

SOUTHERN INYO FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT
NON-CONFIDENTIAL UNAPPROVED MINUTES OF THE
REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Thursday, December 18, 2025

The Governing Board of the Southern Inyo Fire Protection District held a regular business meeting on Thursday, December 18, 2025 at 6pm at the Hurlbut Rook Community Center.

- I. Call to order and determination of quorum**
Present: Robin Flinchum, Chair, Cameron Mayer, Vice-Chair, Eliza Woodall, Secretary
Colette Zelwer, Treasurer, Bill Lutze, Mike Jerry, Brad Goans, Billy Eichenbaum (via Zoom). Flinchum establishes a quorum and calls meeting to order at 6:01.
- II. Good of the Order**
- III. Public Comment:** 3 minutes per participant
- IV. Consent Agenda** (Items that are considered routine and are approved in a single motion)
 - A. Approve minutes from the November regular meeting.
 - B. Approve changes to board policy section 2190.
 - C. Approve Cal Fire letter from the Board.
 - D. Zelwer moves to accept A and C but remove B for discussion. Mayer seconds. Carries 4-0-0.
 - E. Zelwer, after discussion, moves to accept 2190 as is. Mayer seconds. Carries 4-0-0.
- V. Closed Session**
 - A. Public Employee Performance Evaluation – Pursuant to Government Code §54957 – Title: Battalion Chief
- VI. Report on action taken during closed session.**
 - a. Mayer moves to cover up to \$8k for employee assistance. Woodall seconds. Carries 4-0-0.
- VII. Correspondence**
- VIII. Board, Officer and Committee Reports**
 - A. Board Member Reports
 - a. Board Chair Report
 - b. Treasury/Budget Report
 - b.i. Report on Maddy Grant Journal Entries issue
 - b.i.1. Discussion on the way the Maddy grant is now accounted for in our financials and its impact on future budgeting. Auditor’s office doesn’t care about overspending by line item/ object code only the bottom line matters.
 - b.i.2. Updated Budget to Actuals report
 - b.ii. Auditor’s Report
 - b.ii.1. Our past audit reports find a “material weakness” which underscores the need for the capital reserves plan we are in process of creating.
 - b.ii.2. Zelwer working with Kortni in Auditor’s office to clarify whether land and the water kiosk should be included in our assets.
 - B. Fire Chief’s Report
 - a. 5 calls. 3 EMS + Fire. 2 EMS only.
 - b. Pump operations training conducted in Shoshone on 12/12. Conducted by Larry, 6 volunteers attended
 - c. 12/2 staff meeting to discuss: comms plan, debrief on Dahl fire in the Heights, lithium shipments coming over 127.

- d. 12/4 call with County to discuss Charleston View plot plan, specifically well, sewage and building location.
 - e. Start grant after Jan 1 to start infrastructure projects. But once signed, the 5-year clock starts ticking.
 - f. Ambulance inspections by ICEMA occurred today, passed with no issues.
 - g. Discussion on whether we have adequate resources to respond. Verdict: Yes with Dan responding to both Fire and EMS. Scott will be back in new year, and another possible recruit is on the horizon.
- C. Administrative Report
- a. Taking PTO days 12/26, 30 and 31. Office will be closed.
 - b. Phone line in office is currently dead, ATT is working on it as a priority.
- D. Fleet Mechanic's Report
- a. State of Motor Pool
 - a.i. 2 firetrucks need general service.
 - a.ii. All other vehicles are operating.
- E. Committee Reports
- a. Water Kiosk
 - a.i. Didn't meet in December, running ok/holding steady. Outstanding projects will be addressed in new year.
 - b. Fundraising
 - b.i. Report on Holiday Dinner community event.
 - b.i.1. Great event. Highly attended and well received from all over the district. Raised ~\$1200 so far.
 - b.ii. Update on planned events.
- F. Long-Term Planning
- a. Fire Stations
 - a.i. Conference call planned in Jan with Meagan and Tyson, etc. to set timelines and start moving forward.
 - b. Recruitment

IX. Old Business

- A. Update on radio communications
- a. Still have major issues with paging. HHS has money to move repeater, but can't approve funds until Jan so maybe it will be moved in Feb. Vehicle radios are mostly working fine, but handhelds are basically useless.
 - b. Inyo County will sign agreement with Nye to put in a repeater to cover Charleston View and Stewart Valley, as well as Pahrump - no timeline yet.
 - c. Eichenbaum expresses the stress and frustration the lack of comms is creating for the team and community.
- B. Update on SCBA equipment
- a. Still in progress, need to set a deadline? The County is able to do fit test.
- C. Update from exploratory committee on future special tax assessment as a ballot measure
- a. Zelwer waiting for more financial information so a realistic plan can be made.
- D. Discuss and consider approving estimates for connecting the propane generator to new station electric box and installing the propane tanks and wiring to power the generator.
- a. Report from Flinchum on Amerigas quote and McNeal on his conversation with D&J.
 - a.i. Since we might have to move the entire building, this has been on hold.
 - a.ii. Lutze: We probably don't need to move it, there might be a workaround. He is working with County on Dairy Queen location.
 - a.iii. Flinchum to work on quote for propane hook-up for water kiosk.

X. New Business

- A. Approve tires and maintenance of FireCat fire engine (up to \$6k).
- a. Mayer moves to approve up to \$6k. Woodall seconds. Carries 4-0-0.
- B. Review and make any needed changes to board policy sections 2195, 2197, 2200 and 2210.
- a. Tabled

- C. Review estimates for connecting the well to the fire tank.
 - a. Lutze will talk to Levy about it.
- D. Review letter from Wiley Trust about the parcel they will donate in Charleston View.
 - a. After board review, Mayer moves to accept the conditions in the letter as presented. Woodall seconds. Carries 4-0-0. Jerry will communicate the acceptance of the letter to the County.

XI. Good of the Order

XII. Public Comment: 3 minutes per participant

- A. Billy: we need a replacement for Danny, as impossible as that might be.
- B. Lutze: Olancho fire department gave us a multi-component jaws-of-life!

XIII. Suggested Agenda Items for Next Meeting

XIV. Adjournment & Schedule next Regular Board Meeting: Thursday January 15th at 6PM in Tecopa. Woodall moves to adjourn. Zelwer seconds. Carries 4-0-0. Flinchum adjourns meeting at 7:55.

Prepared by:

Mike Jerry, District Administrator/Secretary

I, Robin Flinchum, Chair, hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of the Meeting Minutes of the December 18, 2025 Regular Business Meeting, Board of Directors, Southern Inyo Fire Protection District.

Robin Flinchum, Board Chairperson

Eliza Woodall, Board Secretary