

**PENINSULA FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT  
REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**September 17, 2025 Minutes**

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1) Fire Board Secretary Smith called the meeting to order at *11:00 A.M.*

2) Fire Board Members present: Secretary Tracey Smith, Directors Mark Burnham & Joseph Spooner.

Absent: President Nancy Foote & Vice President Barry.

Staff present: Fire Chief Robert Gray.

Public Present: 2

3) Pledge of Allegiance:

Secretary Smith led the Pledge of Allegiance.

4) Approval of Regular Meeting Minutes:

The meeting minutes are deferred to the next regular meeting.

Secretary Smith called for a motion to approve the deferred minutes.

Upon a motion by director Burnham, seconded by director Spooner, the motion was carried.

5) Approval of Agenda for September 17, 2025:

Secretary Smith called for approval of the September 17, 2025, agenda.

Upon motion by Director Burnham, seconded by Director Spooner, and with a unanimous vote, the agenda was approved.

6) Public Comment:

Secretary Smith called for public comment.

There was none.

7) Old Business:

**A. Chester Building Lease – *Update***

Chief Gray informed the fire board that he continues to meet with Chester's Public Utility District General Manager Bonnie Mullaney regarding a lease agreement. Chief's concerns are being charged for the lease plus utilities. He is working on a safety net by reviewing the utility bills from when the building was fully staffed with sewer, water, and fire employees. Chief said he is looking for a fair utility agreement. There are numerous details that need to be worked out. And they are working on them as they come up. Chief said we are moving forward without any issues.

Chief Gray said that he hopes to have a draft lease agreement for CPUD and Peninsula board of directors to review next month.

Chief Gray said he will keep the fire board informed.

## **B. Fire District's Web Page:**

Chief Gray explained that we have hired Mary Salt for a part-time position. She is working on upgrading the district's web page. Mary is also working on digitizing files, along with archiving old files.

Chief Gray informed the fire board that he has plans to incorporate our emergency plan on the district's web site along with AM radio station 1700 (Emergency broadcast station). His goal is to update and work on the web site during the winter months.

## **8) New Business:**

### **A. Direct Billing to the Chester District:**

Fire Chief Gray explained that he received a call from Jack Rosevear, the Fire Chief of Beck worth Pick Fire, inquiring about our direct billing plan for Chester residents, given the two-year delay in receiving tax funds from the county. He explained that he is in a similar situation. After consulting with the Board of Equalization, he was informed that our measure, as written for the voters, needed to indicate that we may collect taxes before the 2027 property tax bill from Plumas County. Chief Gray said he contacted the board of equalization and was informed of the same law; however, there is a way to back-bill the residents. Chief said he is not comfortable with fronting the funds without knowing when or what the return will be.

Chief Gray explained that he has devised various scenarios for raising funds to support Chester with fire and medical services. He talked to the Seneca Foundation about their ideas for a fundraiser. Chief Gray said we could reach out beyond Chester, asking for donations, making sure it is tax-deductible.

Chief said he is open to suggestions from the fire board, but this is what he has come up with. He will contact our elected officials in Sacramento, who need to be aware that they are putting the residents in jeopardy. Chief said we don't know if we will receive the Safer Grant. He has compiled figures on the costs of staffing and leasing the building in Chester. But he will not put Peninsula in debt.

Chief said he considered going before the board of supervisors, but he doesn't believe they will have anything to offer from his experience with them. Or asking for some of the Dixie Fire recovery funds.

Chief Gray said, this situation is putting a strain on everyone at Peninsula, Hamilton Branch, and West Shore fire employees.

Secretary Smith said we need to, in good faith, use every tool available to ensure the public that we have contacted the government, applied for a Safer Grant for staffing, and all of the above-mentioned so the public knows we have tried every approach available for help.

Chief Gray said he will attend the Chester Town Hall meeting next week.

## **9) Reports:**

### **A. Fire Chief's Report:**

Fire Chief Gray informed the fire board that, Holly's husband passed away two weeks ago and she is out on grievance leave. He said he and Turi are working together and processing the day to day operations in the office. Holly has crossed trained Turi so she is processing the bills and payroll. Chief said that Mary who works on file retention and the district's website is helping

out with answering the phone and scheduling her days as needed. There are other various reports that can wait until next month when Holly returns.

Chief informed that fire board that we are in a downward projector in the fire season, but not out of the woods yet.

Chief reported that the two new ambulances are in service. We are refining the medical supplies. The other two ambulances are our reserves and need maintenance.

Chief Gray informed the fire board that he had returned Scott Watson's call, whom Vice President Bill Barry had referred for consulting the fire district. Chief said they talked for about an hour. The result was that the fire district is not ready to pay a consultant but maybe in the future.

**B. Fire Board of Directors' Reports / Comments:**

Secretary Smith called for fire board reports and comments.

There were none.

**10) Correspondence:**

There was none.

**11) Future Agenda Items:**

**A. Chester Building Lease Agreement**

**B. Chester Funding**

**12) Next Scheduled Regular Fire Board Meeting:**

***October 15, 2025 @ 11:00 AM, Station 2***

**13) Regular Meeting Adjourned:**

There being no further business, Secretary Smith adjourned the Fire Board meeting at 12:15 P. M.

Respectfully submitted by *Holly C. Coons - Price*.

*The meeting minutes were deferred until October 15, 2025.*

X

*Tracey Smith*

*Secretary of the Board*