



LINDEN – PETERS FIRE DISTRICT

17725 E. Hwy 26, Linden, CA 95236
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Brandon Ruegsegger, Interim Fire Chief

Board Members

President: Paul Castellou Jr.
Vice-President: Kenneth “Kenny” Watkins III
Secretary: David Frison
Member: Ryan Hansen
Member: Robert Dondero

Minutes of Board Meeting Thursday, January 2, 2025

The Regular meeting of the Linden–Peters Rural County Fire Protection District Board of Directors held in the Fire Station Classroom located at 17725 E Hwy 26, Linden, CA was called to order by President Paul Castellou, Jr at 7:00 pm.

Members Present: President Paul Castellou, Jr., Vice President Kenny Watkins III, Board Secretary David Frison, Member Ryan Hansen, and Member Robert Dondero

Members Absent: None

L.P.F.D. staff present: Fire Chief Brandon Ruegsegger, Firefighter/Engineer Dylan Dennis, Firefighter/Engineer Jordan Davis, and Administrative Assistant Lorena Coose.

(I.) Call to Order – 7:00 PM

(II.) Roll Taken

Meeting minutes were taken by Administrative Assistant Lorena Coose.

(III.) Approval of the Agenda – A motion to approve the Agenda was made by K. Watkins III and seconded by R. Hansen.

The motion passed by the following vote:

AYES: (5) P. Castellou Jr., K. Watkins III, D. Frison, R. Hansen, R. Dondero
NOES: ()
ABSENT: ()
ABSTAIN: ()

(IV.) Election of Officers

A motion was made by D. Frison to keep the positions as is and seconded by R. Dondero.

The motion passed by the following vote:

AYES: (5) P. Castellou Jr., K. Watkins III, D. Frison, R. Hansen, R. Dondero
NOES: ()
ABSENT: ()
ABSTAIN: ()

(V.) Minutes

A. Discussion & Possible Action re: Approve December 5 2024 Regular Board Meeting Minutes
A motion to approve the December 5, 2024 Regular Board meeting minutes was made by R. Hansen and seconded by R. Dondero.

The motion passed by the following vote:

AYES: (5) P. Castellou Jr., K. Watkins III, D. Frison, R. Hansen, R. Dondero
NOES: ()

ABSENT: ()
ABSTAIN: ()

(V.) Public Comment – None

(VI.) Board Committee Reports

- A. Training Facility Committee Report – Chief Ruegsegger provided an update noting that the water tank was removed from the project and is being re-engineered to two containers which is shorter. The revisions have been submitted to San Joaquin County.
- B. Finance Committee Report – Vice President K. Watkins III provided an update noting that the Finance Committee met and the financials were in order. In response to K. Watkins III question regarding the Capital Fund cash flow, Admin Coose responded that cash flow went down to about \$150,000.00 in December 2024.

President P. Castellou Jr. inquired about the San Joaquin County fees. Chief Ruegsegger noted that those are the administration fees the County charges for collection of the property taxes.

The Finance Committee recommended that the District pay the CalPERS unfunded liability in the amount of \$280,237.00. A motion was made by D. Frison to pay the CalPERS unfunded liability and seconded by R. Dondero.

The motion passed by the following vote:

AYES: (4) P. Castellou Jr., K. Watkins III, R. Hansen, R. Dondero
NOES: ()
ABSENT: ()
ABSTAIN: (1) D. Frison

The Board gave Chief Ruegsegger the option of not issuing the payment to CalPERS if the Chief found additional information that would cause the District to hold off on the payment.

(VII.) Financial Summary and Report

- A. Monthly Financial, Current events summary for December 2025 - Presented by Fire Chief Brandon Ruegsegger. Chief Ruegsegger provided an overview of the financials for December 2025.

Chief Ruegsegger provided an update noting that the ARPA funds were approved for the Water Tender with a deadline to spend the funds of December 2026.

(VIII.) Consent Agenda:

- A. Discussion & Possible Action re: Approval of the December 2025 Monthly Financial Reports and expenditures. A motion to approve the financial reports was made by D. Frison and seconded by K. Watkins III.

The motion passed by the following vote:

AYES: (5) P. Castellou Jr., K. Watkins III, D. Frison, R. Hansen, R. Dondero
NOES: ()
ABSENT: ()
ABSTAIN: ()

(IX.) Current Events Summaries, Reports, and/or Correspondence:

A. Departmental Report-Fire Chief Brandon Ruegsegger

Fire Chief Brandon Ruegsegger provided an update on the events and meetings held for the month of December 2025 along with providing an overview of the calls, Prevention, Training, Volunteer, and FIU report.

B. Union Report – None

(X.) Unfinished Business:

- A. Discussion & Possible Action re: Approval of Agreement between Croce, Sanguinetti & Vander Veen (CSV) and the LPFD to Conduct the FY 2022-2023 Single Audit due to the Receipt and Expenditure of Federal Funds in excess of \$750,000.00 for an Amount Not to Exceed \$9,500.00. K. Watkins III made a motion to approve the Agreement between Croce, Sanguinetti & Vander Veen -(CSV) and the LPFD to conduct the FY 2022-2023 Single Audit in an amount not to Exceed \$9,500.00 seconded by R. Dondero.

The motion passed by the following vote:

AYES: (5) P. Castellou Jr., K. Watkins III, D. Frison, R. Hansen, R. Dondero
NOES: ()
ABSENT: ()
ABSTAIN: ()

(XI.) New Business:

- A. Discussion & Possible Action re: Interim Fire Chief Contract.

The Board requested that this item be placed on the Agenda for the next Board meeting.

- B. Discussion & Possible Action re: CalOES State & Local Cybersecurity Grant Award \$185,850.00

A motion to accept the CalOES State & Local Cybersecurity Grant Award in the amount of \$185,850.00 was made by K. Watkins III seconded by D. Frison.

The motion passed by the following vote:

AYES: (5) P. Castellou Jr., K. Watkins III, D. Frison, R. Hansen, R. Dondero
NOES: ()
ABSENT: ()
ABSTAIN: ()

- C. Discussion & Possible Action re: Surplus of Equipment

A motion to surplus equipment including the camper and bed drawers from C51 was made by K. Watkins III and seconded by R. Hansen.

The motion passed by the following vote:

AYES: (5) P. Castellou Jr., K. Watkins III, D. Frison, R. Hansen, R. Dondero
NOES: ()
ABSENT: ()
ABSTAIN: ()

(XII.) Board Questions and Comments –

Secretary D. Frison welcomed Fire Chief Brandon Ruegsegger and thanked him for his service to the Linden community.

(XIII.) Closed Session –

At 7:47 p.m., President Paul Castellou Jr. announced that the Board would enter into closed session to discuss the following items:

- A. Conference with Labor Negotiations (§54957.6)
Unrepresented Employee: Interim Fire Chief
- B. Report of actions taken in closed session


At 8:06 p.m., President Paul Castellou, Jr. announced that the Board returned from closed session noting that no reportable action had been taken.

(XIV.) Adjournment: Motion made by D. Frison to adjourn the meeting seconded by R. Dondero. Being there was no further discussion, the motion passed by the following vote:


The motion passed by the following vote:

AYES: (5) P. Castellou Jr., K. Watkins III, D. Frison, R. Hansen, R. Dondero
NOES: ()
ABSENT: ()
ABSTAIN: ()

Motion carried and so ordered at 8:09 pm.



Paul Castellou, Jr., President



Kenneth "Kenny" Watkins III, Vice President



David Frison, Secretary



Ryan Hansen, Member



Robert Dondero, Member