NORTH SAN JUAN FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

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BOARD OF DIRECTORS
REGULAR MEETING
Tuesday, May 5th, 2026
Final Adopted May 26, 2026

PRESENT: Samantha Hinrichs, Chair; Bruce Boyd, Vice-Chair; Tim Tschantz; Pam Morey

ABSENT: Rhea Williamson, Treasurer

STAFF PRESENT: Chief Mike Stewart; Deputy Chief Tom Browning; Lynn McGarva, Finance and Facilities Manager; Heidi Ryan, Board Secretary

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** The meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM by Chair Samantha Hinrichs. Roll was taken. A quorum was established.
   The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

2. **APPROVAL OF May 5th, 2026, REGULAR BOARD MEETING AGENDA**
   Samantha Hinrichs announced she will hear Item 8.A directly following Board Announcements.

   Bruce Boyd moved to approve the agenda for May 5th, 2026, Pam Morey seconded, motion carried 4-0-0-1.

3. **PUBLIC COMMENT:**
   Boyd Johnson asked the Board to use the Grand Jury Report on Penn Valley Fire Protection District and the indictment on the Fire Safe Council as cautionary tales. Boyd recommended that the Board read both reports. Boyd read a sentence from the Grand Jury Report as it relates to all fire protection district boards; "The day of the small independent fire district is over, because all districts do not have the revenue streams sufficient to support the firefighting and safety functions that larger departments can make". NSJ Fire is in the black and well-staffed, Boyd is looking forward to seeing how the Board manages this in the future.

4. **MINUTES:**
   A. **Draft Minutes of March 24, 2026**
      Bruce Boyd moved to adopt the March 24th Draft Minutes as presented, Tim Tschantz seconded, motion carried 4-0-0-1.

5. **ANNOUNCEMENTS:**
   Tim Tschantz announced that he will be leading a CPR and rescue training for the students at Ananda School.

6. **REPORTS**

A. Board Chair Report – Samantha Hinrichs

Samantha Hinrichs announced that there will be a water safety training at Grizzly Hill School on June 3rd. Tom Browning added that the training will include participation from NCSO, NSJ Fire, CAL FIRE, Nevada County Consolidated, as well as CHP. Additionally, Sam shared that Nevada County Sheriff's Office will be holding a shelter-in-place training at Grizzly Hill School on May 12th.

i. Correspondence- Samantha read aloud a letter from Sharon Beckenbach.

B. Chief's Report – Fire Chief Mike Stewart

i. **March 2026 Statistics:**

Chief Mike Stewart provided a summary of the March 2026 Statistics.

ii. **Current Department Activity:**

- Chief Stewart introduced Battalion Chief Tim Fike. Tim will serve as our Public Outreach/PIO representative.
- Apparatus Committee has been meeting and viewing vehicles to come up with the specs to replace Rescue 6132.
- Wednesday night training has been moved to Fire House 1 to better accommodate the large attendance.
- Camptonville Fire Department has a new Fire Chief, Danny Rasmussen. The Department now has 15 volunteer firefighters.

Bruce Boyd shared that he attended the Taxpayers Association meeting with Chief Stewart, Deputy Chief Browning, and Tim Tschantz to discuss our community water storage program.

Deputy Chief Tom Browning announced that Nevada County is no longer using Code Red for emergency alerts. The new system is Nevada County Alerts, and everyone will need to sign up for the new system.

C. Treasurer's Report – Presented by Lynn McGarva

i. Financials- March 2026: Funds Summary, Disbursement Detail, Deposit Detail, Cal Card

Lynn McGarva presented March 2026, financial reports.

Bruce Boyd moved to approve the financial reports for March 2026 as presented, Tim Tschantz seconded, motion carried 4-0-0-1.

D. Firefighters Association Report – Sambhava Burke

Sambhava shared that firefighters will be supporting the Scotch Broom Breakfast. The Association has voted to fund the concrete pour at the new gazebo site.

E. NCFA Report – Bruce Boyd

Nothing to report.

F. Auxiliary Report – Pam Morey

The Auxiliary is currently busy working on the Scotch Broom Breakfast. Shady Creek is slated for the Appreciation Dinner on November 6th.

Additionally, Jo Ann and Rusty Fites-Kaufman provide food, and Auxiliary members provide treats for firefighters at Wednesday night training.

7. OLD BUSINESS

A. Hydrant Committee Update – Deputy Chief Tom Browning

Deputy Chief Browning shared that the funding process is going in the right direction with the goal of 2027 for breaking ground.

B. Capital Improvement- Bruce Boyd

The District has the permit for the addition to Firehouse 3. The next step is for the Board to approve bringing the project to bid.

Additionally, Bruce received plans for having the parking lot paved at Firehouse 3.

i. Station 3 Bid Authorization

Bruce Boyd asked the Board to approve going to bid for the addition. Bruce is currently researching a new bidding process that may allow us to hire local contractors for this work.

Tim Tschantz moved to authorize going to bid for the Firehouse 3 addition, Pam Morey seconded, motion carried by the following roll call vote:

Bruce Boyd	Aye
Rhea Williamson	Absent
Tim Tschantz	Aye
Pam Morey	Aye
Samantha Hinrichs	Aye

Ayes: 4 Noes: 0 Abstain: 0 Absent: 1

C. Water Storage Committee- Bruce Boyd

Bruce Boyd shared that he participated in a presentation of our water storage program at the Taxpayers Association meeting. East Sages FireWise Community is interested in having the next water storage location be in their community, which is an area pre-identified when this committee was developed. Jackass Flats FireWise Community has also expressed interest.

Deputy Chief Browning offered to investigate water storage access at the Pine Grove Reservoir off Birchville Road.

8. NEW BUSINESS

A. Presentation on Proposed Cell Tower in North San Juan- Abra

This item was heard out of order at 6:07

Abra read a prepared statement from the Ridge Wise for Safe Cellular group titled, *Addressing Serious Concerns Regarding the Installation of Cell Telecommunication Towers and Small Cells Facilities on the San Juan Ridge*. Fire Chief Mike Stewart thanked the group for their concerns but reiterated that strong communications are integral for

modern day fire service. Chief Stewart also responded that he had never heard of any helicopters having technical and communication issues within proximity of 5G towers.

The Board thanked the group for bringing their concerns forward.

B. Updated Employment Contract for Finance and Facilities Manager Lynn McGarva– Mike Stewart

Chief Stewart shared that this updated/amended contract for our Finance and Facilities Manager reflects the recent actions (March 24th, 2026) by the Board regarding paid time off and bereavement pay.

Bruce Boyd moved to adopt the amended employment contract for Lynn McGarva, Finance and Facilities Manager, Pam Morey seconded, motion carries 4-0-0-1.

C. Structure Fire Turnout Purchase - Fire Chief Mike Stewart

Chief Stewart announced that with our growing roster, we have an increase in PPE needs. Deputy Chief Browning was able to find our current turnout through Source Well, an entity that competitively bids items to help government agencies make purchases without having to go through the competitive bid process independently.

Bruce Boyd moved to accept the bid for All Star Fire Equipment, Tim Tschantz seconded, motion carried 4-0-0-1.

D. Newsletter – Samantha Hinrichs

Samantha Hinrichs is working with Melanya Gonshorowski and Allison Rees to develop a Spring Newsletter. Samantha asked Board members for article ideas. Heidi Ryan suggested taking the format of the last newsletter produced.

9. NEXT MEETING: Tuesday May 26, 2026, at 6:00 PM

10. 10. ADJOURNMENT: Meeting adjourned at 7:24 PM

Heidi Ryan

Heidi Ryan, Board Secretary