



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

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

(Amended)

Wednesday, May 13, 2026

1.0 Call to Order 5:01PM

1.1 Pledge of Allegiance

1.2 Call Meeting to Order - Roll Call

Present: Director Erbe, Chair Martone, Vice Chair Dellamonica, Director Moules

Absent Excused: Director Sampson

2.0 Agenda Amendments

2.1 Additions, Deletions or Late Additions to the Consent Agenda and Regular Agenda from Staff or Members of the Board- NONE

3.0 Oral Communications

3.1 Public Oral Communication

Becky Steinbruner: Spoke on County BESS ordinance and environmental review information; Felton Fire. MOCO LAFCO findings on communications; asked for adoption of fire code.

Karell Reader- speaking with Board of Supervisors regarding countywide adoption of state fire marshal's fire code;

3.2 Staff Oral Communication – NONE

3.3 Board Oral Communication

Chair Martone- Pitch-In event was successful on Saturday.

4.0 Consent Agenda

4.1 Minutes – Approval of the minutes from the Regular Board meeting on April 8, 2026.

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

Public Comment- NONE

Motion: Director Erbe 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 April 2026

Nothing to report. No questions or issues on run report.

5.2 Watsonville Run Report for April 2026

4/13-4/30 discrepancy. Getting those clarified

Public comment- NONE

6.0 Committee Reports

- 6.1 LAFCO Ad Hoc Committee – Chair Martone & Vice Chair Dellamonica (Committee will report in section 7.3)
- 6.2 Watsonville Fire/Pajaro Valley Fire Contract Ad Hoc Committee – Chair Martone & Vice Chair Dellamonica. (Committee will report in section 7.1 Continuing Business)
- 6.3 BESS Ad Hoc Committee - Chair Martone & Director Dellamonica. (Committee will give report in section 7.2 Continuing Business)

7.0 Continuing Business

All items listed in Continuing Business are intended to provide an opportunity for public discussion and board deliberation of each item listed. The following procedure pertains to each Continuing Business Item: 1) Board/Staff Member Explanation; 2) Board of Directors Questions; 3) Public Comment; 4) Board Member Deliberation; 5) Decision.

7.1 Pajaro Valley FPD / Watsonville FD Fire Service Agreement Update

The Board will receive an update from Watsonville Fire/Pajaro Valley Fire Contract Ad Hoc Committee about the Pajaro Valley Fire/Watsonville City Fire Department Fire Service Agreement.

Vice Chair Dellamonica reviewed the letter received from the City of Watsonville, which states the date of 4/20/26 as date for notice to terminate the contract. Vice Chair Dellamonica submitted a records request to the City of Watsonville. The City of Watsonville is requesting an increase in cost per call. Director Dellamonica reviewed the proposed amounts with the Board. The Board directed staff to send a letter acknowledging receipt of the notice to terminate; the committee will request additional negotiations with the City. The Board discussed mutual aid throughout the County and auto aid agreement with the City of Watsonville.

Public Comment:

Becky Steinbruner: Spoke regarding a Watsonville City Council meeting and inquired about the agreement when Pajaro Valley Fire is dissolved. Vice Chair Dellamonica responded that all contracts will carry over.

Recommended Action: Discuss, motion and/or give any directions to staff if needed.

Motion: No motion needed.

Second:

Vote:

7.2 BESS Ad Hoc Committee Report

The Board will receive an update from the BESS Ad Hoc Committee. Committee will give recommendations to board and directions to staff for the next steps.

Recommended Action: Discuss, make a motion to move forward with using a consultant for a funding methodology for BESS projects and/or give any directions to staff if needed.

Chair Martone reviewed the work of the committee and gave a status report and recommendations by the committee.

Board Questions: None

Public Comment:

Public member- asked how the recommendations would be funded. Chief Wilson responded that costs are budgeted. Commented on impacts to the environment and dangers to life.

Carol McGrath- commented on lack of turnout at public meetings by those impacted by BESS and impact to environment and human life.

Public Member- spoke on ability to evacuate in the event of an emergency from the area; the safety of the evacuation center; and environmental concerns.

Karell Reader- spoke on cost of equipment needed to fight a BESS fire.

Nina Audino- asked if the District attended meetings and planned safety measures

Diane Dutton- spoke on prohibitions on lithium and the fire code.

Vice Chair Dellamonica spoke on a consultant, Capital PFG, who would work for the District and coordinate with the builder of the BESS. The Board will meet with the consultant to discuss what they will work on.

Chief Wilson spoke on a fire service agreement the Fresno area has with the BESS providers. They have 150,000 acres vs the Districts 13-14 acres. Capital PFG would provide an engineer's report that validates the needs for the District.

Chair Martone stressed that the District does not make the ultimate decision on BESS. The Board is doing what is best for the District. Vice Chair Dellamonica stated that the BESS Ad-hoc Committee was created due to community concerns. The Board did not ask for BESS, they are aware of the concerns, taking input from members of the public, asked for comments not questions. Information is accessible to the public through the website and at the fire station.

Motion: Vice Chair Dellamonica motioned to move forward with hiring a consultant to assist with funding methodology for BESS projects.

Second: Director Moules

Vote: All

7.3 Final report from the LAFCO Committee and the dissolution of the LAFCO Ad Hoc Committee

LAFCO Ad Hoc Committee to present the Town Meeting Flyer and dates. Board will receive the final report from the LAFCO Committee. The Board Chair will discuss and possibly take action to dissolve the LAFCO Ad Hoc Committee.

Recommended Action: Board receives the final report from the LAFCO Ad Hoc Committee and the Board Chair to dissolve the Pajaro Valley Fire Protection District LAFCO Ad Hoc Committee.

Vice Chair Dellamonica reviewed the activities of the LAFCO Ad Hoc Committee. With the activities completed, the LAFCO Ad Hoc Committee will be dissolved. Chair Martone stated that it will be dissolved effective today.

Becky Steinbruner- suggested an advisory committee for LAFCO. Spoke on the LAFCO sphere of influence report.

8.0 New Business

8.1 Establishment of a Reorganization Ad Hoc Committee

Discussion and possible action to establish an Ad Hoc Reorganization Committee for matters related to the proposed reorganization between the Pajaro Valley Fire Protection District and the County of Santa Cruz County Fire CSA 48.

Recommended Action: The Board Chair establish a Reorganization Ad Hoc Committee for the purpose of participating in, coordinating, and overseeing meetings, discussions, and related activities associated with the proposed reorganization between the Pajaro Valley Fire Protection District and the County of Santa Cruz County Fire CSA 48, and appoint two Board members to serve on the committee.

Chair Martone and Vice Chair Dellamonica will be members of the CSA 48 Ad Hoc Committee

8.2 Resolution 2026-04 Temporary Transfer of Funds

The Board will review Resolution 2026-04 Temporary Transfer of Funds from the County of Santa Cruz until tax revenues are collected for the fiscal year.

Recommended Action: Discuss and make a motion to approve the resolution.

Chief Wilson reviewed the transfer of funds process.

Public Comment: None

Motion: Director Moules motioned to approve Resolution 2026-04 Temporary Transfer of Funds.

Second: Vice Chair Dellamonica

Roll call Vote: Martone: yes; Dellamonica; Yes; Erbe-yes; Moules- Yes

9.0 Correspondence

The Correspondence Listing is established to act as a report of materials received by the Board but may include items requested for inclusion by individual Board members. The Board of Directors has received the following items of correspondence which require no action by the Board. If the Board chooses, they may take any action deemed necessary (i.e. acknowledgement, referral, etc)

9.1 Email from Becky Steinbruner on May 7th, 2026 about Fire Code and CEC New Leaf Energy Permit

10.0 Adjournment

Motion: Vice Chair Dellamonica motioned to adjourn the Board Meeting.

Second: Director Erbe

All in favor: All

Time: 5:56pm

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 May 13th, 2026

Attest:

June 10, 2026

DocuSigned by:

10A6788F9DAD4BE...
Mike Urbani
Board Secretary

Signed by:

23C9A17F9456447...
Dave Martone
Board Chair