



WEST POINT FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

September 9th, 2026

Chair Marsili called the meeting to order at 6:00 P.M. at the West Point Fire Station, 195 Spink Rd West Point, Ca 95255.

PRESENT: Chair Julia Marsili, Director John Hesketh, Director Tim Adams, Director Dorrie Klith, Director Bryan Payne, Chief Michael Downs, Chaplain Bruce Forrest, and Clerk Bronwynne Wolf.

ABSENT: None.

Public Comment:

No members of the public were present for public comment.

Announcements from West Point Fire Protection District Partners:

Partner reports - Chaplain Forrest reported three calls during the prior week, including one response for West Point Fire, one response for Central Calaveras Fire Protection District, and one response with the Sheriff's Office. He also reported that district personnel provided exemplary assistance during one response. It was also noted that the Association presented a letter at the prior day's Board of Supervisors meeting.

Consent Agenda:

The following items were motioned for approval by Director Adams, seconded by Director Hesketh, and passed with 5 ayes.

- a. Approve Regular Meeting Minutes from August 12th, 2026
- b. Acknowledge receipt and review of financial statements for August 2026
- c. Approve monthly expenses for August 2026

Old Business:

a. Status of Equipment: Downs, Information

Chief Downs reported that district apparatus are currently operational. He noted that the air conditioning in the Type 1 engine is not working, but the engine remains functional and available for use. Chief Downs also discussed the potential future surplus of the Dodge vehicle after review by Director Hesketh, noting that Chief Young of San Andreas Fire had expressed interest in purchasing it. The Board discussed that any surplus action would need to be brought back at a future meeting.



Chief Downs reported that the snow tracks for the side-by-side utility vehicle are expected to arrive soon and that Director Adams will assist with the first installation. He stated that the first installation may take up to four hours, future installations are expected to take approximately one hour, and training will be scheduled so personnel are prepared to install the tracks before winter. Chief Downs also reported that a spare tire and extra belt were ordered for the side-by-side utility vehicle, that the Type 3 engine remains operational, and that the Chief vehicle received an oil change during the New Mexico assignment and may need bushing repairs. No action taken.

b. 26/27 Final Budget Approval: Wolf, Action

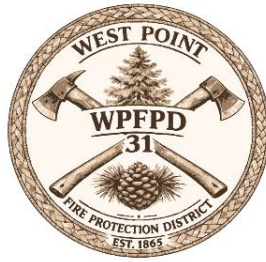
Clerk Wolf presented the 2026/2027 Final Budget for approval. She reported that the County provided final budget instructions and specific tax figures, that LAFCO figures were requested after they were not initially provided, and that no figures were provided for Transient Occupancy Tax or Proposition 172 revenue. Those revenues were therefore not included in the Final Budget. Discussion included the Board of Supervisors action from the prior day to return \$50,000 in TOT funding to each fire district, which was not reflected in the Final Budget and may require a later budget adjustment once final information is provided by the County.

Clerk Wolf reported that the Final Budget allocates a little over \$1,000,000 to capital equipment, structures and improvements, and land acquisition, leaving approximately \$658,000 in reserves. Discussion included planned allocations of \$550,000 for capital equipment and \$450,000 for structures and improvements, with approximately \$425,000 remaining in general reserve and approximately \$234,000 remaining in reserve for buildings. It was noted that future reserve contributions will generally depend on amounts remaining under budget at year end unless otherwise budgeted.

Director Klith motioned to approve the 2026/2027 Final Budget, seconded by Director Hesketh. The motion passed with 5 ayes.

c. Additional Design Fees for the West Point Fire Station Project- Aspen Street Architects and Civil Engineering Services: Downs, Information

Chief Downs reported that Aspen Street Architects will no longer pursue the prior \$30,000 request for additional design fees. He reported that an additional request of approximately \$5,000 for civil engineering services is expected, related to septic line and project design issues. No action taken.



New Business:

a. Update Re: West Point Fire's Response to Calaveras County's Staff Presentation of Fire District Budgets: Marsili, Information

Chair Marsili reported that she attended the Board of Supervisors meeting two weeks prior and provided a response on behalf of West Point Fire Protection District during public comment. She stated that her comments were intended to address inaccuracies and the way West Point Fire was portrayed during the prior County presentation, including statements regarding the district's reserves and revenue reporting. Chair Marsili reported that she focused on presenting the district's position firmly and appropriately.

Discussion included the County's decision to return \$50,000 in TOT funding to each fire district and the importance of West Point Fire having a seat at the table in future County funding discussions. The Board discussed the importance of the County not positioning itself against the fire districts or the fire districts against one another.

Chief Downs requested guidance from the Board regarding the district's continued involvement in services connected to the County, including filling water tanks at the transfer station, hosting a voter drop box, and allowing the Sheriff's Office access to district fuel. The Board discussed continuing to provide these services as resources for the betterment of the West Point and Wilseyville communities.

Reports, Director, and Staff Comments

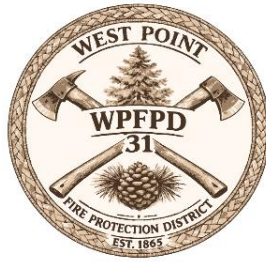
Fire Chief Report/Announcements:

Chief Downs reported that Four Leaf, the outside engineering firm reviewing the station project plans, is expediting its review and hopes to have the review completed by the following week.

Chief Downs reported that he is reviewing legal options related to abandoned vehicles on district property and may need to bring an ordinance to the Board in the future to address towing authority. Discussion included the abandoned RV located next to the station and the need to address similar issues before Lumberjack Day.

Chief Downs reported on his recent New Mexico fire assignment, where he served in a division role with approximately 70 personnel assigned under him at one point. He stated that the assignment was a valuable learning experience and thanked the Board for allowing him the opportunity to participate.

Chief Downs reported that cleanup efforts are underway at the gas station and that he continues to work with Dollar General regarding trash, boxes, carts, and other fire hazard concerns near the propane tank area. He also discussed the possibility of developing a landing zone in the area near Dollar General to improve air ambulance access for trauma



calls moving toward Jackson, noting that further coordination and cleanup would be needed.

Chief Downs reported that all district firefighters passed the Advanced EMT midterm. He also reported meeting the new executive director for Mountain Counties EMS and discussed potential future options related to patient transport or rendezvous with ambulances or landing zones to reduce response and transport delays. Discussion ensued.

Board Member Announcements:

Director Hesketh reported that the special election application related to his Board seat had been submitted. Director Adams noted that he will be absent from the October and November meetings.

Board members discussed upcoming Lumberjack Day preparations, including assistance with peeling logs, breakfast hosted by Hesketh Automotive, Association raffle tickets, and the removal of the horseshoe event responsibility from the fire department. Discussion also included the Type 1 engine replacement committee and future outreach to district personnel for input on equipment needs.

Adjournment:

The meeting adjourned at 6:43 P.M. The next regular meeting will be held at 6:00 P.M. on Wednesday, October 14th, 2026, at the West Point Fire Protection District Station, 195 Spink Rd. West Point, CA 95255.