MONTECITO FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

Minutes for the Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors

Held at Montecito Fire Protection District, 595 San Ysidro Road, Santa Barbara, CA 93108 on September 28, 2026 at 2:00 p.m.

Director Easton called the meeting to order at 2:01 p.m.

Present: Director Easton, Director Lee, Director Pennino, Director Copus, and Director Williams. Fire Chief Fallon and District Counsel Mark Manion were also present.

1. **Public comment: Any person may address the Board at this time on any non-agenda matter that is within the subject matter jurisdiction of the Montecito Fire Protection District. (30 minutes total time allotted for this discussion.)**

   There were no public comments at this meeting.

2. **Recognition for 30 years of service: Captain Jeff Villarreal.**

   Fire Chief Fallon recognized Captain Villarreal for 30 years of service and thanked his family for attending the recognition.

3. **Report from the Finance Committee. (Strategic Plan Goal 8)**

   a. **Consider recommendation for approval of July and August 2026 financial statements.**

   Directors Lee and Pennino provided a report regarding the July and August 2026 financial statements. Director Pennino made a motion to approve the financial statements for July and August 2026, seconded by Director Lee, and unanimously passed.

   b. **Review PARS Post-Employment Benefits Trust statements for June and July 2026.**

   Finance and Administrative Manager Nahas provided a report regarding the PARS Post-Employment Benefits Trust statement for June and July 2026.

   c. **Consider recommendation for approval of reserve funds for Fiscal Year 2026-27.**

   Finance and Administrative Manager Nahas provided a staff report regarding Reserve Policies and recommended increases for FY 2026-27. Motion to approve the recommended reserve target levels for FY 2026-27 made by Director Lee, seconded by Director Pennino, and unanimously passed.

   d. **Consider recommendation for approval of Resolution 2026-10, Adoption of the Final Budget for the Fiscal Year 2026-27.**

   Finance and Administrative Manager Nahas provided a staff report highlighting changes reflected in the Final Budget since approval of the preliminary budget. Motion to approve Resolution 2026-10, Adoption of the Final Budget for Fiscal Year 2026-27, made by Director Lee, seconded by Director Copus. The roll call vote was as follows:

   Ayes: J. Pennino, M. Lee, S. Easton, J. Copus, J. Williams
   Nays: None
   Abstain: None
   Absent: None

4. **Consider recommendation for approval of the Annual Employee Reimbursement Disclosure report. (Strategic Plan Goal 8)**

Finance and Administrative Manager Nahas provided a staff report regarding the Annual Employee Reimbursement Disclosure report. The Board requested information on the reimbursement for the K9 medic course. Director Williams made a motion to approve the Annual Employee Reimbursement Disclosure report, seconded by Director Copus, and unanimously passed.

5. **Consider approval of Resolution 2026-11, Establishing Appropriations Limit under Article XIIIB of the State Constitution of the State of California for FY 2026-27. (Strategic Plan Goal 8)**

   Finance and Administrative Manager Nahas presented a staff report regarding Resolution 2026-11, Establishing Appropriations Limit under Article XIIIB of the State Constitution of the State of California for FY 2026-27. Motion to approve Resolution 2026-11, Establishing Appropriations Limit under Article XIIIB of the State Constitution of the State of California for FY 2026-27, made by Director Copus, seconded by Director Williams. The roll call vote was as follows:

   Ayes: J. Pennino, M. Lee, S. Easton, J. Copus, J. Williams
   Nays: None
   Abstain: None
   Absent: None

6. **That the Board of Directors approve and authorize the President to execute the Side Letter Agreement amending Section 30 of the Memorandum of Understanding between the Montecito Professional Firefighters Association (Local 5563) and Montecito Fire Protection District to detail the Longevity Pay Incentive, effective July 1, 2021. (Strategic Plan Goal 6)**

   Fire Chief Fallon presented the staff report regarding the longevity pay incentive Side Letter. He reported that the Montecito Professional Firefighters Association had agreed to amend Section 30, as presented. The Board requested that the next negotiated MOU includes explicit language specifying when pay increases are calculated. Motion to approve and authorize the Board President to execute the Side Letter Agreement amending Section 30 of the Memorandum of Understanding between the Montecito Professional Firefighters Association (Local 5563) and Montecito Fire Protection District to detail the Longevity Pay Incentive, effective July 1, 2021, made by Director Lee, seconded by Director Easton and unanimously passed.

7. **That the Board of Directors approve and authorize the President to execute the Side Letter Agreement amending Section 31 of the Memorandum of Understanding between the Members of Staff and Montecito Fire Protection District to detail the Longevity Pay Incentive, effective July 1, 2021. (Strategic Plan Goal 6)**

   Fire Chief Fallon presented a staff report regarding the Side Letter for the Staff MOU amending Section 31, as presented. Motion to approve and authorize the Board President to execute the Side Letter Agreement amending Section 31 of the Memorandum of Understanding between the Staff and Montecito Fire Protection District to detail the Longevity Pay Incentive, effective July 1, 2021 made by Director Copus, seconded by Director Pennino and unanimously passed.

8. **That the Board of Directors approve and authorize the Board President to execute the First Amendment to the Fire Chief Employment Agreement between the Montecito Fire Protection District and Kevin Taylor. (Strategic Plan Goals 1-8)**

   Finance and Administrative Manager Nahas presented the staff report regarding the First Amendment to the Fire Chief Employment Agreement. She explained that because longevity pay is not recognized by CalPERS, it was incorporated into base pay to reflect the intent of the original agreement. The amendment will have no additional financial impact on the District. Motion to approve and authorize the Board President to execute the First Amendment to the Fire Chief Employment Agreement between the Montecito Fire Protection District and Kevin Taylor made by Director Pennino, seconded by Director

Williams, and unanimously passed.

9. **That the Board of Directors approve and authorize the Board President to execute the Second Amendment to the Fire Chief Employment Agreement between the Montecito Fire Protection District and David Neels. (Strategic Plan Goals 1-8)**

   Finance and Administrative Manager Nahas presented the staff report regarding the second amendment to the Fire Chief Employment Agreement. Motion to approve and authorize the Board President to execute the Second Amendment to the Fire Chief Employment Agreement between the Montecito Fire Protection District and David Neels made by Director Lee, seconded by Director Easton, and unanimously passed.

10. **Consider approval of the revised Publicly Available Pay Schedules, effective dates July 1, 2019 through April 1, 2026, as required by CalPERS. (Strategic Plan Goal 8)**

    Finance and Administrative Manager Nahas presented the staff report regarding the revised Publicly Available Pay Schedules, effective dates July 1, 2019 through April 1, 2026, as required by CalPERS to reflect the pay rate changes made in the prior approvals. Director Williams made a motion to approve the revised Publicly Available Pay Schedules, effective dates July 1, 2019 through April 1, 2026, as required by CalPERS, seconded by Director Copus, and unanimously passed.

11. **PulsePoint presentation. (Strategic Plan Goal 4)**

    Fire Chief Fallon presented information to the Board of Directors on the PulsePoint app, including publicly shared information and the information the district chooses to keep private. The Board discussed the importance of transparency. Staff will reassess the privacy features of PulsePoint. The Board received and filed the presentation.

12. **That the Board of Directors authorize the Fire Chief to initiate and conduct a Request for Proposal (RFP) process for the development of Standards of Cover (SOC) for Montecito Fire Protection District. (Strategic Plan Goal 1)**

    Fire Chief Fallon presented a staff report on the Standards of Cover, which serves as a planning and assessment tool for evaluating the District's resources and services. He noted that the District's most recent Standards of Cover was completed in 2020. Motion to authorize the Fire Chief to initiate and conduct a Request for Proposal (RFP) process for the development of Standards of Cover (SOC) for Montecito Fire Protection District made by Director Williams, seconded by Director Lee, and the motion unanimously passed.

13. **That the Board of Directors approve and authorize the Fire Chief to accept the $2,000 donation from MERRAG. (Strategic Plan Goal 8)**

    Trish Davis commented regarding the donation from MERRAG.

    Fire Chief Fallon presented the staff report regarding a donation from MERRAG. Motion to approve and authorize the Fire Chief to accept the $2,000 donation from MERRAG made by Director Copus, seconded by Director Easton, and unanimously passed.

14. **Approval of Minutes of the August 24, 2026 Special Meeting.**

    Motion to approve the Minutes of the August 24, 2026 Special meeting made by Director Copus, seconded by Director Pennino, and the motion unanimously passed. Director Williams abstained.

15. **Approval of Minutes of the August 24, 2026 Regular Meeting.**

    Motion to approve the Minutes of the August 24, 2026 Regular meeting made by Director Lee, seconded by Director Copus, and the motion unanimously passed.

16. Fire Chief's report.

Fire Chief Fallon reported to the Board that the community "Go Bags" purchased by the Department will be available to Montecito residents at the end of October.

The "Ready Set Go" pamphlets will be sent out to residents.

The firefighter and firefighter/paramedic recruitment application window will be open during October 12 -19.

The upstaffing trailer will be purchased and implemented in a few weeks.

West and East Mountain Drive have been weed-whipped.

17. Board of Director's report.

Director Williams reported that the recent Flood Control meeting was successful. Director Easton noted the strong public turnout. Representatives from the agencies remained after the meeting to speak with residents and answer questions individually.

18. Suggestions from Directors for items other than regular agenda items to be included for the October 26, 2026, Regular Board meeting.

Director Pennino asked the Fire Chief to reevaluate the current response model for down trees. Fire Chief Fallon suggested providing information on the process of the Fire Department's response to down trees.

The Board adjourned to closed session at 4:11 p.m.

19. CLOSED SESSION:

a. **CONFERENCE WITH LABOR NEGOTIATOR**
Pursuant to Government Code section 54957.6
Agency designated representatives: Director Lee and Director Pennino
Montecito Professional Firefighters Association (Local 5563)

b. **CONFERENCE WITH LABOR NEGOTIATOR**
Pursuant to Government Code section 54957.6
Agency designated representatives: Director Lee and Director Pennino
Members of Staff Unit

The Board reported out of closed session at 5:27 p.m. with no reportable action.

Meeting Adjourned at 5:27 p.m.

Sylvia Easton
President Easton

Secretary Lee