



**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

Wednesday, November 12, 2025

**1.0 Call to Order at 5:03pm**

**1.1 Pledge of Allegiance**

**1.2 Call Meeting to Order - Roll Call**

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

**2.0 Agenda Amendments**

**2.1 Additions to Agenda- NONE**

**3.0 Oral Communications**

**3.1 Public Oral Communication**

Chair Martone requested to move Public Comment to the end of the meeting to allow for all business to be completed in a timely manner.

**3.2 Staff Oral Communication**

**3.3 Board Oral Communication**

**4.0 Consent Agenda**

**4.1 Minutes – Approval of the minutes the Regular Board meeting on October 21, 2025.**

Becky Steinbruner addressed the Board regarding corrections to the minutes related to the spelling of last names of those who spoke at the meeting.

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

*Motion: By Director Dellamonica to accept the minutes with corrections to the names as stated by Steinbruner.*

*Second: Director Moules*

*All in favor: All*

**5.0 Presentations**

**5.1 Pajaro Valley Chief's Report & Run Report for October**

BC Urbani reported on the following:

- Calls of significance: vehicle accident on Casserly Rd. required extrication; assisted Watsonville Fire with structure fire; staged for shooting call

- New TV was added in the Board room.
- Bay Door was repaired.
- New engineer position filled.
- Personnel attended Trunk or Treat events and Trash Talkers on Casserly Rd.
- R2 occupancy inspections- 10 out of 13 completed, schools 8 out of 9

Director Dellamonica expressed disappointment that District was not acknowledged by Trash Talkers in their publicity. Chair Martone attended event for TrashTalkers and stated that they thanked the Board at the event.

## **5.2 Watsonville Run Report for October**

No questions by the Board.

## **6.0 Committee Reports**

### **6.1 Strategic Planning Committee – None**

### **6.2 Finance Committee – None**

### **6.3 Audit Committee – None**

### **6.4 LAFCO Ad HOC Committee – Chair Martone & Director Dellamonica give report in 7.2**

Chair Martone and Director Dellamonica stated that all tasks requested by LAFCO have been completed. Waiting for Will-Serve letter from LAFCO.

### **6.5 BESS Working Group – Chair Martone & Director Dellamonica**

Director Dellamonica stated that the purpose of the group is to gather information from public comment. Chair Martone contacted the Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors to discuss support to approve a draft ordinance. A member of the public expressed concern regarding the protective language. Chair Martone stated that the group is addressing the concern.

## **7.0 Continuing Business**

### **7.1 Ordinance 2025-15 Pajaro Valley FPD 2025 Fire Code Ordinance (Second Reading)**

*Board to review and conduct the second reading Ordinance 2025-15.*

- *Board receives staff report*

BC Urbani presented adoption of fire code and reviewed the process of adoption. Copies have been made available at the administrative offices and on the website. Three separate motions will be needed.

- *Board clarifying questions for staff*
- *PUBLIC HEARING – Board Chair opens public hearing for public comment at 5:22pm*
  - Ramon Gomez- Thanked Board for their service and encouraged adoption of the fire code ordinance.
  - Becky Steinbruner- Expressed concern with the Environmental Checklist form and requested stronger language in the fire code as it relates to the BESS project impacts to operations, personnel, the community and the environment.
  - A member of the public spoke about a video regarding the battery dangers; presented an article regarding the Moss Landing incident to the Board for their review.

- A member of the public asked the Board if they are supporting the BESS ordinance and requested a plume study.

Chair Martone reminded the speakers that the item being discussed is the Fire Code.

- *Board Chair closes public hearing at 5:32pm*
- *Board Discussion and deliberation*

BC Urbani reviewed the process that was followed and where copies are available and posted for public review.

## **Motions**

- ***Board reviews the Environmental Check List as submitted and make a motion directing staff to make appropriate filings.***

*Motion: Director Dellamonica*

*Second: Director Sampson*

*All in favor: All*

- ***Board to entertain a motion to suspend the second reading of Ordinance 2025-15 due to time.***

*Motion: Vice Chair Moules*

*Second: Director Dellamonica*

*All in favor: All*

- ***Board shall entertain a motion to adopt Ordinance 2025-15, "An Ordinance Adopting the 2025 California and 2024 International Fire Codes with Amendments"***

*Motion: Director Dellamonica*

*Second: Director Sampson*

*All in favor: All*

## **7.2 Pajaro Valley FPD / Watsonville FD Contract Update**

*The Board will receive an update if there has been a response from a Watsonville City Fire Department representatives.*

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

Chief Wilson stated that the Board sent a letter to City of Watsonville and Watsonville Fire. An informal discussion was held with the chief, nothing formal has been received from City. Director Dellamonica stated that the City of Watsonville has had the request for a year with no action. BC Urbani stated that they still have some time to respond. The Board agreed to move the item to the next board meeting on Dec. 18<sup>th</sup>.

## **8.0 New Business**

### **8.1 Resolution 2025-17 Board Member Workers Compensation Coverage**

*Board to receive staff report and review Resolution 2025-17 Board Member Workers Compensation Coverage*

**Recommended Action:** If Board desires, adopt by motion Resolution 2025-17.

BC Urbani reported that a resolution is needed for the insurance group. Board members are considered volunteers and are excluded from automatic Workers Compensation coverage. A resolution can be extended if the Board adopts a resolution.

*Motion: Director Sampson*

*Second: Vice Chair Moules*

*All in favor: All*

**8.2 Board to approve 2025 218 Benefit Assessment Engineers Report**

*Board to review the 2025 218 Benefit Assessment Engineers Report and receive a report from the LAFCO Ad Hoc Committee.*

**Recommended Action:** *Board make a motion to except the 2025 218 Benefit Assessment Engineers Report.*

Chair Martone and Director Dellamonica stated that there was some language they didn't agree with but it doesn't impact the outcome. The report will be available once approved.

Comment by Becky Steinbruner: expressed concern with SCI's findings.

*Motion: Director Erbe*

*Second: Vice Chair Moules*

*Roll Call Vote: Director Erbe, Yes; Director Sampson, Yes; Vice Chair Moules, Yes; Director Dellamonica, Yes; Chair Martone, Yes*

**8.3 Deficit Spending and Add Additional Staffing**

*Board to discuss deficit spending and add additional staffing on the fire engine.*

**Recommended Action:** *Board to have discussion, give directions to staff and/or make a motion if needed.*

Director Dellamonica recommended holding off discussing deficit spending until the Board receives the Will-Serve letter from the County of Santa Cruz. The Board will move item to Dec meeting.

*Motion: No Motion- the Board will discuss at the next meeting*

*Second:*

*Roll Call Vote*

**8.4 2026 Regular Board Meeting Schedule Discussion**

*Board to discuss the 2026 meeting schedule and when the meetings will be scheduled.*

**Recommended Action:** *Board to have discussion and give directions to staff to prepare the 2026 Regular Board meeting schedule for approval at the December 18th Board meeting.*

BC Urbani recommended moving meetings to the beginning of the month-most action is needed by the end of the month. The Board agreed. Director Dellamonica questioned the financial impact and staffing impact. Chief Wilson stated that he can fill in as needed. BC Urbani will present a schedule to the Board for review at the Dec meeting.

**8.5 Review the 2025 Insurance Services Office (ISO) Public Protection Rating**

*Board to receive staff report, review letters and reports for the PVFPD 2025 ISO Public Protection Ratings*

**Recommended Action:** *Discussion only. Review reports and ask any questions if needed.*



BC Urbani reported that there are no changes from previous ISO rating. Reviewed the current ratings.

Comment by Becky Steinbruner: Spoke on availability of the ISO rating information and the benefit to homeowners when rating increases.

**8.6      *Review letter showing support for pavement project on Casserly Rd between Highway 152 and Webb Rd***

***Recommended Action: Discussion only.***

Chair Martone reported that a letter was requested by Supervisor Hernandez for a grant in support of re-paving Casserly Road. Ramon Gomez thanked the Board for the letter and stated that it helped the County obtain partial funding to be used for the project.

**9.0      *Correspondence***

**9.1      *Nina Audino Email on 10-21-25 in reference to BESS Facility Ordinance about Solano County's Ordinance***

**9.2      *Received from Carol Bjorn at PVFPD Board Meeting on October 23, 2025 - Alarming Truths: Hazards with current BESS***

**9.3      *Received from Marilyn Gearhart at PVFPD Board Meeting on October 23, 2025 - Email sent to Supervisor De Serpa on September 23, 2025 by Noland, Hamerly, Etienne & Hoss***

**9.4      *Received from Becky Steinbruner at PVFPD Board Meeting October 23, 2025 – Handout about Green Valley Infrastructure***

Received correspondence has been read by Board. No action needed.

**10.0    *Agenda items for the next meeting***

2026 Board Meeting Schedule

2026 Chair, Vice Chair, Committee nominations

Pajaro Valley FPD / Watsonville FD Contract

Item 8.3 Deficit Spending and Add Additional Staffing

**Open Item 3.1 Public Oral Communication**

Chair Martone read a statement to those in attendance that stated the Board takes their responsibility to the public very seriously and strives to educate themselves prior to making decisions. The Board has no authority over land use decisions and does not have authority to approve or deny any projects including battery storage facilities. In accordance with SB 283 they are entrusted with the responsibility to consult with battery storage developers regarding risk assessment and emergency response plans. The Board is dedicated to upholding the highest standard of safety through diligent oversight and collaboration.

Director Dellamonica reported to the Board that retired Fire Chief Ben Evans is suffering from a terminal illness. He was the Freedom Fire Chief and then the first Pajaro Valley Fire Chief. After the merge with CalFire he was the Assistant Fire Chief for the City of Watsonville and retired as their Fire Chief. Director Dellamonica will report on his status as more information becomes available.

Public Comment Opened:

Becky Steinbruner- presented a copy of the Santa Cruz County BESS Ordinance to the Board. She again stated the need for more protective codes and policies and the need to protect firefighters and citizens.

C Castillo- expressed concern on the impact to low income community members and to consider hazards.

Monterey resident- commented on dangers of Tesla fires, BESS and health impacts.

Mark Clark- asked if there is a procedure to contain and extinguish lithium fires.

Member of the public asked the Board to use any power they may have to make an impact.

Public Comment Closed.

**11.0 Adjournment**

*Motion: Director Dellamonica*

*Second: Vice Chair Moules*

*All in favor: All*

*Time: 6:02pm*

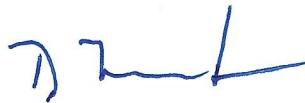
**This is to certify that for foregoing is a true copy of the discussions during the Pajaro Valley Fire Protection District Regular Board of Directors meeting, held on November 12, 2025**

**Attest:**

**December 18, 2025**



**Mike Urbani**  
**Board Secretary**



**Dave Martone**  
**Board Chair**