



Elsie-Vinemapple Rural Fire Protection District
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**Elsie Vinemapple Fire Protection District
Board of Directors Meeting
March 17, 2026
Jewell School Library**

Due to technical difficulties the recording of this meeting is unavailable.

MINUTES

1. **Call to Order and Welcome.** Meeting called to order at 5:05 PM
2. **Pledge of Allegiance.**
3. **Roll Call.** Directors Hecox, Walsh, Pitkin, Van Dyke, and Layman are present. Fire Chief Davis is present. Fire Admin Gitts is absent and excused. Several community members are in attendance.
4. **Public Comments.** Ron Weber addressed the board about volunteer fire department maintenance needs, particularly regarding mowing the station grounds. Wayne Carmichael provided updates on the county's new digitized zoning map and announced plans for community involvement initiatives, including upcoming elections for Planning Commission seats and County Commissioner positions.
5. **Approval of Agenda.** A motion was made and seconded to approve the Accounts Payable. Motion passed unanimously. Due to incomplete recording data, the maker and seconder could not be verified.

Roll call vote: Hecox-Aye; Van Dyke-Aye; Pitkin-Aye; Layman-Aye; Walsh-Aye

Motion Passed

6. **Approval of January 12, & February, 2026 Board Meeting Minutes.** The Board discussed the issues regarding use of AI for developing meeting minutes. Director Walsh will review the video recordings and notes to assemble accurate minutes for the January and February Board meetings. When completed, a Zoom meeting will be scheduled to review and approve the minutes.
7. **Approval of Accounts Payable.** The Board discussed accounts payable, including a \$1,167 balance due to CHS Northwest, the District's vendor for propane at all three stations. Chief Davis agreed to investigate the charges.

The Board discussed documentation for purchases with an example being internal development of an authorized purchaser list for Bakers General Store and requiring a signature and reference number (apparatus, station, equipment, etc.) on the sales receipt.

Director Walsh made the motion to approve accounts payable. Director Layman seconded the motion.

Roll call vote: Hecox-Aye; Van Dyke-Aye; Pitkin-Aye; Layman-Aye; Walsh-Aye

Motion Passed

8. **Chief's Report.** Chief Davis reported on the months' call statistics, which included mutual aid to a fire in the Hamlet Fire District that resulted in a fatality. The Chief reported on the ongoing training for staff and volunteers including upcoming training sessions with LifeFlight, emergency medical response and radio communications.

The Chief outlined the timeline for the seismic reconstruction project for Station 1. A Request For Proposal (RFP) is scheduled to be published on March 27th and a goal to begin construction by early 2027, with completion expected by September 2027.

Clatsop County provided the District with \$8,079 revenue generated through the Counties Transient Lodging Tax.

The Chief presented a report on the fire district's call volume and funding challenges. He noted that 90-95% of motor vehicle accidents within the District occur on state highways, particularly along Highway 26. Maintaining apparatus, emergency equipment and the resources required (i.e., fuel, maintenance, certifications, etc.) is becoming untenable given the limited budget for the District.

Chief Davis discussed plans to implement billing for responses to incidents involving nonresidents of the District, and recommended consideration of a local option levy in 2027 converting the existing capital levy to an operations levy.

He also advised he is planning to attend two upcoming conferences: the Oregon State Fire Marshal Task Force Leader Symposium in April and the Oregon Fire Chiefs Conference in May.

9. New Business

9.1 Budget Meeting/Budget Hearing Update. Chief Davis provided budget updates.

9.2 Appoint Budget Officer. Board appoints Chief Davis as Budget Officer.

9.3 Budget Calendar. Chief Davis provided the Board with a Budget Calendar which was reviewed and approved.

9.4 Capital Purchasing Policy. The Board discussed combining the Capital Purchasing Policy into the District's Financial Policy document. Discussion is ongoing, with implementation still under consideration.

9.5 Senate Bill 179 Opt-in Immunity for SDAO Special Districts. In summary, Oregon's trail use immunity statute, ORS 105.668, offers targeted protection against negligence claims arising from the use of trails and similar structures located within public easements or unimproved rights of way by non-motorized users. Beginning January 1, 2026, Senate Bill 179 expands the authority to opt into this immunity to all local governments (including special districts), complementing the statute's automatic coverage.

Director Layman will review and amend the documentation to meet the Districts requirements. The revised documents will be sent to SDAO for review and discussion at the next regular Board meeting.

10. Old Business

10.1 [SAM.GOV](#) Registration Update. Director Pitkin provided the Board with an update on the status of the District's SAM.gov account. The one remaining item is to connect the bank account.

10.2 US Bank Accounts Update. Board Chair Hecox and Director Pitkin discussed the transition from Lewis & Clark Bank to US Bank including details of available account tools and beneficial reporting methods. Director Pitkin will follow up on district credit cards.

11. Audience Clarifications. None

12. Board of Directors Comments. The members of the Board were unanimous in expressing appreciation of the work being put forth by everyone associated with the District.

13. Future Agenda Items. Add "Disposition of the 1946 Ford Engine" to the upcoming agenda.

14. Motion to Adjourn. Director Pitkin made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Director Walsh seconded the motion.

15.

Roll call vote: Hecox-Aye; Van Dyke-Aye; Pitkin-Aye; Layman-Aye; Walsh-Aye

Motion Passed. The meeting adjourned at 6:19 PM.

Per EVRFPD Board of Directors