



LINDEN – PETERS FIRE DISTRICT

17725 E. Hwy 26, Linden, CA 95236
Phone: 209.887.3710 Fax: 209.887.2821
info@lindenfire.org
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, February 24, 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 7:00 pm.

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

Members Absent: Vice President Kenny Watkins III

L.P.F.D. staff present: Fire Chief Brandon Ruegsegger, Captain Rod Ruegsegger, Lieutenant Tyler Watson, FF/Engineer Martin Garcia, Volunteer Firefighter Grant Schaeede, 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 R. Hansen and seconded by R. Dondero.

The motion passed by the following vote:

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

(IV.) Minutes

A. Discussion & Possible Action re: Approve January 8, 2026 Regular Board Meeting Minutes

A motion to approve the January 8, 2026 Regular Board meeting minutes was made by R. Dondero and seconded by R. Hansen.

The motion passed by the following vote:

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

(V.) Public Comment – None

(VI.) Board Committee Reports –

A. Finance Committee Report – Secretary Duane Brown reported that the Finance Committee met to discuss banking with Oak Valley Community Bank and decided to recommend to the

Board to move the District Financials to Oak Valley Community Bank. Secretary Duane Brown noted there was no penalty on the FM Bank Loan to move the funds. Vice President Kenny Watkins III met with FM Bank staff to notify them of the District's intent to move the funds pending Board approval.

(VII.) Financial Summary and Report

- A. Discussion & Possible Action re: Monthly Financial, Current events summary for January 2026 - Presented by Fire Chief Brandon Ruegsegger and Approval of the Financial Report and expenditures.

Chief Ruegsegger provided a presentation on the January 2026 financials. Chief Ruegsegger explained that the purchase from NorCal Batteries was the best available price.

A motion to approve the financial reports was made by D. Brown and seconded by R. Hansen.

The motion passed by the following vote:

AYES: (X) P. Castillou Jr., D. Brown, R. Hansen, R. Dondero
NOES: ()
ABSENT: (X) K. Watkins III
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 January 2026 along with providing an overview of the calls, Prevention, Training, Volunteer, and FIU report. Chief Ruegsegger noted that the B-Shift is working on updating the Lexipol Policies. After some discussion, Board President Paul Castillou Jr. would be a part of the policy committee to review the policies.

- B. Union Report – None

(IX.) Unfinished Business:

- A. Discussion & Possible Action re: Water Tender

Chief Ruegsegger noted that there is some progress on the Water Tender including preparations for the tank.

- B. Discussion & Possible Action re: Oak Valley Community Bank Presentation

Chief Ruegsegger and the Finance Committee provided information to the Board regarding moving District funds to Oak Valley Community Bank while maintaining accounts open at FM Bank.

A motion to move the District funds to Oak Valley Community Bank at the discretion of the Finance Committee was made by D. Brown and seconded by R. Hansen

The motion passed by the following vote:

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

(X.) New Business –

- A. Discussion & Possible Action Re: Training Facility Project – Summit Paving Contractors Asphalt & Concrete \$27,100.00

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

- B. Discussion & Possible Action Re: Approve Resolution No. 26-01 Approving the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection Agreement #7FG25726 and Authorizing Fire Chief Brandon Ruegsegger to sign and execute the Agreement

A motion to approve Resolution No. 26-01 Approving the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection Agreement #7FG25726 and Authorizing Fire Chief Brandon Ruegsegger to sign and Execute the Agreement was made by R. Hansen and seconded by R. Dondero.

The motion passed by the following vote:

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

- C. Discussion & Possible Action Re: Approval of Agreement between Croce, Sanguinetti & Vander Veen (CSV) and the LPFD to Conduct the FY 2024-2025 Financial Audit in an amount not to exceed \$17,350.00

A motion to approve the Agreement between Croce, Sanguinetti & Vander Veen (CSV) and the LPFD to conduct the FY 2024-2025 Financial Audit in an amount not to exceed \$17,350.00 was made by R. Hansen and seconded by R. Dondero.

The motion passed by the following vote:

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

(XI.) Board Questions and Comments – None


(XII.) Closed Session – None

(XIII.) Adjournment: Motion made by R. Hansen 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: (X) P. Castillou Jr., D. Brown, R. Hansen, R. Dondero
NOES: ()
ABSENT: (X) K. Watkins III
ABSTAIN: ()

Motion carried and so ordered at 7:36 pm.

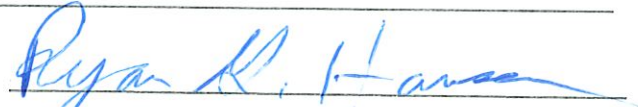


Paul Castillou, Jr., President

Absent

Kenneth "Kenny" Watkins III, Vice President


Duane Brown, Secretary


Ryan Hansen, Member


Robert Dondero, Member