

MOAPA VALLEY FIRE DISTRICT MEETING MINUTES

Monday, December 1, 2025 Location: MVFD Headquarters

Board Members	Judy Metz (Chairman), Josh Jensen (Vice Chairman), Joe Davis, Gene Houston, Chris Stolworthy.
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I. CALL TO ORDER

- A. Judy Metz calls the meeting to order
- B. Pledge of Allegiance
- C. Conformance with the Open Meeting Law
- D. Roll Call/Introduction
 - 1) Board Members:
 - a) Judy Metz, Chairman
 - b) Josh Jensen, Vice-Chairman (absent)
 - c) Gene Houston, Board Member
 - d) Joe Davis, Board Member
 - e) Chris Stolworthy, Board Member
 - 2) Additional Representatives
 - a) MVFD Chief Stephen Neel
 - b) MVFD Executive Assistant Samantha Empey
- E. Discussion & Possible Action: ***Adoption of the agenda as posted.***

Joe Davis motions to adopt the agenda as posted. Gene Houston seconds the motion. All in favor, none opposed. Motion was passed.

II. PUBLIC COMMENT

- A. (none)

III. ADMINISTRATIVE ACTION

- A. Discussion & Possible Action: ***Approval of June 2025 minutes***

Joe Davis motions to approve the minutes from September 2025. Chris Stolworthy seconds the motion. All in favor, none opposed. Motion was passed.

- B. Discussion & Possible Action: ***Reappointment of Joe Davis and Christopher Stolworthy as Board Members. Terms set to expire February 2026.***

Chair Metz motions to approve the reappointments of Joe Davis and Chris Stolworthy. Gene Houston seconds the motion. All in favor, none opposed. Motion was passed.

MOAPA VALLEY FIRE DISTRICT MEETING MINUTES

Monday, December 1, 2025 Location: MVFD Headquarters

IV. GENERAL BUSINESS

A. Discussion: ***Bylaw amendments, including revisions to membership definitions and clarification of the Assistant Chief position language to be submitted to the BCC for final approval***

Chief Neel and Joe Davis explained that the bylaws currently state the Assistant Chief shall maintain a roster of donations and provide it to the Fire Chief. The change will state that the MVFD Fire Chief shall maintain a roster and provide it to CCFD Fire Chief.

Joe Davis motions to approve the change in the bylaws to be reviewed and approved by the BCC. Chris Stolworthy seconds the motion. All in favor, none opposed. Motion was passed.

V. FINANCES

A. Discussion: ***Review of FY26 Budget***

Chief Neel provided an overview of the District's financial status, reporting that the quarter began with a balance of \$7.8 million and has increased to \$10.2 million. He noted that this total does not yet include approximately \$350,000 in outstanding grant reimbursements for purchases already made but not submitted due to government shutdown delays. Additional budget figures included \$236,000 in revenue from other services and \$343,000 in committed expenses. Chief Neel also reported a \$40,000 decrease in C-Tax revenue for June/July 2025. After contacting Budget Manager Chris Wardlaw, he confirmed the decline is occurring county-wide, largely due to reduced tourism on the Las Vegas Strip, and stated that the District will continue to monitor the trend.

Board Member Joe Davis raised questions regarding discrepancies between the County's budget sheet, a concern he had also mentioned in the previous meeting. He pointed out that certain line items had changed, with the new sheet showing lower or higher amounts. Joe requested clarification from Chief Neel on how the budget flows across the sheet, and why inconsistencies appear in the numbers.

Chief Neel will contact the county for an explanation.

MOAPA VALLEY FIRE DISTRICT MEETING MINUTES

Monday, December 1, 2025 Location: MVFD Headquarters

B. Discussion & Possible Action: ***FY27 Budget and 5 year capital outlay***

Chief Neel presented the proposed FY27 budget, noting that all salaries are now full-time and the PERS increase has been included. The Wildland program is still being finalized, so the budget includes \$250,000 in anticipated Wildland revenue and \$400,000 in professional services, with the understanding that only the necessary portion will be spent if revenue is lower.

For Capital Outlay, Chief Neel explained that the District's current heart monitors are being phased out due to an FDA stop order affecting a critical diagnostic function. Because of safety concerns, the budget includes \$300,000 to replace them. The District's squads continue to have mechanical issues, so replacing Squad 73 is the top priority, with \$600,000 budgeted, for a total Capital Outlay request of \$900,000.

He also noted long delivery times: new squads take about three years. The plan is to issue a purchase order in FY27 so the first squad would arrive around 2030, with replacements staggered annually afterward. A ladder truck purchase is on hold due to training and facility limitations. Chief Neel is working with vendors on a mini-pumper design that could replace both an engine and a squad at Station 72.

Operating revenue is projected at \$1.8 million, expenses at \$2.4 million, requiring a planned reserve draw of roughly \$606,000, largely due to major equipment purchases. C-Tax revenue has been conservatively estimated given countywide declines.

After discussion and final questions, Chair Metz called for a motion, with Gene Houston as a second and the Board voted unanimously to approve the FY27 Budget and Five-Year Capital Outlay.

VI. COMMENTS BY THE GENERAL PUBLIC

Jason Eastin (Station 73) expressed concern about the lack of recent updates on two previously discussed priorities: the new barn/facility project and the Wildland program. He noted that the facility had once been a high-priority item but has not appeared on recent agendas, and he referenced materials stored behind the station that may or may not be related to the project. He also asked for clearer information on the status and direction of the Wildland program, given recent changes involving

MOAPA VALLEY FIRE DISTRICT

MEETING MINUTES

Monday, December 1, 2025 Location: MVFD Headquarters

Clark County oversight. Speaking as both a community member and a District member, he requested more transparency about what the District is prioritizing, what may have changed, and what personnel should expect moving forward. Agenda items will be placed on the next agenda to discuss.

VII. REPORTS

A. MVFD Chief Stephen Neel:

Chief Neel began by thanking Chair Metz and Gene for attending the district's first badge-pinning ceremony, noting it was well-received and an important recognition of the volunteers' hard work. He then explained updates to the county's purchasing and invoice approval process. All purchase requests and invoices now go through multiple layers of review—including the district budget analyst and Senior Deputy Chief Wyatt—to ensure compliance with Fiscal Directive 6 and state and federal regulations. Despite these efforts, the comptroller's office remains significantly backlogged, causing delays in reimbursements and vendor setups, though processing times have recently begun to improve.

He reported that the district is returning vehicle service responsibilities to County Automotive. All apparatus will be registered with them and equipped with GPS monitoring. The district also received the second year of the SAMHSA grant, totaling \$153,000. With this funding, they purchased an advanced training manikin to pair with their virtual reality system, allowing volunteers to practice highly realistic medical procedures. Additional medical scenario software is being procured to increase volunteers' confidence and hands-on experience.

Facility improvements are underway, including repainting the interior of Station 74 and replacing decades-old carpet in all station training rooms. The district also recently received approval for EMT-Basics to start IVs in rural areas after passing new requirements through the health district. Eight members completed IV training last week and now need five successful live sticks under supervision. Live-fire vehicle training was also conducted last month, with positive feedback on organization, nozzle control, and incident command rotation. Areas identified for improvement include fireground communication and gear readiness.

Looking ahead, on December 16th the district will host a guest speaker who teaches about reducing mental-health stigma in emergency services. This training is being offered in response to recent stress-related

MOAPA VALLEY FIRE DISTRICT MEETING MINUTES

Monday, December 1, 2025 Location: MVFD Headquarters

challenges among volunteers. Chief Neel also shared newly approved fuel-mitigation work under AB 578, covering roughly 400 acres of BLM, county, and private land. Planned work includes vegetation removal, fuel breaks near neighborhoods and bridges, and coordination with landowners and other agencies. These efforts aim to protect critical infrastructure, reduce flood-related debris buildup, and improve wildfire defensible space throughout the valley. Public meetings will be scheduled as the project moves forward.

B. CCFD Chief Billy Samuels

Chief Samuels reminded members to notify him or Chief Wyatt if they experience delays with personal reimbursements—particularly for tuition or travel—so issues can be addressed and members aren't financially impacted. He then asked a question regarding the Wildland fuel-mitigation project, specifically whether a cost match was required. Chief Neel confirmed that the project is fully funded through BLM with no cost-sharing required by the district.

C. Board Member Report and General Comments:

Chair Metz requested that meeting minutes be distributed to board members sooner, even if it's a month after the meeting, so they have time to review them while the details are still fresh. She suggested sending the minutes directly to board members in advance, allowing them to verify accuracy and address any discrepancies before the packet is finalized.

VIII. SETTING OF NEXT MEETING

A. Next meeting is set for:

**Monday, March 2, 2026 @6:00 p.m. MVFD Headquarters.
3570 Lyman St, Logandale, NV 89021.**

IX. ADJOURNMENT

Gene Houston motions to adjourn. Joe Davis seconds the motion. All in favor, none opposed. Motion was passed.