



# LINDEN – PETERS FIRE DISTRICT

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Brandon Ruegsegger, Fire Chief

## Board Members

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

## Minutes of Board Meeting Thursday, January 8, 2026

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 7:03 pm.

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

Members Absent: None

L.P.F.D. staff present: Fire Chief Brandon Ruegsegger, Captain Marcel Mojalli, Lieutenant Tyler Watson, FF/Engineer Brandon Wright, and Administrative Assistant Lorena Coose.

(I.) Call to Order – 7:03 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 R. Hansen and seconded by D. Brown.

The motion passed by the following vote:

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

(IV.) Minutes

A. Discussion & Possible Action re: Approve December 5, 2025 Regular Board Meeting Minutes

A motion to approve the December 5, 2025 Regular Board meeting minutes was made by D. Brown and seconded by R. Hansen.

The motion passed by the following vote:

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

(V.) Public Comment – None

(VI.) Board Committee Reports –

A. Finance Committee Report – Vice President K. Watkins III reported that the Finance Committee met and reviewed the Quarterly Financials noting that the financials seemed to be in order.

**(VII.)** Financial Summary and Report

- A. Discussion & Possible Action re: Monthly Financial, Current events summary for December 2025 - Presented by Fire Chief Brandon Ruegsegger and Approval of the Financial Report and expenditures.

Chief Ruegsegger provided a presentation on the December 2025 financials. Chief Ruegsegger noted that there were invoices paid to Akerland Technology Solutions that would be reimbursed through the CalOES Cybersecurity Grant. The Chief also explained that the expense paid to James Ulmer Company were for the generator annual service and the expenses paid to Mears Heating & Air were for repairs to the heater including some invoices that were not previously submitted to the District by the vendor.

A motion to approve the financial reports was made by K. Watkins III and seconded by R. Hansen.

The motion passed by the following vote:

AYES: (X) P. Castillou Jr., K. Watkins III, D. Brown, R. Hansen, R. Dondero  
NOES: ( )  
ABSENT: ( )  
ABSTAIN: ( )

**(VIII.)** 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. Chief Ruegsegger noted that eight students from the Fire Science class attended a competition against other fire science classes within San Joaquin County. There were about eighty participants in total. One of the LFPD fire science students placed third and several others placed in the top twenty. Chief Ruegsegger noted that the B-Shift is working on updating the District policies and noted that updated policies will be submitted to the Board for approval.

- B. Union Report – None

**(IX.)** Unfinished Business:

- A. Discussion & Possible Action re: Water Tender

Chief Ruegsegger noted that the water tender is now at Hi-Tech and the next step is getting drawings together to get started on the tank.

**(X.)** New Business –

- A. Discussion & Possible Action Re: Oak Valley Community Bank Presentation

A proposal for banking options was provided by Oak Valley Community Bank staff. The Board directed the Finance Committee to meet to discuss options and provide a recommendation to the Board.

- B. Discussion & Possible Action Re: FY 2023-FY 2024 Financial Audit Prepared by Croce, Sanguinetti, & Vander Veen

A motion to accept the FY 2023-FY 2024 Financial Audit as presented by Croce Sanguinetti & Vander Veen was made by K. Watkins III and seconded by D. Brown.

The motion passed by the following vote:

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

C. Discussion & Possible Action Re: Approve Fire Chief Contract dated **January 1, 2026**

A motion to approve the Fire Chief Contract dated **January 1, 2026** was made by R. Hansen and seconded by R. Dondero.

The motion passed by the following vote:

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

D. Discussion & Possible Action Re: Approve the Agreement between the Linden-Peters Rural County Fire Protection District and the San Joaquin County Fire Fighters I.A.F.F. Local 1243 dated **January 1, 2026**

A motion to approve the Agreement between the Linden-Peters Rural County Fire Protection District and the San Joaquin County Fire Fighters I.A.F.F. Local 1243 dated **January 1, 2026** was made by R. Hansen and seconded by R. Dondero.

The motion passed by the following vote:

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

(XI.) Board Questions and Comments – None

(XII.) Closed Session –

At 8:14 p.m., President Paul Castellou Jr. announced that the Board would enter into closed session to discuss the following items:

- A. Conference with Labor Negotiators (§54957.6)  
Unrepresented Employee: Fire Chief
- B. Conference with Labor Negotiators (§54957.6)  
Agency Negotiator: Board President Paul Castellou, Jr.  
Employee Organization: I.A.F.F Local 1243
- C. Report of actions taken in closed session

At 9:01 p.m., President Paul Castellou, Jr. announced that the Board returned from closed session noting that no reportable action had been taken.


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

The motion passed by the following vote:

AYES: (X) P. Castillou Jr., K. Watkins III, D. Brown, R. Hansen, R. Dondero  
NOES: ( )  
ABSENT: ( )  
ABSTAIN: ( )

Motion carried and so ordered at 9:02 pm.

  
Paul Castillou, Jr., President

  
Kenneth "Kenny" Watkins III, Vice President

  
Duane Brown, Secretary

  
Ryan Hansen, Member

  
Robert Dondero, Member