SOUTHERN INYO FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT
UNAPPROVED MINUTES OF THE
REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Thursday, September 17, 2026

The Governing Board of the Southern Inyo Fire Protection District held a regular business meeting on Thursday, September 17, 2026 at 6pm at the Hurlbut Rook Community Center.

I. Call to order and determination of quorum

A. Present: Robin Flinchum (via Zoom so can't vote), Chair, Cameron Mayer, Vice-Chair, Eliza Woodall, Secretary, Colette Zelwer, Treasurer (arrived late), Spencer McNeal, Director, Mike Jerry, Bill Lutze (via Zoom). Mayer calls meeting to order at 6:06.

II. Good of the Order

III. Public Comment: 3 minutes per participant

IV. Consent Agenda (Items that are considered routine and are approved in a single motion)

A. Approve minutes from the July and August regular meetings.
B. Approve changes to board policy sections 2250, 2251, 2255, 2260 and 2290.
C. Approve Legal Services Agreement with County Counsel.
D. Approve Biannual Conflict of Interest Form for County.
E. McNeal moves to approve consent agenda. Woodall seconds. Carries 3-0-0 (Zelwer not yet arrived).

V. Correspondence

VI. Board, Officer and Committee Reports

A. Board Member Reports
    a. Board Chair Report
    b. Treasury/Budget Report
        b.i. Jerry reported discovering an unrecorded $3,800 ACH payment from April for an EMS transport, providing an unexpected budget boost.
        b.ii. Liability insurance came in ~$1,000 over budget.
        b.iii. Next week an appraiser will inspect district assets valued over $50k (Dairy Queen and Water Kiosk).
        b.iv. Woodall moves to accept the budget report as presented. McNeal seconds. Carries 4-0-0.
B. Fire Chief's Report
    a. Four calls were logged since the last meeting (2 EMS, 1 motor vehicle accident, and 1 turned-around mutual aid fire call for an NPS slurry tanker fire).
C. Administrative Report
    a. Office closure announced for Sept 23 – Oct 6 for annual leave.
    b. A mandatory online fiscal/financial training for board members and employees was introduced (completion deadline: January 28).
D. Fleet Mechanic's Report
    a. Water pump repair on the red fire truck (Brigadier) is complete; generator/battery checks remain ongoing.
    b. Ambulance S-72 receiving two new batteries.
E. Committee Reports
    a. Water Kiosk
        a.i. Shade structure still in process.
        a.ii. System is operating normally with no state compliance issues. The backup generator functioned properly during recent power outage.
    b. Fundraising

b.i. Update on planned events.
b.i.1. Updates provided for the Weird Tales Festival (WTF), including promotional flyers, silent auction items, food trucks, and a website setup. SIFPD will operate a 10x20 booth for recruitment and merchandise sales.

F. Long-Term Planning
   a. Fire Stations
      a.i. Awaiting a response from Megan McCamman regarding RFP progress.
   b. Recruitment
      b.i. Discussed two prospective candidates: one short-term resident (offering event volunteer help) and one experienced EMT/firefighter candidate currently being contacted.

VII. Old Business

A. Update on radio communications.
   a. Nye County's lease for the Pahrump/Charleston View repeater is pending signature; tower work in Shoshone remains delayed pending cooler weather, and the desire to do the Shoshone and Pahrump work at the same time.

B. Update on cooling center protocol/procedure for future outages/events.
   a. Lutze conversation with Anna Scott.
      a.i. Lutze spoke with Anna. SIFPD confirmed it cannot staff cooling centers during emergencies due to emergency response priorities. Future staffing will rely on County volunteers (potentially coordinated via the CASEI non-profit).

C. Discuss agreement with Ted Faye for fundraiser film premiere.
   a. Approved agreement contingent on adding an arbitration clause and establishing proof of general liability insurance ($1M baseline, subject to final insurance agent advice).
   b. Zelwer makes above motion. McNeal seconds. Carries 4-0-0.

VIII. New Business

A. Modify 834001 budget to move $1k from 5012 to 5351.
   a. Discussed reallocating funds and increasing the projected interest income (4301) baseline from $3k to $8k to absorb higher internet/Starlink costs which will involve increasing 5351 by $1.5k.
   b. Deferred to next month's meeting to properly agendize revenue and expense baseline modifications required by the county auditor.

B. Review and make any needed changes to board policy sections 3015 and 3020.
   a. Reviewed revisions to update board roles (removing Secretary/Treasurer overlaps), clarify reserves wording, eliminate outdated calendar dates, and align budget approval steps with county deadlines.

C. Discuss and approve purchase of Kandy's stage for fundraising events.
   a. Approved purchase (3-1-0 vote, Spencer McNeal opposed due to lack of physical specifications/labor concerns) contingent upon a formal written agreement outlining storage terms, SIFPD ownership, and usage rights. Woodall will speak with Kandy about agreement. Mayer made above motion. Woodall second.

IX. Good of the Order

X. Public Comment: 3 minutes per participant

XI. Suggested Agenda Items for Next Meeting

XII. Adjournment & Schedule next Regular Board Meeting: Thursday October 15th at 6PM in Tecopa. Zelwer moves to adjourn meeting. Woodall seconds. Carries 4-0-0. Mayer adjourns meeting at 7:56pm.

Prepared by:

_____

Mike Jerry, District Administrator/Secretary

I, Robin Flinchum, Chair, hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of the Meeting Minutes of the September 17, 2026 Regular Business Meeting, Board of Directors, Southern Inyo Fire Protection District.

_____

Cameron Mayer, Board Vice-Chairperson

_____

Eliza Woodall, Board Secretary