



**VISTA FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT**  
**Board of Directors Meeting**  
**Minutes – February 11, 2026**

*These minutes reflect the order in which items appeared on the meeting agenda and do not necessarily reflect the order in which items were considered.*

**BUSINESS SESSION – REGULAR AGENDA**

**CALL TO ORDER**

President Ploetz called to order the regular meeting of the Vista Fire Protection District Board of Directors at 1:00 PM at the “Smart Space” conference room located at 450 S. Melrose Dr., Vista CA.

a. Roll Call

Directors Present: Elliott, Hill, Miller, Ploetz

Directors Absent: Fougner

Staff Present: Karlena Rannals, Administrative Manager; Gerard Washington, Fire Chief; Bret Davidson, Deputy Chief; and Chris Cardinale, Legal Counsel

**FLAG SALUTE**

Director Elliott led the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**ORAL COMMUNICATION (PUBLIC COMMENT)**

No one requested to speak to the board.

**MOTION WAIVING READING IN FULL OF ALL RESOLUTIONS/ORDINANCES**

MOTION BY DIRECTOR ELLIOTT, SECOND BY DIRECTOR HILL, and CARRIED 4 AYES; 0 NOES; 1 ABSENT; 0 ABSTAIN to waive reading in full of all resolutions and/or ordinances.

**CONSENT CALENDAR**

MOTION BY DIRECTOR ELLIOTT, SECOND BY DIRECTOR HILL, CARRIED 4 AYES; 0 NOES; 1 ABSENT; 0 ABSTAIN to approve the consent calendar as submitted:

1. Board of Directors Minutes - APPROVE

a. Regular Meeting January 21, 2026

b. Special Meeting January 22, 2026

2. Payroll Register (Ratify)

a. Payroll paid on February 7, 2026 \$6,250.00

b. Payroll taxes paid on February 6, 2026 \$478.13

\$6,728.13

3. Accounts Payable (Approve)

a. Accounts Payable Check 4382 through 4387 paid February 11, 2026 \$623,619.99

b. Auto withdrawals(s) paid July 8 – August 8, 2025 \$1,160.74

Total \$631,508.86

4. Receive and File (Information)

a. Monthly Reports

- i) Fire Chief
  - ii) Fire Marshal
  - iii) Effective Response Force Report – December 25
  - iv) Southern Operations Seasonal Weather Outlook – February – May 2026
  - v) Administrative Manager’s Report
  - vi) Correspondence
- (1) None

**DISTRICT BUSINESS**

1. Board Workshop

Chief Washington informed the Board that it was unfortunate to postpone the scheduled workshop. He explained that he did not yet have all the necessary information and did not feel comfortable presenting information that had not been fully solidified. He stated that he believes he is in a good position to move forward with the brush management program once all details are confirmed.

He requested that the item be scheduled for presentation and discussion after March 10, as he has been asked to appear before the City Council on that date to provide a presentation on brush management. The Board inquired whether any action was required by the Vista Fire Protection District Board prior to the City Council presentation. Chief Washington responded that no action was needed at this time.

At the conclusion of the discussion, the Board reached a consensus to request the Board Clerk to place the item on the agenda for the next regular Board meeting scheduled for March 11.

**ORAL REPORT(S)**

1. Fire Chief

In addition to his report, the following information was discussed:

- Chiefs’ Washington and Davidson distributed a draft letter for the 2026 Vegetation Management Program. The letter has been redesigned to be more “informational” and not a legal notice. The Assistant Fire Marshal has requested that the letters be mailed earlier than in previous years, so that inspections can start earlier, targeting May 18 for the inspections to begin. However, they noted that there is a balance for a start date which is dependent upon rain. They summarized that the letter is not final, but they are planning to incorporate the suggested changes from the board members. Staff responded to questions from the Board.
- Director Miller suggested that the signage noting “High Fire Hazard Area” be updated to be less wordy. It was suggested, a metal sign over the current the signage informing the public that “vegetation management inspections in progress.” Chief Davidson will take it back to the prevention staff for discussion and obtain estimated costs.

2. Administrative Manager

In addition to her report, she added:

- Form 700 E-Filing: April 1, 2026: She informed the board that she has received seven of the eight required forms.
- She reported on an attempted fraud on the Wells Fargo checking account, and with the assistance of the President and Vice President, the account number has been changed at the bank.

- The increased insurance liability limits are complete and although the board authorized up to \$4,500, the final bill was \$1,025.55.
  - Aztec was to have completed the work on February 10; however, Inspector Kozakiewicz was informed that an additional 200 sandbags may be needed to complete the repair work. She will follow up directly with the vendor for more information.
3. Legal
- Mr. Cardinale reported that with the help of the Administrative Manager, she was able to obtain a copy of the application for the proposed project on Ora Avo Drive; which appears at the initial review phase. This proposal is the same number of proposed homes, 42 on 6+ acres vs. the original application of 42 homes on 10 acres, He suggested that the board consider an outreach to the District County Supervisor to express the District's concerns that the proposed housing is in the high fire severity zone, the number of homes will impact traffic that ultimately affects response times, the general plan may have to be amended if approved. He will assist with talking points when requested.
4. Board of Directors
- No report.

#### **CLOSED SESSION**

Pursuant to the following Government Code Sections, the Board of Directors convened in closed session from 2:04 – 2:32 pm:

1. CONFERENCE WITH REAL PROPERTY NEGOTIATIONS

Pursuant to Gov. Code Section 54956.8

Property: 1070 Old Taylor St., Vista,

Agency Negotiator: District Administrative Manager and District Counsel

Negotiating Parties: Vista Fire Protection District and City of Vista

Under Negotiation: Price and terms.

*Attendees Present: all board members listed, Karlana Rannals, Administrative Manager, Christopher Cardinale, Legal Counsel*

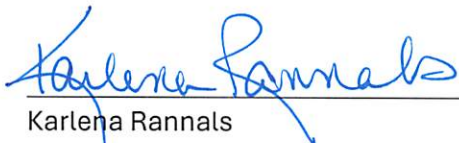
Upon reconvening, legal counsel reported that there was no reportable action on the topics listed.

#### **FUTURE AGENDA ITEM(s)**

No additional items were added to the list.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

President Ploetz adjourned the meeting at 2:33 pm.



Karlana Rannals  
Board Clerk



John Ploetz  
President