

**COMMISSIONER'S MEETING
ESPARTO FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT
PO BOX 366, 16960 YOLO AVE, ESPARTO, CA**

MEETING LOCATION: ESPARTO COMMUNITY HALL, 17020 YOLO AVE, ESPARTO, CA 95627

**MARCH 12, 2026
MEETING MINUTES**

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Chair Rudy Lucero.

2. Roll Call

Members present: Rudy Lucero, John Hulsman and Barry Burns

Members absent: Dave Schwenger and Mitch Roath

Other present: Chief Curtis Lawrence and Monica Burns, Secretary to the Board

3. Approval of Agenda

Chief Lawrence requested that items 14 and 15 be removed from the agenda. A motion was made by Commissioner Hulsman and seconded by Commissioner Burns to approve the agenda as amended.

Ayes: 3 Noes: 0 Absent: 2

4. Board Member Communication

None

5. Public Comment

None

6. Approve Minutes of February 12, 2026 Board Meeting

A motion was made by Commissioner Burns and seconded by Commissioner Hulsman to approve the February 12, 2026 minutes.

Ayes: 3 Noes: 0 Absent: 2

7. Approve Payment of March 12, 2026 Claims

A motion was made by Commissioner Burns and seconded by Commissioner Hulsman to approve the March 12, 2026 claims.

Ayes: 3 Noes: 0 Absent: 2

8. Review Financial Report Including:

A. Claims Paid on February 17, 2026

The financial report and the claims paid on February 17, 2026 were reviewed by the Board.

9. Review and Approve Surplussing Water 219

Chief Lawrence informed the Board that the cost to make Water 219 safe and fully operational would be too high given that it is a 1995 apparatus. He recommended that the Board declare the apparatus surplus and advised that he would determine whether it should be junked or sold.

A motion was made by Commissioner Burns and seconded by Commissioner Hulsman to declare Water 219 surplus and authorize its disposal by either sale or junking.

Ayes: 3 Noes: 0 Absent: 2

10. Review and Approve Board Policies:

- A. 4005 – Equal Opportunity
- B. 4035 – Unlawful Harassment

A motion was made by Commissioner Hulsman and seconded by Commissioner Burns to approve Board Policy 4005 and Board Policy 2035

Ayes: 3 Noes: 0 Absent: 2

11. Fire District’s Sustainability Ad Hoc Committee

There were no updates to report.

12. Yolo County Fire Safe Council

- A. Updates

Commissioner Hulsman attended the Fire Safe Council meeting and provided the Board with an update on projects currently being considered or funded by the Fire Safe Council.

- B. Yolo Prescribed Burn Association

There were no updates to report.

13. Staff Reports

- A. Office Report – Chief Lawrence reported that:

- a. The District’s website has been updated in accordance with LAFCO’s recommendations.
- b. Work continues on compliance with California’s new employment laws. Nearly all necessary changes have been implemented, and the District has emailed General Counsel regarding updates needed to several sections of the Employee Handbook.
- c. The new use application and rules for the rental of the Community Hall are nearly complete and will be posted on the District website soon.

- B. Building & Maintenance Report – Chief Lawrence reported that:

- a. Water Tender 19 is experiencing service issues.
- b. The Squad has several minor issues, including an oil leak that will be serviced soon by the mechanic. The Squad is an older vehicle, has some electrical issues, and needs new tires. A decision will need to be made soon whether to continue investing in repairs or declare the vehicle surplus.

- C. Chief’s Report – Chief Lawrence reported:

- a. The 2026 Almond Festival went well, and volunteers raised approximately \$2,500. There was only one emergency call that day.
- b. He will be attending training next week on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday.
- c. Justin Burns submitted his resignation, and his last day was March 7, 2026. His departure creates a vacant position. Current staff are covering shifts through April 2026.

- d. He attended a meeting with the County of Yolo regarding agricultural exempt buildings and the issues surrounding them. While he appreciated that the County had the appropriate representatives present, he expressed concerns about the County attempting to shift responsibility for these issues onto the fire districts. This item will be discussed at the April 14, 2026, Yolo County Board of Supervisors meeting.
- e. He has been researching training opportunities for staff related to electric vehicles (EVs) and battery banks, which are becoming an increasing concern.

14. Convene to Closed Session

A. Potential Litigation (§ 54956.9)

This item was removed from the agenda.

15. Reconvene to Open Session

This item was removed from the agenda.

16. Adjournment

A motion was made by Commissioner Burns and seconded by Commissioner Hulsman to adjourn the meeting at 6:25 p.m.

Ayes: 3 Noes: 0 Absent: 2

Monica Burns, Secretary to the Board

Printed Name

Title