



**PAJARO VALLEY FIRE DISTRICT
562 CASSERLY ROAD
WATSONVILLE, CA 95076
831 722-6188**

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

Tuesday, March 20, 2025

**Call to Order/Roll Call 5:06 PM
Chair Martone
Vice Chair Moules
Director Dellamonica
Director Erbe
Director Sampson**

Public comments (not to exceed 3 minutes) for items not listed on the agenda.

1. Minutes

1.1 Approval of the minutes from the Regular Board Meeting on January 14, 2025

*Motion approving the Minutes: Director Erbe Second: Director Dellamonica
All in favor All*

2. Consent Agenda

- 2.1 Expenditure report, Vendor & Deposit summary
- 2.2 Year to Date County Reports
- 2.3 American Express statements

No questions from the Board.

*Motion approving Consent Agenda: Director Sampson Second: Director Dellamonica
All in favor All*

3. Presentations

3.1 Chief's Report, Pajaro Valley

BC Urbani introduced himself as the BC assigned to Pajaro Valley Fire District. He worked at PV Fire prior to this new assignment. He reported on the following incidents of significance:

- Jan 11 structure fire on Delaney – extensive damage to home. Watsonville and Central Fire assisted.
- Jan 15 a garbage truck caught fire
- Jan 26 PV Fire crews assisted Watsonville Fire with a structure fire with trapped victims.
- Feb 15 a vehicle stuck in flooded area on Paulsen. Crews rescued the occupants.
- Houlahan to East Lake area flooded

BC Urbani reported:

- Crews participated in the following training: supervisor and water rescue awareness

- The second shower is being worked on.
- Engineer Silva was promoted to Captain and will be working at Borough Station. Engineer Johnson took his place at PV Fire. All positions are filled.
- All equipment is in service.

3.2 Incident Report, City of Watsonville

No questions from the Board. The Board noted that there was an increase in Station 1 area calls. BC Murray reported that he reviewed the auto aid agreement, and it is being sent back to Watsonville Fire for their review.

4. Committee Reports

4.1 Strategic Planning Committee Report-NONE

4.2 Finance Committee Report-NONE

4.3 Audit Committee Report-NONE

4.4 LAFCO Ad Hoc Committee Report – Chari Martone & Director Dellamonica

Chair Martone reported that PV Fire had to reduce to 2-0 staffing in 2024 due to budget constraints. An assessment did not pass in Nov. 2024. The District is attempting to save funds where possible. The Board is exploring the possibility of merging with Santa Cruz County Fire. Chair Martone reviewed the process with LAFCO and the need to pass a resolution to dissolve the District.

5. Old Business

5.1 Annual Audit Completion

BC Urbani stated that the whole report was received but it has already been reviewed.

6. New Business

6.1 LAFCO Election Special District Member

Board of Directors to select Regular and Alternate LAFCO Special District Member

Lonny Faulkner- representing Central Fire spoke to the Board. Ms. Faulkner is running for LAFCO. The Board reviewed the letter she sent to the Board and reviewed her qualifications and background for the Board. Ms. Faulkner reviewed her understanding of the challenges faced by fire agencies. She expressed the need to have someone with her varied experiences and her input as a woman.

Becky Steinburner, a resident of CSA 48. She expressed that Jim Anderson has been very instrumental with other fire district consolidations and is experienced and instrumental in working with fire districts. She asked the Board to consider selecting him for the seat on LAFCO.

Director Dellamonica nominated Nunez as primary and Banks as alternate.
Director Sampson nominated Faulkner as primary and Anderson as alternate.
Chair Martone nominated Faulkner as primary and Banks as alternate.
Vice Chair Moules nominated Nunez as primary and Banks as alternate.
Director Ere nominated Nunez as primary and Banks as alternate.

After a tally of the votes, the Board nominated Nunez as primary and Banks as alternate.

6.2 Resolution 2025-01 to Dissolve the District and Annexation into Santa Cruz County Fire Board of Directors to review Resolution and Application to Dissolve the District and Annexation into Santa Cruz County Fire CSA 48.

Don Jarvis, resident of the District, stated that PV Fire District needs to be reorganized. Mr. Jarvis reviewed the resolution and pointed out conflicts of interest with having CalFire staff working on the resolution and items he believes is missing/inaccurate. He stated that the Board needs to work for the best interests of the community members of the District.

Becky Steinburner, resident of the District, expressed agreement with Mr. Jarvis' comments. She stated that the links for the documentation were not working and therefore the documents were not available 72 hours before the meeting. She believes that more outreach needs to be made with community members. Santa Cruz County LAFCO is doing a large study about the feasibility of re-organizing CSA48 but it has not been made public. She would like the Board to do its due diligence before signing the resolution.

The Board discussed the concerns expressed and decided to table the item.

Motion approving Resolution 2025-01 to Dissolve District and LAFCO Application
Motion: _____ **Second:** _____ **All in favor** _____

6.3 Resolution 2025-2 Annual Inspections 2024

Board to review Annual Inspections Staff Report, Chris Walters Fire Marshal

Deputy Fire Marshal Chris Walters spoke to the Board regarding the required annual inspections. The State Fire Marshal has requested that a report be presented to the Board presenting how many inspections were conducted the previous year. He stated that the District is 100 % compliant.

Motion approving resolution 2025-2 Annual Inspections

Motion: Vice Chair Moules **Second:** Director Dellamonica **All in favor** All

6.4 Resolution 2025-03 Authorization Procedure for payment of Claims

Board of Directors to review Resolution 2025-03 that will supersede Resolution 2019-11

BC Urbani stated that this resolution is to update the list of personnel authorized to approve claims for processing and deposits.

Motion approving Resolution 2025-03 Authorization Procedure for payment of Claims

Motion: Director Sampson **Second:** Director Erbe **All in favor** All

6.5 FAIRA Board of Directors Nominations

Board of Directors to review letter from FAIRA

The Board did not express an interest.

6.6 Minto Road Battery Energy Storage

Board of Directors to review Staff Report

Deputy Fire Marshal Walters reported that the project is in its preliminary stages. It is on a parcel that is currently an apple orchard. The batteries (30 each) will be in shipping containers that will have a suppression system and can be remotely monitored down to the cell size of the battery. The voltage and heat of the battery can be monitored and operators can shut down the individual cell, tray, rack or container. There would be fencing around it. There is no water in the area so Deputy Fire Marshal Walters has requested that water be brought in as well as a secondary means of access be provided-possibly through Grimmer. The facility meets the requirements. The batteries are a different composition than the Moss

Landing batteries. They will be going through CEQUA. Proposing to build in 2027-2028 PGE needs to do upgrades to the substation. The company proposing the project is from the East Coast with a branch in the Bay Area. The company will need to come up with an emergency response plan along with local fire and law agencies.

Director Dellamonica asked if there is a secondary containment area. Deputy Fire Marshal Walters stated that there is- he is not as involved with that but knows they are working on a catchment. Chair Martone stated that he attended a meeting at Amesti School that was not attended well. Deputy Fire Marshal Walters stated that the company knows they will need to do more public outreach.

Ms. Steinbruner stated that she looked at the risk assessment and there is a heightened risk of cancer because of the off gassing by the containers. She also stated that the plan is very vague. The risk assessment also states that firefighters should not be within 100ft of the facility due to the potential of explosion. Ms. Steinbruner also stated that Shapiro Knolls and other subdivisions near the substation were not discussed or considered in the risk assessment. She reviewed other areas of concern that she found in the assessment and expressed concerns about this project.

Chair Martone stated that the District does not have any input on the project itself. Deputy Fire Marshal Walters stated that the company is offering to provide training and any equipment that is needed. The proposal will go before the Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors in April. Ms. Steinbruner cautioned that the company has the legal ability, under AB205, to go around the local jurisdiction to the California Energy Commission and obtain approval. Deputy Fire Marshal Walters stated that they have told him they won't be going that route.

6.7 Issuing of Badges for Board of Directors

Board of Directors to discuss

Director Dellamonica stated the correct name for this item should be re-issuing of badges. He stated that badges were issued in the past to the Board of Directors. He verified with Derek Whitmer, retired Unit Chief, and he stated that all Board of Directors have been issued badges to allow them to conduct necessary business, especially during a large scale emergency. The cost is \$118 for a flat badge. Director Dellamonica also requested photo IDs for Board members. Chief Wilson stated that staff does not have rights to print a Photo ID. Director Dellamonica also asked that the District provide a retirement rocker when a Board member retires. Chair Martone asked Director Dellamonica to provide additional information on pricing and a draft policy to present to the Board and present it back as an action item.

6.8 Return to monthly Board Meetings

Board of Directors to discuss

Director Dellamonica asked that due to the budget discussions, LAFCO, and other pressing items he recommends monthly meetings. The Board discussed the need. Director Sampson asked if there would be a financial impact to the District. BC Murray reported that the budget should be able to sustain the additional meetings. Chair Martone directed staff to create a new calendar based on the Board's recommendation starting in April.

Motion to return to monthly Board meetings

Motion: ___Director Sampson___ **Second:** ___Vice Chair Moules___

All in favor ___All___

7. Correspondence

NONE

8. Agenda items for the next meeting

Preliminary Budget Approval
CAL FIRE Contract Renewal
Item 6.2 **Resolution 2025-01 to Dissolve the District and Annexation into Santa Cruz County Fire**
Item 6.7 **Issuing of Badges for Board of Directors**

10. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn Director Sampson Second Director Erbe _____
All in favor All _____ *Time* 6:06pm _____

**Next scheduled Regular Board Meeting
Tuesday, May 20, 2025 @ 5:00 p.m.**

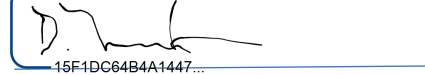
This is to certify that the foregoing is a true copy of the discussion during the Pajaro Valley Fire Protection District Board of Directors Meeting, held on March 20, 2025.

Attest:

Dated: April 24, 2025

DocuSigned by:


10A6788F9DAD4BE...
Mike Urbani
Board Secretary

DocuSigned by:


15F1DC64B4A1447...
Dave Martone
Board Chair