



# Menlo Park Fire Protection District

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Website: [www.menlofire.org](http://www.menlofire.org)

## BOARD MEETING

### MINUTES

**April 15, 2025**

#### ROLL CALL

The Menlo Park Fire Protection District Board meeting was called to order on Tuesday, April 15, 2025, by President Jones at 7:01 p.m. in the Station 1 Classroom located at 300 Middlefield Road, Menlo Park, CA 94025, and via Zoom (view only).

**PRESENT:** President Jones, Vice President Kiraly, Director Bernstein, Director Bloom (via Zoom), and Director Silano

**ABSENT:** None

**STAFF PRESENT:** Fire Chief Mark Lorenzen, Fire Marshal Jon Johnston, Administration Services Director Francine Hunt, Finance Manager Allain Mallari, General Counsel Nicole Witt, and Clerk of the Board Michelle Kneier

#### PUBLIC COMMENT

There were none.

Agenda item Nos. 2 & 3 were moved up on the agenda.

#### PRESENTATIONS

##### **2. Introduction of New District Employee: Gage Schlice, Fire Marshal**

Chief Lorenzen introduced Fire Marshal Gage Schlice to the Board.

##### **3. Presentations in Honor of Fire Marshal Jon Johnston's Twenty-Five Years of Dedicated Service and Retirement**

Fire Marshal Jon Johnston received praise and recognition in honor of his twenty-five years of service with the District from San Mateo County Board of Supervisor Ray Mueller, Town of Atherton Mayor Elizabeth Lewis, San Mateo County Board of Supervisor Lisa Gauthier, the Fire District's Board of Directors, and Chief Lorenzen.

## **1. Report of the Fire Chief for Discussion and Direction**

The Board accepted the Chief's report.

## **CONSENT CALENDAR**

Director Bernstein pulled Agenda Item No. 5 off the Consent Calendar.

## **4. Approve the Minutes of the March 18, 2025, Special and Regular Board Meetings**

## **6. Adopt a Resolution Declaring Seasonal Weeds a Public Nuisance**

**Motion:** Upon motion by Director Kiraly, seconded by Director Silano, the Board approved Agenda Item Nos. 4 and 6. (Vote: 5-0-0)

## **REGULAR AGENDA**

## **5. Accept the Treasurer's Report for the Month Ended February 28, 2025 (Unaudited)**

**Motion:** Upon motion by Director Bernstein, seconded by Director Kiraly, the Board accepted the Treasurer's Report for the month ended February, 28, 2025, (unaudited). (Vote: 5-0-0)

## **7. Adopt a Resolution Awarding a Bid to PB Loader Corporation for the Purchase of One 2025 Western Star 47X Box Van and One 2025 Freightliner Cascadia Tractor in an Amount Not to Exceed \$530,000.00**

**Motion:** Upon motion by Director Bloom, seconded by Director Kiraly, the Board adopted a resolution awarding a bid to PB Loader Corporation for the purchase of one 2025 Western Star 47X Box Van and one 2025 Freightliner Cascadia Tractor in an amount not to exceed \$530,000.00. (Vote: 5-0-0)

## **8. First Reading of the Menlo Park Fire Protection District Ordinance Adopting by Reference the 2025 California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) Local Responsibility Area (LRA) Fire Hazard Severity Zone Maps Within the Menlo Park Fire Protection District**

Public comment: Lynne Bramlett thanked Fire Marshal Jon Johnston for his years of service and welcomed new Fire Marshal Gage Schlice. Ms. Bramlett spoke about Firewise USA communities and thinks there's interest in the program and an opportunity to work together more closely.

**Motion:** Upon motion by Director Kiraly, seconded by Director Silano, the Board introduced the ordinance and waived the first reading. (Vote: 5-0-0)

## **9. Review and Discuss the District's Fiscal Year 2025-26 Preliminary Budget and Full-Time Equivalent Staffing Level**

Finance Manager Allain Mallari gave an overview and answered questions from the Board.

## **10. Discuss the 2700 Middlefield Road Fire Investigation Report**

Fire Marshal Jon Johnston gave an overview and answered questions from the Board.

## **PROPOSED AGENDA ITEMS**

### **11. Consider Whether to Place the Proposed Agenda Items from the March 18, 2025, Board Meeting on a Future Meeting Agenda:**

#### **From Director Silano – Discuss Adding Back Public Comment Via Zoom**

**Motion:** Upon motion by Director Kiraly, seconded by Director Silano, the Board approved adding an item to a future meeting agenda to discuss adding back public comment via Zoom. (Vote: 5-0-0)

#### **From Director Silano – Discuss the Expansion of the Palo Alto Airport**

Director Silano withdrew his proposed agenda item.

#### **From Director Silano – Discuss if a City Can Waive the California Fire Code Requirement for High Density Housing**

**Motion:** Upon motion by Director Bernstein, seconded by Director Silano, the Board approved adding an item to a future meeting agenda to discuss if a city can waive the California Fire Code requirement for high density housing. (Vote: 3-2-0; Noes: Bloom, Kiraly)

Director Bloom noted for the record that the fire marshal stated earlier that the fire code review would occur when they actually get funding and formally submit plans. He believes that the process already incorporates the fire district's responsibilities with the project, which would be to enforce the fire code.

### **12. New Proposed Agenda Items**

From Director Silano – Discuss the Rescue Responsibilities for the San Francisco Bay and the Palo Alto Airport.

## **REPORTS AND REQUESTS**

### **13. Committee Reports**

Emergency Preparedness – There was no report.

Facilities – Director Bloom reported that the committee discussed the for-sale USGS property at 345 Middlefield Road and received a Station 1 project update.

Human Resources – Director Kiraly reported that the committee discussed the Fire Chief's performance evaluation process.

Finance – Director Bloom reported that the committee met, and the items were discussed at tonight's meeting.

### **14. Liaison Reports**

Town of Atherton – Director Bloom reported that at the last city council meeting, they discussed emergency preparedness processes and CERT. He also clarified how mutual aid deployments work.

City of East Palo Alto – Director Jones included this report with his president’s report.

City of Menlo Park - Director Kiraly reported that on March 22, she attended the city council’s goal-setting meeting, where proposals regarding a section of Santa Cruz Avenue were one of the items discussed. On March 29, she attended office hours with Mayor Combs. She also reported attending a LAFCo meeting on March 19, where they passed a resolution to have agencies honor best practices and allow the public to give public comment via Zoom. Lastly, she and Chief Lorenzen met with Mayor Combs and City Manager Justin Murphy.

County of San Mateo: Districts 3 – There was no report.

County of San Mateo: Districts 4 – There was no report.

San Mateo Pre-Hospital Emergency Medical Joint Powers Authority – Director Silano reported they had a meeting and discussed the proposed communications budget for dispatch services.

San Francisquito Creek Joint Powers Authority – Director Kiraly reported that she’s working with Mayor Combs to schedule a meeting with the CEO of the Creek JPA.

## **15. Reports/Requests of Directors**

Director Silano reported that on March 31, he attended the Fire Districts Association of California Conference, on April 2 he attended a Sheriff Oversight Commission meeting, he met with the Mayor of Menlo Park as not only a citizen of Menlo Park but as an executive board member for Zone 4 of the California Special Districts Association to discuss how special districts can help the cities and different communities with high-density housing projects.

## **16. President’s Report**

Director Jones reported that he was invited to the City of East Palo Alto to give a report on disaster preparedness as it related to the rEPAct group. Chief Lorenzen and Heather Keller also attended and gave a disaster preparedness presentation.

Director Jones reported meeting with Director Kiraly and Chief Lorenzen to discuss the Board retreat. He gave a summary and distributed a synopsis of the meeting.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 10:07 p.m.