person plane crash. Chief McGuire noted that the fire drill aspect generally went smoothly, though agencies faced some challenges with radio communication and medical response operations. He shared that the triage drill was more chaotic, emphasizing the importance of these trainings for improving procedures. Commissioner Gordon commented on aspects of the drill he found effective and suggested potential improvements, particularly in the area of emergency call communication with the hospital. Chief McGuire concluded that the drill was a valuable learning experience for all agencies involved.

Chief McGuire also reported that the department's recent application for the Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) was unsuccessful. Additionally, he shared that he met with Dr. Andre Burnier, the emergency physician at Mammoth Hospital, to discuss new Inland Counties Emergency Medical Agency (ICEMA) protocols. Dr. Burnier will serve as the department's new medical director, and Chief McGuire has a follow-up meeting with him next week. Lastly, Chief McGuire shared that he has been in discussions with Secretary Durgin about developing a Records Retention Policy, with the goal of digitizing department records. He proposed creating an ad hoc committee to work on this policy, consisting of Secretary Durgin, one or two Commissioners, and himself.

C. Long-Range Planning Discussion.

(a) Personnel. Chief McGuire reported that Paul Zastoupil and Devin Preston were promoted to Captains. He reported that Billy Czeschin and Joseph Santos were also promoted to Battalion Chiefs.

(b) Airport. Chief McGuire reported that the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Town of Mammoth Lakes and the Airport is still in review. According to Chief, the MOU will hopefully be going before Town Council in November.

(c) Geothermal. No news.

(d) Station Maintenance. Chief McGuire reported that he is considering a change in the station's cleaning service. He has spoken with a local family-owned professional cleaning business that would provide more comprehensive cleaning than the current arrangement. He noted that the new cleaners would follow a regular schedule and supply their own cleaning materials. Chief McGuire stated that while the cost may be higher than the current service, the improved quality may justify the additional expense.

(e) Vehicle and Equipment Maintenance. Division Chief Fred Stump reported that he has a contractor he is looking into to complete several maintenance tasks at the station, including repairing the broken loft stairs, adding heat protection for the generator and exhaust, replacing the exterior door, addressing water damage, and fixing the upstairs air conditioning unit, among other potential items. He shared that the contractor is available to start in about a week, with the work taking about five

days at a cost of approximately \$3,000 to \$4,000. Chief McGuire noted that, unless there are objections, he plans to proceed with both the new cleaning service and the required maintenance work.

Chief McGuire also provided an update on the California Radio Interoperability System (CRIS). He reported that CRIS radios have been installed in all vehicles except 3201, the base radios, and 3232. According to Chief McGuire, although the radios are installed, the CRIS system is not yet operational due to ongoing challenges faced by the IT department. Chief McGuire estimated that the CRIS system is likely one to two years from full implementation. The Board discussed the CRIS system's progress and its implementation.

(f) County and Community Updates. No news.

Commissioner Beatty opened the agenda item to public comment. No public comment was made.

6. Board review/approval of payment warrants since the last meeting. A MOTION WAS MADE BY COMMISSIONER DAY, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER CZESCHIN TO APPROVE PAYMENT WARRANTS SINCE LAST REGULAR BOARD MEETING. Motion passed 5-0.
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 reached out in September to both the State Senator's office and the Caltrans coordinator. Today, he received a response from the State Senator's office, where a new staff member has requested a meeting with him. Fred will arrange this meeting and ensure the staff member has all the necessary information. He noted that he has not yet received a response from Caltrans. Fred requested that the Secretary include this topic as an agenda item for the November meeting, where he will provide an update.
8. Discussion and possible action regarding a public request to investigate responsibility for monitoring, notifications, and emergency response in the event of a Rock Creek Dam failure. Division Chief Fred Stump confirmed that the Rock Creek Dam falls within Inyo County Supervisor Trina Orrill's district. Chief McGuire added that the dam is not owned, monitored, or maintained by the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP). Commissioner Beatty clarified that the Forest Service is responsible for the monitoring and maintenance of Rock Creek Dam and noted that it does not fall within the Long Valley Fire District's sphere of influence. Commissioner Beatty shared that, given this, it would not be appropriate for the department to send a letter as requested. Commissioner Beatty shared that she conducted some research and found relevant information. She provided a brief overview of her findings, including contact details for a Bureau of Land Management (BLM) employee who directed her to a hydrologist with the National Forest Service. Commissioner Beatty will pass this information along to Hap Hazard if he wishes to pursue the matter further. She expressed understanding for Hap's concerns but emphasized that addressing issues related to the dam would be a county matter, as it falls outside the department's scope.

*Public comments:* Hap Hazard commented that there may be a misunderstanding especially given the language of the agenda item. He clarified that he is not asking the department to take on the responsibility of monitoring the dam, but rather for the Long Valley Fire Board of Commissioners to inquire about who is responsible for monitoring the dam and notifying the public in the event of a dam failure. He expressed concern about the lack of information available regarding notification procedures if Rock Creek Dam experiences problems. He believes a notification system should be in place for such emergencies and noted that he is unsure which agency is responsible for alerting the public in case of a dam failure.

Commissioner Beatty responded that the investigation into who is responsible for monitoring the dam and handling notifications for dam failures falls outside the department's scope and is the responsibility of higher agencies. No further comments were made by the Board or the public.

9. Discussion and action on refurbishment of the Memorial Garden. Chief McGuire reported that no progress has been made since last regular meeting.
10. Discussion and possible action regarding compensation for Billy Czeschin. Commissioner Beatty requested that Commissioner Czeschin refrain from participating in the discussion due to a conflict of interest. Commissioner Day, who initiated the agenda item, explained that he wanted the Board to consider a salary increase for Billy Czeschin, the Equipment Manager, following the recent salary increases for the Fire Chief and Secretary. Chief McGuire clarified that the proposed compensation increase pertains specifically to the Equipment Manager position. The Board engaged in discussion regarding salary increases. Commissioners Beatty and Melchior recommended a comprehensive review of all paid positions, including the year-end volunteer stipend, to ensure fairness and avoid any unnecessary tension among volunteers. Fred Stump commented that volunteers receive stipends for calls and trainings and noted that he has not heard any complaints about Billy Czeschin's salary. He cautioned that focusing too heavily on personnel costs might affect the department's operations, but he agreed that increasing volunteer stipends could be a separate matter worth considering. Commissioner Gordon provided comment clarifying that the proposed salary increase specifically pertains to the Equipment Manager position, rather than to Billy Czeschin personally. Chief McGuire suggested three separate possible considerations: evaluating the hours and work of the Equipment Manager, reviewing the volunteer year-end stipend, and recognizing exceptional service among volunteers. He highlighted Billy Czeschin's invaluable contributions as well as noted a handful of volunteers who also consistently contribute significant hours.

The Board agreed to do a comprehensive review of paid positions including the year-end volunteer stipend. Chief McGuire clarified that the agenda item for the November regular meeting will be to review the compensatory roles including the year-end stipend for volunteer firefighters, Training Officer, Assistant Training Officer, and Assistant Chief/Duty Chief. A MOTION WAS MADE BY COMMISSIONER GORDON, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER DAY, TO PROVIDE A 25% INCREASE TO THE

SALARY OF THE EQUIPMENT MANAGER POSITION. Motion passed 4 with 1 recusal.

11. Board Secretary Report. Secretary Durgin provided an update on activities since the last regular meeting. She reported that the insurance renewals for both Volunteer Fireman's Insurance Services (VFIS) and State Compensation Insurance Fund (SCIF) Workers Compensation are currently taking place. She shared that the renewal proposal for VFIS, received from Christian Mello at George Petersen Insurance Agency, shows coverage and costs comparable to the current policy. However, the Workers Compensation proposal has not yet been received as the department is waiting on two separate quotes related to the Fire Chief's full salary benefits from broker Ben Romo. Once the quotes are received, she will work with Chief McGuire to determine the best option.

Secretary Durgin reported on a request from Fred Stump, who was contacted by Eric Eilts, the Mono County Parks and Facilities Superintendent, regarding paperwork for Hunt Propane. Secretary Durgin shared that the county will be swapping the AmeriGas tank at the station for Hunt Propane, and that she has submitted the necessary paperwork to set up an account.

Secretary Durgin provided a report on an amount still owed for a Xerox machine that the department has had in the past. She shared that an invoice for \$3,549.77 was received from the Receivable Management Services, a debt collection agency contracted by Xerox. Upon investigation, she discovered that a lease for the machine started in 2014 for a 60-month term. She noted that the machine appears to have stopped functioning around 2017, which aligns with the last payment made. According to Secretary Durgin, records indicate that former Fire Chief Vince Maniaci attempted for two years to cancel the account due to the machine's malfunction and lack of maintenance from Xerox. She stated that currently the account is in "dispute status." Chief McGuire added that according to the string of emails between Xerox staff and former Chief Maniaci, there were also issues with communication among the Xerox staff. Commissioner Beatty instructed Secretary Durgin to draft a formal letter of dispute to the Receivable Management Services, including all relevant email documentation.

Secretary Durgin also reported the receipt of two checks from the Town of Mammoth Lakes for the C17 and July 4th coverage, reflected in the Expenditures Summary and disbursements. She reported that the quarterly tax reports for the third quarter have been submitted. Lastly, she mentioned upcoming anticipated items, including the SCIF Workers Compensation audit, the Fetcher Financial audit, and the volunteer year-end stipend.

12. Review correspondence received since the last regular meeting. All correspondence was included in prior agenda item reports.
13. Review and adjust current fiscal year budget line items as necessary and accept. Commissioner Beatty noted that there will need to be an adjustment in the budget for the compensation increase for the Equipment Manager position.

14. New business and Board member reports. No new business or Board member reports.
15. 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 refurbishment of the Memorial Garden; Discussion and possible action concerning the dedication of a portion of Highway 395 to former Captain Vidar Anderson; Discussion and possible action regarding compensatory roles including volunteer firefighter year-end stipend, Training Officer, Assistant Training Officer, and Assistant Fire Chief/Duty Chief.
16. Adjournment. A motion was made by Commissioner Day, seconded by Commissioner Gordon, to adjourn the meeting and reconvene in regular session on November 13th, 2024, at 7:00 pm at the Long Valley Fire Station, 3605 Crowley Lake Drive, Crowley Lake, California. Motion passed 5-0. Meeting adjourned at 7:45 pm.

Katie Durgin  
Secretary to the Board  
Long Valley Fire Protection District