

**SOUTHERN INYO FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT**  
***UNAPPROVED MINUTES OF THE***  
**REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS**  
**Thursday, October 16, 2025**

The Governing Board of the Southern Inyo Fire Protection District held a regular business meeting on Thursday, October 16, 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, Spencer McNeal, Director, Colette Zelwer (via Zoom), Mike Jerry, Larry Levy, Patrick Donnelly (via Zoom). Flinchum calls meeting to order at 6:04 and established a quorum.

**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 September regular meeting.
- B. Approve District Administrator's contract.
- C. Approve Maddy Grant request letter.
- D. Approve changes to board policy sections 2100, 2115 and 2120.
- E. Mayer moves to approve consent agenda. Woodall seconds. Carries 4-0-0.

**V. Correspondence**

**VI. Board, Officer and Committee Reports**

- F. Board Member Reports
  - a. Board Chair Report
  - b. Treasury/Budget Report
    - b.i. No big financial changes. Still waiting to hear from the County on capital reserves plan.
    - b.ii. Woodall moves to accept report as presented. Mayer seconds. Carries 4-0-0.
- G. Fire Chief's Report
  - a. 2 calls, 1 EMS, 1 Fire.
  - b. No radio communication or page for the fire! Still having communications issues with radios. Levy read a thank you letter from the Chief for the support from team and community.
- H. Administrative Report
  - a. AB 1234 Board Member Ethics Certification update
    - a.i. McNeal still needs to complete
- I. Fleet Mechanic's Report
  - a. State of Motor Pool
    - a.i. Brush truck is at Levy's being worked on. Ambulance transmission has been repaired but still has apparent fuel issues to be figured out before it can be used in the field.
- J. Committee Reports
  - a. Water Kiosk
    - a.i. No meeting this month. Levy still working on flowchart for inventory/ operations manual. Finances ok, mechanics ok, reporting issues have been resolved.
  - b. Fundraising
    - b.i. FY 25-26 fundraising budget presented by Flinchum:
      - b.i.1. Food service: \$3800
      - b.i.2. Merchandise: \$3000
      - b.i.3. Supplies, including flatware, plates, napkins, and décor: \$500

- b.i.4. Sound system: \$150
- b.i.5. Programs, flyers, etc.: \$50
- b.i.6. Total: \$7500
- b.ii. Mayer moves to approve budget as presented. Woodall seconds. Carries 4-0-0.
- b.iii. Update on planned events.
  - b.iii.1. Merchandise has been ordered. Stickers will be ordered next.
  - b.iii.2. Grant \$ has been shifted to December event. Julie Finn created new graphic for silkscreening and stickers. December event will feature dinner, talent show, music/dancing, & raffle.

## K. Long-Term Planning

### a. Fire Stations

- a.i. Donnelly update: The solar project is still pre-permit which is the best time to get our needs voiced. He has been talking to other small fire districts regarding lithium battery fires; we need the developer to pay for representation for us (not uncommon). Patrick reached out to a few firms with no real feedback. We need a readiness assessment (our strengths and what gaps need to be filled) and an assessment of battery storage size, implications. We can give a preliminary assessment but need to bring in actual experts to advocate on our behalf. They have a lot of money so don't get dissuaded by any poverty claims by them. Right now they have no transmission line to get their juice to the grid and Trump has said he will not approve any new lines, so they are in a weaker spot. They have a done-deal project but with no transmission connection it's still iffy. Battery storage is part of the developer's proposal, but currently isn't allowed in Inyo County. They will have to write an exemption/policy to allow it. Does the community want to allow it? Need to make our preferences known to the county! The board will let Donnelly take the lead for us in the special meeting on 11/4 with the County and developer as he has lots of experience dealing with these folks. He will get with Jerry to make the agenda.

### b. Recruitment

- b.i. Flinchum: Consider reaching out to Pahrump for volunteers to send to bootcamp?
- b.ii. Approve recruitment page on the website?
  - b.ii.1. Jerry will get page linked and live.

## VII. Old Business

### A. Update on radio communications

- a. Still having issues. Chief working on it.

### B. Update on SCBA equipment

- a. Levy shopping around. Lots of sources. We can get the exact same equipment reconditioned for about half the price. Fit testing we can do within the county, but firefighter physicals are bottleneck for us to be able to use them.

### C. Update from exploratory committee on future special tax assessment as a ballot measure

- a. No update.

### D. Discuss and consider an organizational task management system for the District

- a. Zelwer will meet with Woodall and Jerry next week on this.

### E. Update on online video storage and playback (clarity on using YouTube)

- a. We will use YouTube to host our videos, just as Bishop does. Jerry will check to see if we can tailor the types of ads that are seen on our account. Flinchum will write a disclaimer to place in the description of the videos.

### F. 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. D&J quote for \$5k presented at meeting. McNeal will call D&J to get more info and detailed quote as he had many questions and objections to the quoted cost. Flinchum will get an Amerigas quote for the propane part of the project.

## VIII. New Business

### A. Review and make any needed changes to board policy sections 2130, 2155 and 2180

**IX. Good of the Order**

**X. Public Comment:** 3 minutes per participant

**XI. Suggested Agenda Items for Next Meeting**

A. Review estimates for connecting the well to the fire tank

**XII. Adjournment & Schedule next Regular Board Meeting:** Thursday November 20 at 6PM in Tecopa. Next special meeting on 11/4 at 6pm in Charleston View. Woodall moves to adjourn. Mayer seconds. Carries 4-0-0. Flinchum adjourns meeting at 7:30.

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 October 16, 2025 Regular Business Meeting, Board of Directors, Southern Inyo Fire Protection District.

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Robin Flinchum, Board Chairperson

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Eliza Woodall, Board Secretary