

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

The Governing Board of the Southern Inyo Fire Protection District held a regular business meeting on Thursday, March 19, 2026 at 6pm at the Hurlbut Rook Community Center.

- I. Call to order and determination of quorum**
 - A. Present: Cameron Mayer, Vice-Chair, Eliza Woodall, Secretary, Colette Zelwer, Treasurer, Bill Lutze, Mike Jerry, Robin Flinchum (via Zoom). Mayer calls meeting to order at 6:04 and establishes quorum.

- II. Good of the Order**

- III. Public Comment:** 3 minutes per participant

- IV. Closed Session** Public Employee Performance Evaluation – Pursuant to Government Code §54957 – District Administrator

- V. Report on action taken during closed session.**
 - A. Evaluation performed. No other action taken.

- VI. Consent Agenda** (Items that are considered routine and are approved in a single motion)
 - A. Approve minutes from the February regular meeting.
 - B. Woodall moves to approve minutes as presented. Zelwer seconds. Carries 3-0-0.

- VII. Correspondence**

- VIII. Board, Officer and Committee Reports**
 - A. Board Member Reports
 - a. Board Chair Report
 - b. Treasury/Budget Report
 - b.i. We have a current fundraising deficit of about \$8000, however, the SCBA is going to come in at much less than the \$40,000 predicted and most of our other expenses are coming in under the wire, so we should be fine.
 - b.ii. Zelwer proposes that we do not have a merch table at the reggae event Saturday as we are going to probably have lots of call outs due to heat issues and this event is unlikely to produce much of any revenue anyway. Flinchum will announce this in fundraising groups.
 - b.iii. Woodall moves to approve report as presented. Zelwer seconds. Carries 3-0-0.
 - B. Fire Chief's Report
 - a. 10 calls, 6 EMS. 4 EMS and Fire.
 - b. On February 26 the crew went up to the Tecopa Mines and surveyed the site for emergency response capabilities. Ross will provide maps of the area to assist the District in response events.
 - c. The county Board of Supervisors approved the transfer of two Ford Expeditions from the Sheriff's Office to us. One will replace the current command vehicle which is dying and the other will be the chief's car. We will need to get quotes to have the vehicle badging and emergency light color programming redone on the vehicles.
 - d. All of the fire crew CPR certs are expiring next month, so Judy Palmer is training to be able to certify us.
 - e. We will have an EMT being paid by the Reggae Festival event to be on site along with one of our ambulances on Saturday.
 - f. Baker to Vegas race next weekend.

- C. Administrative Report
 - a. The budget changes made at the February meeting will not go into effect until the auditor's office has received approved, signed meeting minutes from that meeting. Flinchum will stop by on Monday to get the approved February agenda signed.
 - b. The auditor's office has informed us that the cost for doing our biannual audits will be \$875 per year for the next four fiscal years.
- D. Fleet Mechanic's Report
 - a. State of Motor Pool
 - a.i. Tender repairs on suction line done.
 - a.ii. S-71 AC is fixed.
 - a.iii. S-73 just got all new brakes.
- E. Committee Reports
 - a. Water Kiosk
 - a.i. Financially in good shape. Continuing to develop ideas for a shade structure. Jerry will be submitting \$8000 GIS annual grant at the end of the fiscal year.
 - b. Fundraising
 - b.i. Update on planned events.
 - b.i.1. Making progress on the Weird Tales Festival fundraiser event next fall. The Steering Committee has decided to fold all of our meetings into regular agendized fundraising committee meetings moving forward. Need to RECRUIT VOLUNTEERS!
 - b.i.1.a. Outreach to school teens as contributors or volunteers [Christiana]
 - b.i.1.b. Board member to make a presentation to school?
 - b.i.1.c. Ted Faye can participate through his non-profit (per county)
- F. Long-Term Planning
 - a. Fire Stations
 - a.i. Meeting Monday with Megan McCamman and all of the county folks to take the next step, which is likely signing the document that starts the five year clock and flow of money.
 - b. Recruitment

IX. Old Business

- A. Update on radio communications
 - a. Much higher levels of urgency on the move of our repeater from Ibex Pass to Shoshone have occurred, so our repeater should be moved fairly soon.
- B. Update on SCBA equipment
 - a. Pahrump Valley Fire and Rescue is donating 14 sets of SCBA to us which have been recently refurbished and should be good for at least the next 10 years. We will have to purchase the masks, that the county will fit for us, which are about \$350 per mask.
 - b. Zelwer will work with Kortni on getting some sort of saving account to which we can contribute each year that will make sure we can purchase one or two units per year to keep SCBA units fresh and active.
- C. Update from exploratory committee on future special tax assessment as a ballot measure
 - a. Per March 2025 board meeting: Put item on this month's agenda to discuss and consider possible ballot measure to update existing Measure J.
 - a.i. Now is when we should write the measure. But we still need more financial info to do it.
 - a.ii. Because our limited funding will probably only allow us to build the Tecopa station and not the station in Charleston View, that may alienate the voters in Charleston View against spending more money on the district. So we should probably hold off for a couple of years on this.
 - a.iii. We haven't heard anything from Bonanza Peak about solar funding for out there yet.
 - a.iv. Will put it on next month's agenda to make final decision on moving forward with this or deferring until 2028.

- D. Discuss and consider approving estimates for plumbing and installing the propane tank for the generator.
 - a. Report from Jerry on Amerigas quote.
 - a.i. Amerigas will not provide the tank, the trench or the concrete pad, so Shoshone Propane seems the only option.
 - a.ii. Zelwer moves to go ahead with Shoshone Propane quote. Woodall seconds. Carries 3-0-0. Jerry will call Shoshone Propane to get work started.

X. New Business

- A. Discuss adding some formal recognition and appreciation for volunteers who go above and beyond (Zelwer).
 - a. Tabled
- B. Review and consider a spending limit be added to educational assistance board policy 2120 (Lutze).
 - a. Proposes \$350 per semester (\$700/year) limit.
 - b. Changes made to Policy 2120 to be approved next month.
- C. Review and make any needed changes to board policy sections 2195, 2197, 2200 and 2210.
 - a. Changes made to be approved next month.
- D. Review and make any needed changes to employee handbook.
 - a. The Board will take it home and review it and we will review it next month.
- E. Consider and approve a self supporting fire tank for the water tender.
 - a. Tabled

XI. Good of the Order

XII. Public Comment: 3 minutes per participant

XIII. Suggested Agenda Items for Next Meeting

XIV. Adjournment & Schedule next Regular Board Meeting: Thursday April 16th at 6PM in Tecopa. Woodall moves to adjourn meeting. Zelwer seconds. Carries 3-0-0. Mayer adjourns meeting at 7:25pm.

Prepared by:

Mike Jerry, District Administrator/Secretary

I, Cam Mayer, Vice-Chair, hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of the Meeting Minutes of the March 19, 2026 Regular Business Meeting, Board of Directors, Southern Inyo Fire Protection District.

Cameron Mayer, Vice-Chairperson

Eliza Woodall, Board Secretary