



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

Tuesday, October 21, 2025

1.0 Call to Order @ 5:10pm

1.1 Call Meeting to Order - Roll Call

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

2.0 Agenda Amendments

2.1 Additions to Agenda

Remove 3.1 from Consent Agenda in case there are any modifications

2.0 Public Comments

Alex Miller- Aptos resident. Since last meeting there was another Salt River Fire. Asked the Board to consider the high probability of a response to a similar fire in the District.

Nina Audino- owns a home in rural Corralitos. Urged a strong collaboration between County Fire, Board of Supervisors and County Planning to create a strong ordinance. Sent a copy of Solano's ordinance. Reviewed the guidelines included in this ordinance. Asked that a protective ordinance be established.

Carol Bjorn- requested that ordinance require non-flammable materials. Expressed agreement with Ms. Audino. Spoke regarding elective power institute and stated she has statistics on failures since 2021. Ms. Bjorn stated that she spoke at Watsonville City Council regarding fire prevention and how to respond.

Becky Steinbruner- Aptos resident. Spoke on the ordinance being written by New Leaf and Dudek and expressed concern that they are defining for the County the agricultural designations and critical infrastructure. Ms. Steinbruner stated that City of Watsonville City Council did not allow public comment. Supervisor Felipe Hernandez has scheduled a meeting but will not be discussing the 90 Minto Project. Ms. Steinbruner also expressed agreement with other speakers.

Marilyn Gearhart- Aptos resident. Read Central Water District's letter of protest to the County Board of Supervisors regarding the project on Freedom Boulevard and to consider the economic, environmental and public risks.

3.0 Consent Agenda

3.1 Minutes – Approval of the minutes from the Special Board meeting on September 22, 2025

Motion by Director Dellamonica; Second by Director Erbe; All in favor: all

and the Regular Board meeting on September 25, 2025.

Motion by Vice Chair Moules; Second by Director Erbe; All in favor: all

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

Motion: Director Dellamonica

Second: Vice Chair Moules

All in favor: All

4.0 **Presentations**

4.1 Pajaro Valley Chief's Report & Run Report for August-Battalion Chief Urbani reported on the following:

- Features added to home page: current agenda and past agendas; contact us; meeting dates
- Incidents- small vegetation fire.
- All equipment in service
- Training- quarterly training roof ventilation
- Facility update- insurance regarding septic system, waiting for response on coverage
- Resume review on engineer position
- Community outreach Murphy's Crossing, school presentation at Amesti School

4.2 Watsonville Run Report No questions from Board

4.3 Pitch In Santa Cruz – Trash Talkers upcoming event on Casserly Rd Director Dellamonica invited the Board to participate on Thursday 23rd at 9am; working with Felipe Hernadnez. The event will be from Casserly to Alianza School and maybe Whiting Rd. Cover Engine 4511 will participate along with Chief Whitaker. 9am. All are welcome.

5.0 **Committee Reports**

5.1 Strategic Planning Committee – None

5.2 Finance Committee – None

5.3 Audit Committee – BC Urbani

BC Urbani reported: audit is week of Nov. 3rd; all has been provided to the auditors; asked the Board if they want a kickoff meeting.

5.4 LAFCO Ad HOC Committee – Chair Martone & Director Dellamonica

Chair Martone reported that the committee met to discuss funding needed to maintain 3-0 staffing. \$207 needed which is higher than previous request which failed; if CSA 48 takes over it will bring \$1.7M; Chair Martone reviewed the cost difference between PV staying as a district or CSA 48. The 218 Benefit Assessment would need every single-family dwelling to vote to pass the District would get 51% but they would also pay more; the weighted vote is on the businesses.

6.0 **Continuing Business**

6.1 **Pajaro Valley FPD & Watsonville City FD Contract Update**

The Board receives an update from staff on the status of the Pajaro Valley FPD and Watsonville City FD Contract.

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

Chief Wilson spoke to Acting Fire Chief Schaefer and is still awaiting a response from the City. Recommended that the Board write a letter to the City; Director Dellamonica stated that letters have been drafted and presented to the Acting Chief but there has been no response, and the City continues to collect funds; Director Sampson asked what the ramifications are if Watsonville does not respond as it will impact the community without ALS. Director Dellamonica reported that there are some responses that fall under Auto Aid/Mutual Aid; when PV Fire responds to Watsonville calls there is no charge as they fall under Auto Aid/Mutual Aid; BC Urbani reviewed the number of ALS calls being responded to by Watsonville. The Board discussed the various responses by Watsonville into the District.

Director Dellamonica motioned to direct staff to draft a letter to meet and determine a resolution within 30 days or terminate the contract within 30 days due to lack of response and pro-rate the amount owed. Director Erbe second. Roll call vote-Vice Chair Moules-Yes; Director Dellamonica-Yes; Director Erbe, Yes; Director Sampson-Nay; Chair Martone, Yes

Becky Steinbruner – questioned if the District would still have mutual aid in a fire. The response is yes.

6.2 218 Benefit Assessment update from Pajaro Valley Fire's LAFCO Ad Hoc Committee

The board will receive an update from Pajaro Valley Fire's LAFCO Ad Hoc Committee on the status of the proposed 218 Benefit Assessment.

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

Chair Martone recommended ceasing work on the 218 Benefit Assessment and directing staff to work with SCI and pay only for the work completed thus far.

Director Dellamonica motioned to cease and desist with SCI and benefit assessment. Second – Director Sampson.

Becky Steinburg- Spoke on the legality of assessing the land and the assessment tax and stated the engineer report needs to identify general benefit vs specific benefit.

Roll call vote: Vice Chair Moules- yes; Director Dellamonica, yes; Director Erbe- yes; Director Sampson, yes; Chair Martone, yes.

6.3 Update on Director Badges

The Board will receive an update on the badges that were ordered for the members of the Board and the next steps needed to be able to issue them.

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

BC Urbani showed the Board the sample of the badges for the Directors for their approval.

7.0 New Business

7.1 Establish a working group for Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) Facility proposed at 90 Minto Rd

The Board to discuss if they want to establish a BESS Facility Working Group to advise the Pajaro Valley FPD Board of Directors on information gathered in reference to the BESS Facility proposed at 90 Minto Rd.

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

Chief Wilson reported that the working group would include board members, subject matter experts and CalFire staff (Chief Wilson, BC Urbani, two board members, Chris Walters with Joe Packman subject matter experts). They would meet prior to the Board of Supervisors meeting; Chair Martone and Director Dellamonica expressed interest in joining the group.

Becky Steinbruner thanked the Board and requested the opportunity for members of the public to add input; she again asked that the Board look at other county ordinances as a template such as the Central Water District letter. Ms. Steinbruner expressed her opinion on the dangers of BESS and again thanked the Board for their efforts.

Director Sampson motioned to establish a working group.

Motion: Director Sampson

Second: Director Erbe

All in favor: All

Director Sampson motioned to add Chair Martone and Director Dellamonica- second Vice Chair Moules, All in Favor: All

7.2 Resolution 2025-16 Volunteer Firefighter Assistant Grant

Board to review documents and Resolution 2025-16 Volunteer Firefighter Assistant Grant for Fiscal Year 2025-2026

Recommended Action: Adopt by motion Resolution 2025-16 Volunteer Firefighter Assistant Grant.

BC Urbani reported that the grant was awarded. Request \$20K and received \$10K. Resolution to accept the funds and the authorize Chief Wilson to accept the grant and will reimburse- for turnouts.

Director Dellamonica- asked re volunteer firefighter assistance grant name. This is the grant available to districts.

Motion: Director Moules

Second: Director Erbe

All in favor: All

8.0 Correspondence

8.1 – Alex Miller Handout on BESS Facilities that was handed out to the Board Members at the Regular Board Meeting on September 25.

8.2 – Email from Becky Steinbruner sent on 9/25/25 and handed out to the Board Members at the Regular Board Meeting on September 25.

8.3 – Email from Becky Steinbruner send on 10/8/25 regarding Santa Cruz County Draft Ordinance hearing and YouTube link for BESS Fire Code.

8.4 – Email on 10/10/25 from Senior Project Developer Max Christian responsible for the “Seahawk” project proposed for 90 Minto Rd.

Becky Steinbruner spoke on this letter and shared copies of applications submitted by Mr. Christian and shared information she gathered with the Board.

8.5 – Email from Becky Steinbruner on 10/14/25 BESS presentation to Watsonville City Council.

9.0 Agenda items for the next meeting

CSA 48- discuss deficit spending and possibility of additional staffing on engines for 3-0 staffing

BESS working group report

Fire Code final reading

SCI final report

Resolution for Board Members W/C Coverage

Watsonville Contract Update

10.0 Adjournment

Motion: Vice Chair Moules

Second: Director Erbe

All in favor: all

Time: 6:17pm

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 October 21, 2025

Attest:

November 12, 2025

DocuSigned by:

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Mike Urbani
Board Secretary

Signed by:

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Dave Martone
Board Chair