

SOUTHERN INYO FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT
APPROVED MINUTES OF THE
REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Thursday, April 16, 2026

The Governing Board of the Southern Inyo Fire Protection District held a regular business meeting on Thursday, April 16, 2026 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 (via Zoom), Spencer McNeal, Director, Bill Lutze, Mike Jerry, Dave Herterich. Flinchum calls meeting to order and establishes quorum at 6:09.

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 March regular meeting.
- B. Approve last month's changes to educational assistance board policy 2120.
- C. Approve last month's changes to board policy sections 2195, 2197, 2200 and 2210.
- D. Woodall moves to approve consent agenda. Mayer seconds. Carries 5-0-0.

V. Correspondence

- A. Workers Comp Insurance sent a \$600 bill indicating that our Payroll increased from fiscal year 22/23 to fiscal year 24/25, however, Jerry has found that the payroll actually dropped and is in communication with them to get it resolved.

VI. Board, Officer and Committee Reports

- A. Board Member Reports
 - a. Board Chair Report
 - b. Treasury/Budget Report
 - b.i. Kortni sent docs from previous audit with info on assets, Zelwer to review and forward to Chief and Admin to update asset list.
 - b.ii. Zelwer talked to Kortni about setting up savings account for future SCBA purchases.
 - b.iii. Need a budget committee meeting next month as it is time to start on next year's budget.
 - b.iii.1. Zelwer, Flinchum, Jerry and Lutze will be budget committee.
 - b.iii.2. Meeting May 14 at noon.
 - b.iv. Mayer moves to approve the treasurer's report. Woodall seconds. Carries 5-0-0.
- B. Fire Chief's Report
 - a. We had since our last meeting 8 calls for service. All calls were EMS calls. We had 3 to 5 volunteers respond to each.
 - b. On March 31, 2026 I spent the afternoon with Assistant Sheriff Tim Bachman and County Emergency Manger Lisa Cox. I got set up with a new interagency emergency app that allows me to have direct call, maps, and incident communication in real time. Lisa and I also inventoried all the emergency equipment here including generators, supplies and cooling/heating facilities. We also toured the new station site.
 - c. On Tuesday April 14, we had a BLS CPR class in Shoshone for recertification for 2 years. All but 1 volunteer, who was ill, attended.
 - d. On Tuesday April 14 Robin and I made a presentation to the board of supervisors at the Tecopa Community Center.

- e. The Baker to Vegas run was completed. We had 6 volunteers provide service. At one point there were more helicopters than anticipated but the personnel on scene were able to make arrangements.
- f. Mercy Air had scheduled a training at the Shoshone Airport and all volunteers were there, however at the last minute they canceled due to emergency response. We will be having it at a date to be determined.
- C. Administrative Report
 - a. Water kiosk will have to raise budget object code 5311 by \$4k to pay for their half of the generator propane and electrical installation. The committee will have to pull it from reserves.
 - a.i. Jerry will add this to next water kiosk meeting agenda.
 - b. To pay for the District's half of the jobs, we will move \$4k from 5650 > 5311. Zelwer moves to make the budget change. Mayer seconds. Carries 5-0-0.
- D. Fleet Mechanic's Report
 - a. S-73 having transmission problems but is under warranty.
- E. Committee Reports
 - a. Water Kiosk
 - b. Fundraising
 - b.i. Discussion with Dave Heterich and Ted Faye.
 - b.i.1. Dave to help us with grants and finding other funding sources.
 - b.ii. Update on planned events.
 - b.ii.1. Moving forward with planning of Weird Tales Festival.
 - b.ii.2. Good fundraiser meeting last week, lots of new volunteers and creative ideas.
 - b.ii.3. Christiana to talk to students about volunteering/participating.
 - b.ii.4. Board should go to school and make a pitch.
- F. Long-Term Planning
 - a. Fire Stations
 - a.i. Lutze and Jerry meeting with County Monday 4/20 for next steps. Hopefully to begin the process and release of the grant money. New plans were submitted to the county of a building for their review.
 - a.ii. County Board of Supervisors met with BLM in DC to accelerate process of giving us our parcel and it actually worked!
 - a.iii. McNeal: Supervisors say we may be getting \$1M from solar project for Charleston View fire station. Nothing confirmed yet.
 - b. Recruitment
 - b.i. One applicant for EMT position.
 - b.ii. Woodall will get recruitment flyer for Jerry to put up on website and FB, tagging board members and others. Lutze will talk to Pahrump Valley Times about PSA opportunities for our recruitment. Jerry will investigate paid promotion on FB.

VII. Old Business

- A. Update on radio communications.
 - a. On April 18 and 19 our repeater will be moved to the top of the Ibex repeater site at a height of 120 feet which coverage maps show provide good coverage for us. We will be testing the radio throughout the weekend to see how that will work.
 - b. Due to years of weathering, our old mobile radio microphones are falling apart and are not made any more. We purchased new/used microphones on eBay to replace three that went bad (and four extras). They are up and running.
- B. Update from exploratory committee on future special tax assessment as a ballot measure
 - a. Make final decision on getting the ballot measure together to increase measure J.
 - a.i. Push to next election cycle; revisit in July 2027.
- C. Update on projects to install electric cut over switch and propane tank for the Furnace Creek property generator.
 - a. Both contractors scheduled to do the jobs on 4/21.
 - b. Big thanks to Robbie Haynes for pouring pad.

VIII. New Business

- A. Discuss adding some formal recognition and appreciation for volunteers who go above and beyond (Zelwer).
 - a. Going to be including in future event budgets to have a thank you dinner as well as tshirts for volunteers.
- B. Further discussion about meeting recording and retention (Zelwer).
 - a. Tabled.
- C. Review and make any needed changes to employee handbook.
 - a. Woodall moves to approve with a few very minor changes. Mayer seconds. Carries 4-0-1. (Zelwer temporarily dropped connection)
- D. Biannual review of conflict of interest policy 1020.
 - a. Approved with one small change. Carries 4-0-0.
- E. Consider and approve a self supporting fire tank for the water tender.
 - a. McNeal moves to approve up to \$4k for the tank. Zelwer seconds. Carries 5-0-0.
- F. Special assessments time.
 - a. Angie will do drive around part. Jerry will do the office work.
 - b. Mayer moves to hire Angie at \$18/hr, Woodall seconds. Carries 5-0-0.

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 May 21st at 6PM in Tecopa. For June we will be in Charleston View. Woodall moves Mayer seconds. Carries 5-0-0.

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 April 16, 2026 Regular Business Meeting, Board of Directors, Southern Inyo Fire Protection District.

Robin Flinchum, Board Chairperson

Eliza Woodall, Board Secretary