

SOUTHERN INYO FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT
APPROVED MINUTES OF THE
REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Thursday, February 19, 2026

The Governing Board of the Southern Inyo Fire Protection District held a regular business meeting on Thursday, February 19, 2026 at 6pm at the St. Therese Mission in Charleston View.

- I. Call to order and determination of quorum**
Present: Robin Flinchum, Chair, Cameron Mayer, Vice-Chair, Eliza Woodall*, Secretary, Spencer McNeal, Director, Bill Lutze, Mike Jerry, Michael Sumpter, Juanita Bellis and a couple of young volunteer candidates.
- 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 January regular meeting.
 - B. Approve last month's changes to board policy 3010.
 - C. Approve getting the electrical transfer switch installation at 501 Furnace Creek Road done by D&J.
 - D. McNeal approves the consent agenda. Mayer seconds. Carries 4-0-0.
- V. Correspondence**
 - A. Q&A with Rusty Lewellen, DW Tower, LLC, regarding the proposed cell tower installation.
 - a. Verizon is currently set up as the first carrier that will be on the Tower. Rusty says AT&T and T-Mobile will follow closely behind.
 - b. The tower is being put up in support of first responder services, so we would be welcome to put our repeater on the tower if desired.
 - c. Install location will be at the AT&T central office in Dodge City.
- VI. Board, Officer and Committee Reports**
 - A. Board Member Reports
 - a. Board Chair Report
 - b. Treasury/Budget Report
 - b.i. Mayer moves to accept report as presented. McNeal seconds. Carries 4-0-0.
 - B. Fire Chief's Report
 - a. 8 Calls for service since our last meeting, 4 EMS-only calls and 4 EMS and Fire. 4 Calls were motor vehicle accidents. One EMS call was a fatality. We had 4 to 6 responders on all the calls.
 - b. On January 28th Tyson Sparrow, Cherish Heig, Robin, Mike and I met at the fire station site. A walk of the property and several measurements were made, along with the approximate location of the septic and leach field for the new fire station along with the building were marked and staked on the site. We have a zoom meeting upcoming to move forward.
 - c. On Tuesday February 17 we had an all-staff meeting and debrief of previous calls we handled and an exchange of information and ideas.
 - C. Administrative Report
 - a. Streamline invoice is due this month for our annual website fees.
 - b. Second and final submission of the Maddy Grant was completed at the end of last month.
 - D. Fleet Mechanic's Report
 - a. State of Motor Pool
 - a.i. S-71 having AC issues. Using S-73 as primary ambulance for now.
 - a.ii. Firecat engine has been serviced and is ready to be put in service.

- a.iii. Next week we are going to be taking the tender out of service for a couple of days to repair a rusted-through main suction line on the truck.
- E. Committee Reports
 - a. Water Kiosk
 - a.i. Inventory done and spare parts ordered.
 - a.ii. Working on a shade structure for it.
 - b. Fundraising
 - b.i. Mayer moves to approve pursuing the idea of a weird tales festival pending approval by County that we can use the CPSP grant to fund this, given that we are sharing proceeds with Ted Faye. Woodall seconds. Carries 4-0-0.
 - b.ii. Update on planned events.
 - b.ii.1. John Fuller: Holding a music festival, hopefully annually.
 - b.ii.1.a. Hours: Noon to 10pm on one day only Saturday 3/21.
 - b.ii.1.b. Perhaps have our second ambulance and an EMT of ours (who John will pay directly) onsite in exchange for a donation.
- F. Long-Term Planning
 - a. Fire Stations
 - b. Recruitment

VII. Old Business

- A. Update on radio communications
 - a. County mid-year budget has been approved so they will move our repeater to Shoshone. Timeframe: 1-2 months. Homestead Rd. in Pahrump will get a new repeater for fire and sheriff so Charleston View will have coverage for both.
- B. Update on SCBA equipment
- C. Update from exploratory committee on future special tax assessment as a ballot measure
 - a. Zelwer: We have plenty of time left to write up the assessment measure, although I still feel we need to collect more financial data (capital reserve plan, build estimates for the new fire stations, if money from the solar project is going to come our way, and projected operating expenses once the new firehouses are built) before we'll know what we need to be asking for. Otherwise we risk writing an assessment to cover things based on our current expenses, and have to go back, hat in hand, in another year or two (even if we include a cost of living or inflation increase).
- D. Discuss and consider approving estimates for plumbing and installing the propane tank for the generator.
 - a. Report from Flinchum on Amerigas quote.
 - a.i. Jerry will take this over. Tank sized just for kiosk and DQ.
- E. Review estimates for connecting the well to the fire tank.
 - a. Tyson thinks we should wait to install this connection because there are going to be additional tanks and infrastructure installed on the site at a later date which could cause anything we do now to be torn up.

VIII. New Business

- A. Discussion with John Fuller regarding the March Reggae Festival.
 - a. Discussion noted above.
- B. Discuss adding some formal recognition and appreciation for volunteers who go above and beyond (Zelwer).
 - a. Tabled.
- C. Present and read Cynthia Kienitz' letter.
- D. Review and make any needed changes to new social media policy (Lutze).
 - a. McNeal moves to approve as presented. Mayer seconds. Carries 4-0-0.
- E. Review and consider a spending limit be added to board policy 2010 (Lutze).
 - a. Tabled until next month when the correct policy number is in the agenda.
- F. Discuss and consider making the payroll correction for the first seven months of the fiscal year where Jerry was not being paid for the two hours a month from the water kiosk budget.

- a. McNeal moves to leave Jerry's district pay the way it is and simply add two hours pay to him from the water kiosk budget. Woodall seconds. Carries 4-0-0.
- G. Discuss and consider mid-year budget amendments.
 - a. McNeal moves to approve amendments as presented. Mayer seconds. Carries 4-0-0.

IX. Good of the Order

X. Public Comment: 3 minutes per participant

XI. Suggested Agenda Items for Next Meeting

XII. Adjournment & Schedule next Regular Board Meeting: Thursday March 19th at 6PM in Tecopa. Mayer moves to adjourn meeting. McNeal seconds. Carries 4-0-0.

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 February 19, 2026 Regular Business Meeting, Board of Directors, Southern Inyo Fire Protection District.

Robin Flinchum, Board Chairperson

Eliza Woodall, Board Secretary