

Santa Margarita Fire Protection District
22375 El Camino Real
Santa Margarita, CA 93453
805-438-3185

Board of Directors Meeting

April 8, 2026

Minutes:

1. The meeting was called to order at 5:00 PM. Present: John Wilkins, Beth Gorrill and Joel Switzer; Fire Chief, Bob Murach; Absent Chief Bobby Guy
2. The March minutes were read. John moved to approve, Joel seconded and minutes were approved with a vote of 3 ayes, no nays.
3. Action Items:
 - A. The warrants were presented. John moved to approve, Beth seconded and the motion passed with 3 ayes and no nays.
 - B. A Budget adjustment for \$20,000 was made to pay toward the loan for Engine 7865.
A further budget adjustment was made in the amount of \$8,767 for Worker's Compensation.
 - C. Chief Murach presented the proposed 2026-27 budget, which will be posted for public review and comment.
 - D. Hunter Smith was paid \$3357 for changes. Since the majority of project paperwork has been cleared, staff will move forward with filing required paperwork with USDA for grant for new station.
 - E. The Addendum to the 2025 CA Fire Code Exhibit A along with proposed Fee Schedule will be posted for public review.
 - F. A motion was made to proceed with Hazardous Weed Abatement beginning May 1st. Beth moved to approve, John seconded and the motion carried with 3 ayes no nays.
 - G. A motion was made to continue the District ban on fireworks. John moved to approve, Beth seconded and the motion carried with 3 ayes and no nays.

4. Chief's Report: Bob reported the Fire Academy was progressing well, and staff have nearly completed annual Wildland classes and testing.
5. Public Comment: A citizen requested that the 4th of July town parade continue the lengthened version, which had been abandoned in 2025. Chief Murach explained that the Fire Department had no oversight of the parade, but in that in previous years, when the parade looped around the south part of town, Fire Engines and other large vehicles had difficulty turning corners due to crowds, and that it was no longer safe. Since the parade is unsanctioned by any organization, citizens are at liberty to lengthen the parade, but participation by SMF and any other agencies would only be able to go straight down to the park.
6. The Meeting was adjourned at 5:35 PM. Due to conflicting schedules on behalf of some Board Members, the next meeting is scheduled 1 week early for Wednesday, May 6, 2026 at 5:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Beth Gorrill, Board Secretary