

===== Farmington =====
FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

ORGANIZED 1936
POST OFFICE BOX 25
209-886-5321
FARMINGTON, CALIFORNIA 95230

MINUTES
Regular Board Meeting
March 23, 2026
7:00 PM

1. Call to Order -

Meeting call to order by President Briggs at 7:05 PM.

2. Establish a Quorum -

A Quorum was established by verbal roll call. Directors Cross, Briggs, Lemos, and Samuel were all recorded present. Emergency Acting Chief Herrero was unable to attend the meeting.

3. Flag Salute -

Recited

4. Public Comment -

A member of the public was present for the Travis Castle campaign for the District 4 Board of Supervisors to observe the meeting.

5. Approval of Minutes -

President Briggs transcribed the January 26, 2026 minutes using the meeting video recording - Tabled due to them not being completed. Director Lemos motioned to accept the minutes as written. Director Samuel seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken as follows:

Briggs - Aye
Cross - Aye
Lemos - Aye
Samuel - Aye
Vacant -

Motion Passed

President Briggs prepared the February 23, 2026 Regular Meeting minutes. Director Lemos motioned to accept the minutes as written. Director Cross seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken as follows:

Briggs - Aye
Cross - Aye
Lemos - Aye
Samuel - Aye
Vacant -

Motion Passed

6. Closed Session -

Director Samuel motioned to pause the meeting and enter into closed session. Director Cross seconded. A roll call vote was taken as follows:

Briggs - Aye
Cross - Aye
Lemos - Aye
Samuel - Aye
Vacant -
Motion Passed

The regular meeting was paused at 7:10 PM to enter closed session.

Director Lemos motioned to re-open the regular meeting. Director Samuel seconded. A roll call vote was taken as follows:

Briggs - Aye
Cross - Aye
Lemos - Aye
Samuel - Aye
Vacant -
Motion Passed

President Briggs called the meeting back to order 7:29 pm. President Briggs reported that no action was during the closed session.

President Briggs moved Agenda Item 11(a) up in the agenda without objection of board members.

Director Lemos presented details on the nationwide search for an Acting Chief of the department. The ad hoc committee conducted several interviews and made the recommendation to hire Matthew Sowell.

Director Samuel motioned to hire Matthew Sowell as Acting Chief for the department with President Briggs to execute the contract for employment at \$33.00 per hour. Chris Lemos seconded the motion. Matthew Sowell addressed the board on his background and qualifications. After discussion and amending the motion to include the pay rate, a vote was taken as follows:

Briggs - Aye
Cross - Aye
Lemos - Aye
Samuel - Aye
Vacant -
Motion Passed

7. Budget Status Report - as of February 28, 2026 -

Cash on hand Account #48501 - General Fund
Cash on hand Account #48505 - Grant Fund
Cash on hand Account #48551 - Strike Team Fund
Cash on hand Account #48591 - Capital Outlay Fund
Total:

Note: Monthly budget reports were not available for the March 23, 2026 meeting.

8. Payment of Bills - January 2026 -

President Briggs provided an update on the status of the Oak Valley Community Bank account and a discussion of the bills. Director Samuel provided comments on several of the bills, which President Briggs clarified. Director Lemos motioned to approve depositing accounts receivables and payment of the bills with the exception of bill #8 for the California Employers Association. Director Cross seconded. A roll call vote was taken as follows:

Briggs - Aye
Cross - Aye
Lemos - Aye
Samuel - Aye
Vacant -

Motion Passed

9. Chiefs Report -

The March chief's report by Acting Chief Herrero presented by President Briggs. Report is present in the board packet. President Briggs noted that since the February 9, 2026, resignations the department has responded to all thirty-nine dispatches for emergency assistance without delay and hired seven new firefighters.

10. Information Items -

- a. Correspondence- George Reed Construction has asked for parking equipment on district property while doing work for Caltrans and two lot line adjustments.
- b. President Briggs provided information on the LAFCO report prepared by the County.
- c. President Briggs provided an update on the payment of bills process with the county.

11. Action Items -

- a. **Discussion and potential action regarding the search and selection of an acting chief:**

Item 11(a) was moved up in the agenda.

- b. **Discussion and potential action regarding equipment needed to support the acting chief role:**

Acting Chief Sowell presented the requested items needed to fulfill the role of chief. President Briggs motioned to provide ordinary and customary items the chief needs including: mobile phone, laptop computer, PPE, uniform, business cards within the department. Director Cross seconded. A roll call vote was taken as follows:

Briggs - Aye
Cross - Aye
Lemos - Aye
Samuel - Aye
Vacant -

Motion Passed

- c. **Discussion and potential action regarding district administrative support:**

Director Lemos presented a service agreement provided by Cecilia Nelson Booking. Director Lemos motioned to accept the service agreement. Director Samuel seconded. A roll call vote was taken as follows:

Briggs - Aye
Cross - Aye
Lemos - Aye
Samuel - Aye
Vacant -

Motion Passed

d. Discussion and potential action item regarding repair or purchase of district computer equipment and information technology support.

Ackerland Technology Solutions provided three proposals for information technology report. After discussion on the three proposals, two were tabled pending review by Acting Chief Sowell. Director Samuel motion to approve the hourly IT service agreement with Ackerland Technology Solutions. Chris Lemos seconded. A roll call vote was taken as follows:

Briggs - Aye
Cross - Aye
Lemos - Aye
Samuel - Aye
Vacant -

Motion Passed

e. One opening on the Board of Directors, reposting:

President Briggs motioned to repost the Board of Director opening with the intent to fill the position within the 60-day window by conducting a special meeting. Director Cross seconded. A roll call vote was taken as follows:

Briggs - Aye
Cross - Aye
Lemos - Aye
Samuel - Aye
Vacant -

Motion Passed

f. Discussion and potential action regarding Cal-OSHA complaint No. 2411489:

President Briggs shared that the district received a complaint from Cal-OSHA. President Briggs updated on the status of the items in the complaint and motioned for the Board President to provide a response to Cal-OSHA. Director Samuel seconded. A roll call vote was taken as follows:

Briggs - Aye
Cross - Aye
Lemos - No Vote
Samuel - Aye
Vacant -

Motion Passed

g. Discussion and potential action regarding the purchase of firefighter personal protective equipment:

The Board held a discussion on district provided personal protective equipment, hearing that a significant amount of PPE equipment is out of compliance. Director Cross motioned to authorize an emergency expenditure of \$30,000 to purchase necessary equipment and for the chief to provide a report on all PPE status. Director Samuel seconded. A roll call vote was taken as follows:

Briggs - Aye
Cross - Aye
Lemos - Aye
Samuel - Aye
Vacant -

Motion Passed

h. Discussion and potential action regarding hiring a pest control company:

President Briggs presented a proposal by Next Generation Pest Control to handle the district's rodent and pest issues. President Briggs motioned to approve the initial agreement of \$450 and \$99 monthly fee (option 1). Director Lemos seconded. A roll call vote was taken as follows:

Briggs - Aye
Cross - Aye
Lemos - Aye
Samuel - Aye
Vacant -

Motion Passed

i. Discussion and potential action regarding recognition of chief officers who recently resigned:

With no objection the item was tabled to a future meeting.

12. Good of the Order -

Acting Chief Sowell provided a list of classes the Board of Directors need.

13. Adjournment -

Director Lemos motion to adjourn the meeting, Director Samuel seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken as follows:

Briggs - Aye
Cross - Aye
Lemos - Aye
Samuel - Aye
Vacant -

Motion Passed

The meeting was adjourned at 9:31 PM

The next meeting is scheduled April 27, 2026 at 7:00PM.

Submitted,

*Jeff Briggs
Board President*