

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

October 15, 2025 Minutes

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 Bill Barry.

Staff present: Fire Chief Robert Gray & Office Manager Holly Coons-Price

Public Present: 3

3) Pledge of Allegiance:

Fire Chief Gray led the Pledge of Allegiance.

4) Special Meeting & Regular Meeting Minutes:

Approval of Special Meeting of *July 28, 2025*.

Secretary Smith called for approval of the *July 28, 2025*, special fire board meeting. Upon a motion by director Burnham, seconded by director Spooner, and with a unanimous vote, the motion was carried.

Approval of the Regular Meeting Minutes of *September 17, 2025*.

Secretary Smith moved to approve the *September 17, 2025*, regular meeting minutes, seconded by Director Spooner, and the motion was carried unanimously.

5) Approval of Agenda for *October 15, 2025*:

Secretary Smith called for approval of the *October 15, 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 a question regarding a vacancy on the district's fire board. Chief Gray explained that he would like to have a resident of Chester fill a vacancy on the Peninsula Fire Board of Directors, but it is not required by law. He said we will provide more information from the County of Plumas at the November meeting.

There was a question regarding the fire district's CalPERS accounts. The Chief explained he is working with an outside firm to stay on top of the unfunded liability for the district's future. Secretary Smith confirmed the fire board has already looking in to this.

7) Closed Session: (SEE Below #12)

A. Resolution 10/15/2025-01 PERS Disability Retirement – Attachment # 1

There was a consensus by the fire board to defer the closed session item to be moved after future agenda items on the agenda.

8) 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 Gray said we have no funds coming in to pay for a building lease. And he has made Bonnie aware of that. Chief said he still does not have an answer yet and will keep the fire board informed.

9) New Business:

A. Chester Funding:

Fire Chief Gray reminded the fire board that Peninsula Fire is unable to collect special tax funds from residents in Chester due to the wording on the Special Ballot. It stated that the County of Plumas will begin collecting in 2027. Chief said he will continue contacting our elected officials regarding this matter.

Chief said he is always thinking of options and is waiting on the federal government to reopen the SAFER Grant for staffing.

B. District's Budget Review for 2025/2026:

Fire Chief Gray reviewed and explained the district's 2025/2026 budget that he prepared.

Chief answered questions from the fire board.

Secretary Smith called for a vote to approve the 2025/2026 district's budget.

3 AYES, 0 Noes & 2 Absent.

There was a unanimous vote to approve the district's 2025/2026 budget.

10) Reports:

A. Fire Chief's Report:

Chief Gray reported that both new ambulances are in service. Chief Gray thanked everyone who made this happen because it was a lot of work.

Chief Gray announced the passing of Fire Board Vice President Bill Barry. He will be missed and we are thankful for all his service and contributions to the fire district.

Secretary Smith passed around a thoughtful card for his wife Karen.

Chief reported that 4 employees attended a fire rescue show in Reno that included a live structure fire. It was very good training that is not available very often.

Chief reported he has met with the labor body regarding the district benefit package for healthcare.

Chief informed the fire board about the medical aid in Chester. He said our response from the peninsula was delayed and the patient was taken to Seneca ER by private vehicle unresponsive and not breathing. Chief sated this weighs on him tremendously. But without funds everyone in Chester is at risk.

Secretary Smith asked Chief if he has made progress on the old ambulance surplus. Chief Gray explained he has not had time and he will get to this soon.

Chief informed the fire board this winter during down time he plans to schedule vehicle maintenance.

B. Board of Directors' Report / Comments

11) Correspondence:

There were none.

12) Future Agenda Items:

A. Chester Building Lease Agreement

B. Chester Funding

C. Acknowledging the passing of Fire Board Member Willian Barry & to fill his position.

Secretary Smith Adjourned regular session at 11:10

13. Closed Session:

A. Resolution 10/15/2025-01 PERS Disability Retirement – *Attachment #1*

Chief Gray explained the resolution for Employee Brandon Higby. Mr. Higby has retained an attorney. This resolution will allow his current workers' compensation claim to end and enable CalPERS to move forward with the disability retirement.

Fire Chief Gary recommended that the fire board adopt the resolution and requested any questions from the fire board.

After a brief discussion, Secretary Smith made a motion to approve the resolution 10-15-2025-01 and called for a vote. AYES: 3 – Smith, Burnham & Spooner – NOES: 0 – Absent: 2 - Foote & Barry.

Closed Session Adjourned: 11:13

Secretary Smith reopened the regular session and was prepared to state that the Fire board approved resolution 10-15-2025-01 unanimously.

No one returned to the regular session.

13) Next Scheduled Regular Fire Board Meeting:

November 19, 2025 @ 11:00 AM, Station 2

14) Regular Meeting Adjourned:

There being no further business, Secretary Smith adjourned the Fire Board meeting at 11:55 P. M.

Respectfully submitted by Holly C. Coons - Price.

X

Tracey Smith

Secretary of the Board