COPPEROPOLIS FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT
370 MAIN STREET
Copperopolis, CA 95228
209 785-2393 – FAX 209 785-2423

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD
Director John Maness, Director Joe Peery, Director James Valencia, Director Steve Marks, Director Richard McCarty

Regular Meeting Minutes
July 9, 2026

Pledge of Allegiance

I. CALL TO ORDER- Roll Call 6:30

Directors Present: Maness, Valenica, McCarty, Marks

Absent: Perry

Administrative staff present: Fire Chief Scott Hertzog, Tori Polen, Molly Soulier

Guests: Carolyn, John Poffenroth, Al, Dagmar Poffenroth

II. CONSENT CALENDAR

A. Minutes of May 22 Meeting

The Board considered approval of the minutes from the May 22 meeting.

The Board determined that there were not enough directors present who attended the May 22 meeting to approve those minutes.

By consensus of the Board, approval of the May 22 minutes was continued to the next regular board meeting.

B. Remaining Consent Items

A motion was made and seconded to approve the remaining items on the Consent Calendar as presented.

Motion to approve minutes.

Motion: Valencia, Seconder: Marks

Ayes (4) Noes (0) Absent (1)

III. CORRESPONDENCE

None.

IV. COMMENTS/QUESTIONS

A. *The Board welcomed Molly.*
B. *No comment*
C. *CERT- Scott Hertzog reminded the directors that Carolyn will be out for approximately three weeks for hand surgery and follow-up surgery. Regarding Apparatus 239: Unit 239 remains out of service. Volunteer Brian Lovelace, a diesel mechanic, has helped diagnose the issue and identify needed parts. Parts have been ordered and are expected this week. If the repairs are not successful, the district will consider other alternatives. Training has included recent training covered FEMA wildfire repair. The next training will be propane safety, to be taught by Brian, who is a propane subject-matter expert. Training opportunities were shared at the chief's meeting, and other agencies were invited to attend.*

V. PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment was offered.

VI. Administrative Report

A. Fire Chief
Scott Hertzog reminded the directors that Carolyn will be out for approximately three weeks for hand surgery and follow-up surgery. Board Elections- Chief Hertzog reminded the Board that board elections open on July 13. Budget and Financial Status Chief Hertzog reported that the new fiscal year and budget has begun. The district entered the prior year with approximately $130,000 in deficit. Preliminary indications are that the district will finish the year approximately or slightly positively, pending final county reconciliation of the budget. This improved position is due in part to: OES and mutual aid payments for out-of-county deployments, and Grant funding. Final year-end financial figures will be provided when county reconciliation is complete. Fleet and Apparatus: Unit 239: Remains out of service. About $200 in parts has been ordered to repair the unit. If repairs prove more costly, staff will avoid repeatedly deferring the issue ("kicking the can down the road") and will evaluate alternative options. Medic 232 Replacement Planning: In response to prior Board direction, Chief Hertzog contacted four to five major ambulance vendors. To date, only one vendor (the builder of the current unit) has responded. That vendor noted the current unit includes nearly every available option, many of which are not necessary. Preliminary cost estimates for a replacement are- Truck chassis with box: approximately $200,000 – $220,000, Van chassis with box: approximately $160,000 Sprinter/Transit-style ambulance: approximately $110,000 Estimated build time for new units is 18 to 24 months. Chief Hertzog plans to return to the Board at the next meeting with two or three comparable bids/options. The anticipated replacement timeline aligns with the current unit reaching about 13–14 years of age. Personnel and Reserves- The District has brought on six new reserves, while four reserves have left and a fifth will be leaving soon. Chief Hertzog introduced reserve firefighters in attendance: Austin Overton and Dylan Freeman. Wyatt will be leaving in two weeks to attend paramedic school at Butte College and continue his education at Chico State. To prepare for future staffing needs: Chief Hertzog directed Matt and James to conduct another interview process and create a candidate list for potential permanent firefighter positions. This list will allow the district to move quickly if Measure A funding and vacancies support adding a sixth permanent firefighter position. No new

permanent position has been formally opened at this time. Training and Community Engagement- Personnel will be conducting wildland season training, and CAL FIRE is at peak staffing. Firewise communities are active, holding meetings and events. The next meeting will be held at Poker Flat on August 8, with District personnel and CERT in attendance. Grants- The District has submitted applications for FEMA grants and California Fire Foundation grants and is awaiting award decisions. Prevention and Development- Regarding Town Square buildouts, there are currently no additional inspections or reporting requirements. Drake is monitoring progress. Planning Committee and Strategic Plan- Chief Hertzog reported on a recent Planning Committee meeting that included a station visit. Topics discussed included future land acquisition and review of architectural plans (including those associated with the Chicken Ranch Fire area). Chief Hertzog stated that planning efforts are ahead of where he expected and recommended focusing on the development of a formal five-year Strategic Plan. The plan will outline: Where the District was, Where the District is now, and Where the District needs to be. Chief Hertzog will prepare this five-year Strategic Plan within the next one to two months for Board review and approval. Chief Hertzog announced that he will be on vacation beginning Saturday morning. The Board acknowledged that this vacation had been approved. No further questions were raised by the Board.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

A. Effective July 1, including changes to the District Secretary position. The position has been adjusted to a five-step salary range, consistent with other district positions. The current top step was retained, and lower steps were calculated in 5% intervals. The new range begins at approximately \$23.04 per hour and peaks at approximately \$28.00 per hour (exact figures are contained in the official salary schedule).

Motion Approve the salary schedule effective July 1 as presented.

Motion: Marks, Seconder: Valencia

Ayes (4) Noes (0) Absent (1)

B. First Responder Event/Support Agreement – Mountain Counties EMS Agency

The Board considered the proposed First Responder Event/Support Agreement between Mountain Counties EMS Agency and the District. This is a five-year agreement and was reviewed line-by-line against the prior agreement by Chief Hertzog. Changes are primarily administrative and include- Updated Title 22 EMT references (scope of practice and standards), Name changes (e.g., Joel Schwartz to Scott), and Minor regional naming corrections. No substantive operational changes affecting the district were identified.

Motion: Approve the First Responder Event/Support Agreement with the Mountain Counties EMS Agency and authorize Fire Chief Scott Hertzog to execute the agreement on behalf of the district.

Motion: McCarty, Seconder: Valencia

Ayes (4) Noes (0) Absent (1)

C. Resolution 28-26-09 – Surplus Property Declaration (Exhaust Removal Systems)

The Board considered Resolution 28-26-09, declaring certain property as surplus. The property consists of old exhaust removal systems previously removed from the station. Two of the three systems are in good working order. Rather than dispose of them at a landfill, staff recommend declaring them surplus so they can be sold or transferred to another agency, potentially recouping some value.

Motion: Adopt Resolution 28-26-09, declaring the identified exhaust removal systems as surplus property and authorizing their disposition in accordance with District policy.

Motion to approve Surplus Property (Exhaust Removal Systems)

Motion: Valencia Seconder: McCarty

Ayes (4) Noes (0) Absent (1)

VIII. CLOSED / POST SESSION

With no further business for open session, President Maness adjourned the public portion of the meeting at 6:36 p.m. The Board then entered post/closed session for administrative matters.

The Board entered closed session at 6:43 p.m. There was no reportable action.

ADJOURNMENT REGULAR MEETING- 7:05 P.M

Respectfully Submitted, Scott Hertzog, Fire Chief