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

The Governing Board of the Southern Inyo Fire Protection District held a regular business meeting on Thursday, July 16, 2026 at 6pm at the Hurlbut Rook Community Center.

I. Call to order and determination of quorum

A. Present: Robin Flinchum, Chair, Eliza Woodall, Secretary, Colette Zelwer, Treasurer, Bill Lutze, Mike Jerry. Flinchum establishes quorum and starts meeting at 6:03.

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 June regular meeting.
B. Approve changes to board policy sections 2250, 2251 and 2255.
   a. Tabled until August due to incorrect posting of document on website.
C. Zelwer moves to approve June regular meeting minutes. Woodall seconds. Carries 3-0-0.

V. Correspondence

A. Meaghan McCamman email about co-application with the District for community center grant to add solar, batteries and upgrades. Will be agendized for next month.

VI. Board, Officer and Committee Reports

A. Board Member Reports
   a. Board Chair Report
   b. Treasury/Budget Report
      b.i. $15k EMS support grant from County has been received (834001 4599).
      b.ii. In the black for both Fire and Ambulance budgets.
      b.iii. Brought in more from ambulance billing than budgeted.
      b.iv. Unspent budget rolls into unallocated funds for future use.
      b.v. Complete Tax distribution/assessment hasn't hit budget yet, so more income still to come.
      b.vi. Additional $1200 for water kiosk deposits just made.
      b.vii. Woodall moves to approve Treasury report as presented. Flinchum seconds. Carries 3-0-0.
B. Fire Chief's Report
   a. Since our last meeting we have had 5 calls for service. One fire and 3 medical with two requiring fire to respond also due to MVA.
   b. On 7-9-26 the transfer of the OES Fire truck was completed to Jon Zellenhofer and we received a check from him. A notice of release of Liability was done online with California DMV.
   c. On 7-14-26 the transfer of the Fire Truck in the storage lot at Tecopa Hot Springs to Will Wadleton of Olancha was completed.
   d. The yearly tax assessment was completed and submitted to the County prior to the deadline.
C. Administrative Report
D. Fleet Mechanic's Report
   a. Progress is being made on ambulance S-73 by Pete's.
   b. Brigadier will be going to King's Diesel in Pahrump for its work.
   c. Broken valve on tender, Levy and Jerry working on repair.
   d. Estimates and proofs received for re-decal of new Expedition command vehicles.

E. Committee Reports
  a. Water Kiosk
    a.i. In the black!
    a.ii. Shelter/shade structure is work in progress still.
    a.iii. Sales up %167 from last year.
    a.iv. Mishandling by testing company has botched latest test results, but Jerry has resolved.
  b. Fundraising
    b.i. Update on planned events.
      b.i.1. We are going back to a simple event, not a large gala dinner. Low-key premier planned and run by fundraising committee.
      b.i.2. Donations-based rather than ticketed
      b.i.3. Still need to work out cost-sharing
      b.i.4. Do we really want to designate fundraiser $ to recruitment only? Too restrictive. But if money is raised FOR that purpose, we have a moral (if not legal?) obligation to spend it on that purpose.

F. Long-Term Planning
  a. Fire Stations
    a.i. $2M is being given to the district for the Charleston View fire station as soon as the agreement is approved and signed by the county Board of Supervisors.
    a.ii. Need to follow-up with HHS/Community Outreach complex idea to see if we can combine/get additional funds.
    a.iii. New CAO has resigned, will create backlog/delays on Tecopa fire station grant; need to push for some movement.
  b. Recruitment
    b.i. Discussion on possibility of hiring staff for our dwindling numbers.
    b.ii. Pay for campsites for retired firefighters instead of providing housing.
      b.ii.1. Can only use trained FFs, don't want to open to just anyone.
      b.ii.2. Hire firm to do outreach for us?
    b.iii. Increase pay-out stipend?

VII. Old Business

A. Update on radio communications.

VIII. New Business

A. Presentation of Cynthia's proposal for WTF fundraising event.
B. Discuss and create a cooling center protocol/procedure for future outages/events.
  a. Tabled until next month.
C. Review and make any needed changes to board policy sections 2260 and 2290.
D. Semi-annual review of Injury and Illness Prevention Policy (Policy 3010).
  a. Bring back in October when board will revisit the frequency of the review of this policy.
E. Update on special assessments.
  a. Done!

IX. Good of the Order

X. Public Comment: 3 minutes per participant

XI. Suggested Agenda Items for Next Meeting

A. Approve changes to board policy sections 2250, 2251, 2255, 2260 and 2290.
B. Meaghan McCamman: co-application with the District for community center grant to add solar, batteries and upgrades. She will attend via Zoom.

XII. Adjournment & Schedule next Regular Board Meeting: Thursday August 20th at 6PM in Tecopa. Woodall moves to adjourn meeting. Zelwer seconds. Carries 3-0-0. Flinchum adjourns meeting at 7:26.

Prepared by:

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

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Robin Flinchum, Board Chairperson Eliza Woodall, Board Secretary