



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

MINUTES

REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
of the
PAJARO VALLEY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT
on
Wednesday, August 12, 2026

1.0 Call to Order 5:02pm

1.1 Pledge of Allegiance

1.2 Call Meeting to Order - Roll Call

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

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

Add item 8.2 - Pajaro Valley FPD Board Vacancy

Add item 8.3 - Board Chair Appointment of a New Member to Finance Committee

Motion: Motion to add items 8.2 and 8.3 to agenda by Director Dellamonica.

Second: Director Moules

All in favor: All

3.0 Oral Communications

3.1 Public Oral Communication- NONE

3.2 Staff Oral Communication - NONE

3.3 Board Oral Communication-

Director Dellamonica stated that September is first responder month at PV Rod and Gun Club. Inviting CalFire and Sheriff's office to dinner on Monday, Sept. 14th at 6:30pm.

4.0 Consent Agenda

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

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

Motion: Motion to approve all items on the Consent Agenda by Director Erbe

Second: Director Dellamonica

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 July 2026

BC Urbani reported on the following:

- Several vegetation fires occurred in July. Fireworks were heard prior to fires.



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- Several vegetation fires occurred in July. Fireworks were heard prior to fires.
- 4591 is back in service.
- Training with Santa Clara County Fire.
- Facilities: contractor started work on septic system.
- Community outreach – Chair Martone attended trash pickup on Paulsen Rd.

Director Dellamonica requested anticipated costs on septic system repair and confirmation if insurance will cover the costs. BC Urbani stated that coverage by the insurance cannot be confirmed until the cause is determined. The repair is budgeted for \$75K. The current estimate is \$52K. BC Urbani gave an overview of the issue with the septic system.

- 5.2 Watsonville Run Report for July 2026
No questions. No public comment.

6.0 **Committee Reports**

- 6.1 Reorganization Ad Hoc Committee – Chair Martone & Director Dellamonica
(Committee will give report in section 7.2 Continuing Business)
- 6.2 Watsonville Fire/Pajaro Valley Fire Contract Ad Hoc Committee – Chair Martone & Director Dellamonica.
(Committee will give report in section 7.1 Continuing Business)
- 6.3 BESS Ad Hoc Committee - Chair Martone & Director Dellamonica. (Committee will give report in section 8.1 Continuing Business)

7.0 **Continuing Business**

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.

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

Chief Wilson reported that a meeting will be held with Watsonville on Friday at 4pm. The 17th of this month is the expiration date of the contract with Watsonville. Dellamonica spoke on PRA requests he submitted. Response has been extended to the 17th. More information will be available after the meeting with Watsonville.

Motion: No motion required.

7.2 **Reorganization Committee Report Update**

The Board will receive an update from the Reorganization Committee, receive the latest LAFCO Fire Project update and receive an update of the outcome of the County of Santa Cruz Board of Supervisor's meeting held on August 11th.

Recommended Action: Board to receive update, have discussion, give directions to staff and/or make a motion.

Director Dellamonica reported that LAFCO approved staff to issue a will serve letter to the District. This is the last step for the application. The Board is working with LAFCO and other staff to move into the next step of the process. Chief Wilson reported that by the end of April all tasks should be completed. July 1 is the target date for final execution of documents. Director Martone reported that a community meeting will be in late September.

Public Comment:

Becky Steinbruner- resident-asked how the community can stop the action; questioned the cost analysis; expressed concern that the community is not aware of the situation.

Motion: No motion required



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7.3 Capital Outlay Re-allocation Staff Report

The Board will receive a staff report for re-allocating funds from the Capital Outlay fund. Discussion points will be amending of the LG-1 agreement with PVFPD and CAL FIRE to add personnel for 3-person staffing, overtime for 3-person staffing and property/asset purchase for land.

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

Chief Wilson gave an overview of the budget. Cost impact is \$532K for a 12 month period. The staffing changes cannot be implemented until September. The cost will be \$410K for remainder of the fiscal year. Chief Wilson reviewed the various impacts to the budget and stated that a real estate expert would be needed to proceed with property acquisition.

A discussion was held on staffing and staffing costs to include both regular and overtime pay. Director Martone stated that the County is open to another station on the other side of the District.

Public Comment:

Frank- a resident- asked the location of property being considered. Director Dellamonica reviewed the previous location of the Freedom Fire Station and the original contract. The Board is looking at property within ¼ mile of that area. This would keep money local to District residents and improve the level of service.

Becky Steinbruner-resident- supports 3-0 staffing; expressed concern with County Fire and the build of a station; asked that the fire station is paid for by BESS

Jessica- resident- reported that Watsonville purchased property by Pasilla's Tire and suggested that the property be considered.

Motion to amend the LG-1 agreement with PVFPD and CAL FIRE to add personnel for 3-person staffing, overtime for 3-person staffing and property/asset purchase for land.

Motion: Director Moules

Second: Director Dellamonica

Vote: All

8.0 New Business

8.1 BESS Ad Hoc Committee Report and BESS Fire Code Consultant Staff Report

The Board will receive an update from BESS Ad Hoc Committee and review a Staff Report prepared by the Fire Marshalls Office about using a consultant to help with fire code implementation and standards for BESS facilities.

Recommended Action: Board to receive update, review staff report, have discussion, give directions to staff.

BC Urbani reviewed the report from the consultant. Their recommendation is to obtain a quote from a contractor who will perform a technical review of everything on BESS; determine which standards to adopt; develop internal documents; recommend adoption, timing and sequencing; provide all documents for inspections. They would develop everything needed to oversee a BESS facility.

Director Dellamonica stated that this contractor would help with requirements and studies that are needed to be prepared to work with BESS. BC Urbani stated that he is waiting to hear back from the HazMat team regarding what is needed should facility be built. The contractors work with both first responders and developers and know codes and regulations for both sides. Board and staff discussed the benefits of the contractor.

Public Comment:

Resident- reviewed items in the San Diego code; impacts and decisions regarding the BESS facilities;



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Marlena- resident- spoke on impacts and requirements of the facilities and releases in the community; other counties who may have experience with same;

Margaret Ann- resident- Expressed concern that Minto Rd has limited access; large explosions have been heard from the area of PG&E substation; not the right site for BESS and concern for the community;

Becky Steinbruner- resident- asked if all fire districts in the area are looking at the regulations; spoke on Fire Prevention symposium attendance benefits; spoke on importance of fire marshal review

Director Dellamonica asked for clarification on cost- \$25K to \$50K current. Requested a cap to include the option to request approval to increase the cap.

BC Urbani reviewed the process to approve the contract. Board and staff discussed the process to completion once the contract is approved.

Jessica-resident- stated that her husband will do the work at no cost. Spoke on technology available.

Motion: Motion to direct Fire Marshal to contact contractor for proposal on cost and timeline for completion and report back at the next meeting

Motion: Director Erbe

Second: Director Dellamonica

Vote: Yes

8.2 Pajaro Valley FPD Board Vacancy

The Board will receive an update from staff and Board Chair about the vacancy on the PVFPD board.

Recommended Action: Board to receive update, review staff report, have discussion, give directions to staff.

BC Urbani reported that Director Sampson resigned. He reviewed the process to fill the vacancy with a goal to appoint a new member at next meeting. The notice will be posted at the Fire Station and other locations in the District. Term ending December 2026. Applications will be accepted Aug 13th -31st. Discussion was held on candidates and impacts to this vacancy. The appointed board member would not be able to vote until the October 2026 meeting.

Becky Steinbruner- resident- asked for process to evaluate candidates. Director Martone stated they are asked to submit a resume, and interviews are held.

Motion: No motion required. Directed staff to continue as planned.

8.3 Board Chair Appointment of a New Member to Finance Committee.

The Board will appoint a new member to the Finance Committee for the remainder of 2026.

The Board Chair appointed and the rest of the board agreed that Director Erbe will fill the finance committee vacancy for the remainder of 2026.

9.0 Correspondence - none

10.0 Adjournment

Motion: Motion to adjourn the Board Meeting by Director Moules

Second: Director Erbe

All in favor: All

Time: 6:27pm



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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 August 12th, 2026

Attest:

September 9, 2026

A blue ink signature of Mike Urbani, consisting of a series of connected loops and a long horizontal stroke.

Mike Urbani
Board Secretary

A blue ink signature of Dave Martone, featuring a stylized 'D' followed by a series of loops and a horizontal stroke.

Dave Martone
Board Chair

