



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, January 14, 2026

1.0 Call to Order

1.1 Pledge of Allegiance

1.2 Call Meeting to Order - Roll Call 5:00PM

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

2.0 Agenda Amendments

2.1 Additions to Agenda - NONE

3.0 New Business

3.1 Nomination and Selection of Board Chair and Vice Chair for the 2026 Calendar Year

Members of the Board of Directors volunteer or nominate and select Chair and Vice Chair for the 2026 Calendar Year.

Recommended Action: BC Urbani to give a brief staff report. Receive volunteers or nominations and elect Chair/Vice Chair (Nominations do not require a second and more than one person may be nominated. Once nominations are complete, members of Board may discuss and then vote).

BC Urbani reported there are no additional recommendations for the nominations of Chair and Vice Chair.

The Board members made nominations for Chair and Vice Chair.

Director Sampson nominated Director Martone for Chair

Director Moules nominated Director Dellamonica for Chair

Roll call vote: Director Martone- voted for Director Martone, Director Erbe- voted for Director Martone;

Director Sampson- voted for Director Martone; Director Moules- voted for Director Dellamonica; Director Dellamonica- voted for Director Dellamonica

After the roll call vote, Director Martone selected as the Chair

Director Moules nominated Jake Dellamonica for Vice Chair. No other nominations were proposed.

Motion: Director Sampson motioned to appoint Director Martone as Chair and Director Dellamonica as Vice Chair of the Board for 2026 calendar year. Second: Director Erbe

Roll Call Vote: Director Erbe-Yes; Director Sampson-Yes; Director Moules-Yes; Director Dellamonica-Yes; Director Martone-Yes.

3.2 **Selection of Standing Committee Chairs and Committee Members for the 2026 Calendar Year**

Board Chair to select members or volunteers to Standing Committee for 2026 Calendar Year.

Recommended Action: Board to discuss which standing committees to have for 2026. Volunteer and/or select a Chair and members of standing committees. Board Chair to select members to Standing Committees for 2026 Calendar Year.

BC Urbani presented staff recommendation of disbanding the audit and strategic planning committees. Members of the Finance Committee can be involved in the District's annual financial audit. This year's meeting was conducted via email communications. The strategic planning committee can be an ad-hoc committee that the Board would appoint every 5 years when the strategic plan is updated. The last strategic plan was completed in 2019 so the Board should consider an ad-hoc committee for strategic planning this year. The Finance Committee would be the only standing committee. Chair Martone asked for volunteers. Director Moules and Director Sampson volunteered. Director Moules nominated Director Sampson as the Chair for the Finance Committee.

Motion: Director Dellamonica motioned to appoint _ Director Sampson_ as Chair and _ Director Moules_ as members of _Finance_ committee for 2026 calendar year. Second: Director Erbe

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

3.3 **Selection of Ad HOC Committee Chairs and Committee Members for the 2026 Calendar Year**

Board Chair to disband any Ad HOC Committees not in use, establish new Ad HOC Committees and announce any changes in appointments to LAFCO and BESS Ad HOC Committees for 2026 Calendar Year.

Recommended Action: Board Chair to announce disbanding any Ad HOC Committees no longer active and announce appointments of members to any new or continuing Ad HOC Committees.

Vice Chair Dellamonica asked for clarification on the need for a standing audit committee.

BC Urbani advised that a standing audit committee is not needed because it will require a public meeting for the audit which is not needed. Questions from the auditors are handled by the Board members on the Finance Committee.

Motion to disband Strategic Planning and Audit standing committees by Director Moules. Second by Vice Chair Dellamonica

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

The Board discussed the committees needed.

Chair Martone volunteered to be the Chair of the LAFCO and BESS committee. Vice Chair Dellamonica agreed to stay on the LAFCO and BESS committees.

Vice Chair Dellamonica proposed a separate Ad Hoc committee for the Watsonville contract. Chair Martone would like to be part of this Ad Hoc committee with Vice Chair Dellamonica. The Board agreed to establish this Ad Hoc committee for the Watsonville contract.

BC Urbani stated that the Strategic plan is a 5yr plan. Chief Wilson recommended that the strategic planning Ad Hoc committee be considered at the March meeting.

4.0 **Oral Communications**

Chair Martone opened public comments on matters not on the agenda. Due to the number of community members present, comments were limited to 2 minutes per person. There will be no deliberation or action on items not on the

agenda. The Board may refer a matter to staff or schedule discussion for future meetings. The public should address the Board on items on the agenda during the Boards consideration of the item.

4.1 Public Oral Communication Public comments opened 5:17pm

Becky Steinbruner- rural Aptos

Invited Board to attend a meeting by Zayante Fire regarding radio inoperability project. Suggested that PV Fire Board be aware of the information even though they are part of CalFire. Spoke regarding the Felton Fire feasibility study being conducted by CSI.

4.2 Staff Oral Communication

BC Urbani reported regarding Chief Ben Evan's memorial and the District's participation on Saturday, Jan 17th at the Padres Hall.

BC Urbani reported that red numbers were added to Board Packet to make it easier to identify items being referenced.

4.3 Board Oral Communication

Chair Martone reported that the Pitch-In Santa Cruz county-wide cleanup is on May 9th and shared a flyer with additional dates. PV Fire is a Co-sponsor and encourages all to participate.

5.0 Consent Agenda

Matters listed under the Consent Agenda will be acted upon by one motion affirming the action recommended. There will be no separate discussion on items unless members of the Board or Staff request the removal of an item for separate action.

5.1 Minutes – Approval of the minutes from the Regular Board meeting on December 18th, 2025.

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

Motion: Motion to approve items in the Consent Agenda as presented by Vice Chair Dellamonica

Second: Director Erbe

All in favor: All

6.0 Presentations

6.1 Pajaro Valley Chief's Report & Run Report for December

Chief Urbani reported on the following:

- Form 700 due from all Board and Chiefs
- No significant incidents
- Repairs on apparatus completed
- No significant training conducted
- Septic system leak patch repaired. Complete repair will be conducted once the ground is dry.
- Personnel- FE Walters will start Monday; a fourth engineer was recently approved; start date will be in a few weeks.
- Fire Marshals Office reported 100% of state mandated inspections completed for 2025

6.2 Watsonville Run Report for December

No questions

7.0

Committee Reports

Standing Committees are subject to all Brown Act requirements. Ad hoc committees are not subject to the Brown Act noticing and agenda requirements. A written agenda is prepared and posted at least 72 hours prior to standing committee meetings. An opportunity is provided for public input at standing committee meetings.

7.1 Strategic Planning Committee – Disbanded

7.2 Finance Committee – No Report

7.3 Audit Committee – Disbanded

7.4 LAFCO Ad HOC Committee – Chair Martone & Director Dellamonica

Chair Martone asked for a report from staff. Chief Wilson reported that the LAFCO Board is still waiting for the will-serve letter. Chief Wilson will be co-presenting to LAFCO as the Pajaro Valley Fire Chief with Joe Serrano from LAFCO on Feb. 4, 2026. He anticipates having two public community meetings to discuss the impact the reorganization will have with the citizens of the Pajaro Valley Fire District. Once the community meetings are completed, the County will most likely provide the will-serve letter. Mr. Serrano anticipates it will be 10-12 months for the reorganization.

Don Jarvis- Smith Rd. – suggested that the entire Board be informed. He stated that the reorganization needs to be completed by July. If the reorganization is not completed by the end of July, there will be an 18-month delay in funding.

Becky Steinbruner- resident of rural Aptos. Requested more communication to the public and for the Board to ask the community what they would like the Board to do. She also asked that the Board to present the cost for options requested by the community and funding sources available.

Marcy Bustos-Minto Rd. - asked how she can be informed about meetings regarding BESS. Chief Wilson responded that for LAFCO process, impacted parcel owners will receive a mailer regarding the public meetings. This is similar to information that went out two years ago regarding the 218 benefit assessment. The community was asked what they wanted but they didn't back it with their vote.

Vice Chair Dellamonica- made a point of order. He is on the LAFCO committee and stated that he should've had opportunity to present before going to public comments. He asked for clarification on a meeting that was held with staff, the County and a member of the LAFCO committee. Chief Wilson clarified that the County requested to meet with the Director of the Board and not the committee. Vice Chair Dellamonica reviewed the LAFCO timeline and does not see a need for a public meeting without a will-serve letter from the County.

Chief Wilson reviewed the timeline and clarified that the District must conduct educational sessions with the community before the County will issue the will-serve letter. Chief Wilson expressed the need to be transparent and holding the meetings to inform the community is something that should be done. Chair Martone expressed that the LAFCO ad-hoc committee reports back to the Board to keep them informed; the County has also offered their PIO to provide social media and messaging support. Director Erbe asked if the District has all the necessary information to make the presentation. Vice Chair Dellamonica responded the Board does have all the necessary information, but it needs to be turned into a presentation by the working group. Chief Wilson reported that Mr. Serrano will be reaching out to meet with the ad hoc committee to discuss the Feb 4th presentation and the community meetings. Chair Martone reported that LAFCO requested the District's SCI reports with the Board's approval.

Member of the public- asked for an explanation of LAFCO and voting. Chief Wilson gave an overview of LAFCO and the process. Director Sampson also explained 3-0 and 2-0 staffing on apparatus.

Member of the public- asked for clarification on the reorganization into County Fire and its impact. Chief Wilson explained the reorganization and impacts to the residents. Chair Martone clarified that if the District dissolves and becomes part of Santa Cruz County Fire, the District residents will be assessed a fire fee and 218 benefit assessment fee which is currently being paid by CSA-48 residents.

Don Jarvis asked if the information on the reorganization has been presented to the public. Vice Chair Dellamonica reported that the information is being compiled by the working group and providing a summary report to the Board. Mr. Jarvis requested that the Board share the information they have.

7.5 BESS Working Group – Chair Martone & Director Dellamonica

Vice Chair Dellamonica reported on a meeting with Capital PFG, a financial advisory group, to support the District as they work with the BESS facility. He reviewed the costs and groups they met with to gather data to report back to the Board. Vice Chair Dellamonica stated that Pajaro Valler Fire is not putting in the BESS facility. The County is the one approving the ordinance. The Board is looking at how the District can benefit from it and better handle an incident should one occur. Chair Martone reported that the working group is tasked with preparing the District to respond, do the best for the District, while keeping the staff and community safe. Vice Chair Dellamonica stated that Moss Landing incident was from 25-yr old technology; the batteries potentially being installed haven't been designed or built yet as the project is 4-years down the road. The District is submitting their recommendations to the County to move forward with an ordinance to allow the County to have some say within its jurisdiction. Having the ordinance in place will help the County.

Director Erbe- asked for clarification regarding negotiations with the BESS companies. Chair Martone stated that by law they must negotiate with the District.

Miguel Carrera- Minto Rd- expressed water supply concerns. Chair Martone stated that an ordinance was passed requiring any BESS system to have a dedicated water supply and collection of contaminated run-off in the event of an incident.

Nina Audino – Amesti Rd- spoke regarding fear narrative of CDC by developers and cease and desist letter.

Jessica Ayala- read letter from husband Phil Carranco- expressed concerns that it will be 3 story stacked batteries, the dangers and UL requirements.

Morgan Lewis- Amador Rd- Expressed concerns on how the BESS fires will be fought. Expressed concerns about impact of smoke on vegetation and wildlife.

Phoenix Artemesia- Paulsen Rd- Concern regarding lack of information from BESS. Asked for District to attend community meetings to explain fire science and chemistry.

Becky Steinbruner- rural Aptos- spoke regarding Los Angeles County Firefighters Union cease and desist notice; impact of battery fires; and expressed concerns regarding fault zone. Ms. Steinbruner gave documents to the Board for their review.

No comments from the Board

8.0 Continuing Business

8.1 Pajaro Valley FPD / Watsonville FD Contract Update

The Board will receive an update from Chief Wilson about the Pajaro Valley Fire/Watsonville City Fire Department Contract.

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

Chief Wilson reported that they are waiting for reports from dispatch on Watsonville Fire's time on calls. BC Urbani is also compiling historical data. Staff will have all information for the February meeting. Director Sampson thanked staff for their work.

Vice Chair Dellamonica asked for clarification to confirm that Watsonville Fire will still respond mutual aid. Chief Wilson stated that responses into the District have not changed. This item will stay on continuing business.

8.2 Pajaro Valley Fire Board Meeting Rules

Board to review, discuss and make any further changes to the updated Pajaro Valley Fire Board Meeting Rules

Recommended Action: Board to receive update from BC Urbani, have discussion, make changes, give directions to staff.

BC Urbani updated the meeting rules as requested and reviewed the changes with the Board. Pledge of Allegiance will be added.

Member of the public- asked that the time limit on item 15 be increased to 3 minutes to allow the public to share information.

Becky Steinbruner- asked regarding late correspondence rule.

Don Jarvis- commented regarding some wording adjustments that are needed.

Item will remain on continuing business. BC Urbani will present it to the attorney for review.

9.0 Correspondence

9.1 Email from Nina Audino 01/09/2026 - Regarding LA County Firefighters Local 1014 Cease and Desist notice from January 2, 2026 regarding BESS facilities adjacent to Fire Station 43 or Residential Occupancies.

9.2 Email from Becky Steinbruner 01/05/2026 – Regarding Late Correspondence to the Board

10.0 Agenda items for the next meeting

Becky Steinbruner- requested a discussion on Ms. Audino's email; 90 Minto Rd. project; discussion on adopting fire code regarding BESS.

Morgan Lewis- requested a discussion on what the community wants with the BESS project and how to advocate for themselves.

Vice Chair Dellamonica questioned if the public determines what is added to the agenda. Chair Martone thanked the members of the public for their comments and suggestions and stated that they will be taken into consideration but will not necessarily be added to the agenda.

11.0 Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 6:31pm

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 December 18, 2025

Attest:

February 11, 2026



**Mike Urbani
Board Secretary**



**Dave Martone
Board Chair**