



PAJARO VALLEY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT
562 CASSELY ROAD, WATSONVILLE, CA (831) 722-6188

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING FOR THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE
PAJARO VALLEY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

Wednesday, March 11, 2026

1.0 Call to Order at 5:01PM

1.1 Pledge of Allegiance

1.2 Call Meeting to Order – Roll Call

Members Present: Director Dellamonica, Director Moules, Director Sampson, Director Martone

Members Excused: Director Erbe

2.0 Agenda Amendments

2.1 Additions to Agenda- NONE

3.0 Oral Communications

3.1 Public Oral Communication

Karrel Reader – Corralitos resident, spoke on the status of BESS and the impacts to the District. She presented the Board with a list of needs/resources she suggested for response.

3.2 Staff Oral Communication- NONE

3.3 Board Oral Communication

Chair Martone invited all to participate in Pitch In Santa Cruz's next event on May 9th.

4.0 Consent Agenda

4.1 Minutes – Approval of the minutes the Regular Board meeting on February 11, 2026.

4.2 Claims Disbursement – Expenditure report, Vendor & Deposit summary, Year to Date Financial Report and American Express Statement for February 2026

No public comment.

Motion: Director Dellamonica Motion to approve all items on the Consent Agenda

Second: Director Moules

All in favor: All

5.0 Presentations

1) Board/Staff Member Explanation; 2) Board of Directors Questions; 3) Public Comment; 4) Board Member Deliberation; 5) Decision

5.1 Pajaro Valley Chief's Report & Run Report for February 2026

BC Urbani reported the following:

- Water rescue on Pajaro River near 129 and Lakeview; Watsonville Fire and State Parks assisted with the rescue of an individual and five dogs.
- No issues with apparatus. No training or staffing adjustments to report.
- Office furniture arrived.
- Members of the Board assisted with Green Valley Road cleanup

No Public Comment

No questions from the Board.

- 5.2 Watsonville Run Report for February 2026
No questions from the Board.

6.0 **Committee Reports**

6.1 Finance Committee – None

6.2 LAFCO Ad Hoc Committee – Chair Martone & Director Dellamonica

Director Dellamonica reported that preparations are in progress for the town hall meetings. LAFCO is providing support for the meeting. County of Santa Cruz will also be providing their social media PIO staff member and logistical support.

Public Comment:

Don Jarvis- resident: Asked the Board for a community advisory group to provide more transparency and to obtain assistance from qualified experts on reorganization. Spoke on support available from the County.

6.3 BESS Working Group – None

Public Comment:

Sina Kuhzarani- resident-spoke on how fast BESS is moving; importance of access by emergency personnel; and impacts to the area by the battery storage modules.

6.4 Watsonville Fire/Pajaro Valley Fire Contract Ad Hoc Committee – Chair Martone & Director Dellamonica. Vice Chair Dellamonica reported that the working group met with City of Watsonville representatives. They reviewed the draft together and expect the City of Watsonville to respond soon.

7.0 **Continuing Business**

7.1 **Pajaro Valley Fire Board Meeting Rules**

Board to receive an update from BC Urbani, review, discuss and make any further changes to the updated Pajaro Valley Fire Board Meeting Rules.

Recommended Action: Discuss, make changes, give directions to staff, make a motion

BC Urbani reported that the draft being presented has been approved by the attorneys and ready for final approval. Director Sampson asked for clarification on how meeting dates will be adjusted. BC Urbani stated that the process will be the same.

Motion: Director Moules Motion To approve the Pajaro Valley Fire Board Meeting Rules as presented.

Second: Vice Chair Dellamonica

Yes Vote: All

7.2 **Review Ordinance 2026-01 Compensation for Board Members of the Pajaro Valley Fire Protection District**

Board to receive Staff Report from BC Urbani and discuss any further needed changes to Ordinance 2026-01 Compensation for Board Members of the Pajaro Valley Fire Protection District.

Recommended Action: Discuss, make changes, give direction to staff.

BC Urbani reported on compensation and availability of funds; impact of compensation to the budget; and reviewed the process to increase the compensation for Board members. Board members have attended more meetings this year compared to previous years. Current budgeted amount will support the needs of the Board, and the Board may increase the total allowed meetings compensated to six (6) meetings monthly. If approved, it will take 60 days to go into effect.

Public Comment:

Becky Steinbruner, resident, questioned if the compensation amount is increasing. Chair Martone responded that the level of compensation is not increasing.

The Board directed staff to place this item on the agenda for the next meeting.

7.3 Discuss Request for Proposal (RFP) for Fire Protection Services

Board will receive a staff report from Chief Wilson. Board to discuss the staff report and have any further needed discussion.

Recommended Action: Board to have discussion, give directions to staff, make motion.

Chief Wilson presented the staff report on a comparative review of personnel in neighboring agencies, specifically Central Fire Protection District and Watsonville Fire, as directed by the Board. The intent of the report is to understand the costs of the 3-0 staffing model if the District should consider this alternative service delivery option in the future and request an RFP. Chief Wilson explained the information that was used to prepare the report and how the analysis was conducted. He explained that if the District moves forward with an RFP, District staff would need to be removed from the process and evaluation since CalFire would be a submitter for that RFP; the RFP does not commit the District to changing service providers but will allow them due diligence for fact finding; and the scope and evaluation criteria must be clearly defined. There is no immediate fiscal impact. If the Board decides to move forward with the RFP, costs will be incurred as District staff will not be able to complete the work due to a conflict of interest. Staff recommendation is to receive the personnel comparison; discuss if the Board wishes to explore alternative service models and request an RFP; and provide direction on engaging an independent party who can develop and manage the process.

The Board discussed and agreed that the cost of an RFP is not prudent as it will not provide different results from what Chief Wilson provided.

Director Sampson asked for background on the current CalFire contract. Chair Martone advised that the contract is renewed annually. Chief Wilson advised that only actuals are paid.

Becky Steinbruner- resident: questioned need for a consultant and clarification on LG1- Chief Wilson clarified that it means "Local Government 1". Director Sampson stated that a qualified consultant would ensure that the RFP is handled appropriately. The Board also stated that they are not qualified and errors would have legal implications.

Don Jarvis- Spoke on costs and how they apply to the District.

Chief Wilson stated that this was not based on the current CalFire contract.

Motion: Vice Chair Dellamonica motioned to not move forward with RFP for Fire Protection Services

Second: Director Sampson

Yes Vote: All

8.0 New Business

8.1 Discuss Having the District's Legal Counsel Present at the Board's Regular Board Meetings

Board to discuss possibility of having legal counsel present at the Board's Regular Board Meetings.

Recommended Action: Board to have discussion, give directions to staff, make a motion.

BC Urbani reported that legal counsel is willing to attend. He reviewed the costs which will include travel time and time spent during the meeting. The Board discussed the benefits of having legal counsel present with all the items recently on the agenda; alternative options to reduce the legal counsel costs; the need to have them present due to comments being made during the Board meetings; and what legal counsel will do if they are present at the meeting. Chief Wilson stated that Coastside Fire Protection District has legal counsel review the agendas before they are posted and they run the meetings.

Public Comment:

Don Jarvis- does not see a need for legal counsel.

Becky Steinbruner- does not see a need for legal counsel, suggested remote attendance if necessary

Sina Kuhzarani- does not see a need for legal counsel.

Kerrel Reader- does not see a need for legal counsel. Expressed that other agencies are spending funds on excessive legal fees due to employee issues and issues between their own board members.

Sina Kuhzarani- Suggested recording the meetings.

Becky Steinbrune- asked if the attorney will be at town hall. Chair Martone stated that there is no plan to have them there.

Motion: Vice Chair Dellamonica motioned to table decision to have legal counsel present at the meetings and direct staff meet with legal counsel to review the agendas.

Second: Director Moules

Yes Vote: All

9.0 Correspondence

9.1 Email from Sally-Christine Rodgers on 2/28/26 about the Third Annual Pitch in All County Clean Up
Previously discussed

9.2 Email from Don Jarvis on 3/6/26 Observation of the PVFPD Reorganization Process
Becky Steinbruner- supports the letter

11.0 Adjournment

Motion: Director Sampson motioned to adjourn the meeting.

Second: Director Moules

All in favor: All

Time: 6:07pm

This is to certify that for foregoing is a true copy of the discussions during the Pajaro Valley Fire Protection District Regular Board of Directors meeting, held on March 11, 2025

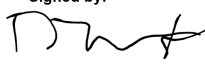
Attest:

April 8, 2026

DocuSigned by:

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Mike Urbani
Board Secretary

Signed by:

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Dave Martone
Board Chair