

# Sonoma Valley Fire District

Board of Directors Meeting

May 12, 2026





# Sonoma Valley Fire District

## Board of Directors Meeting

May 12, 2026

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**MEETING AGENDA  
SONOMA VALLEY FIRE DISTRICT  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Tuesday, May 12, 2026 at 6:00 P.M.  
Location: Sonoma Valley Fire District Station 1  
630 2<sup>nd</sup> Street W., Sonoma, CA 95476

**This meeting is being conducted in person with videoconference capabilities in accordance with the Ralph M. Brown Act, California Government Code Section 54950, et seq. Agenda, Zoom link, and board packet materials are available at the following website: <http://sonomavalleyfire.org>**

**To join by phone: 1-669-900-9128**

**Meeting ID: 914 153 1767**

**Meeting Passcode: 3300**

**1. Call to Order**

**2. Roll Call and Determination of a Quorum**

Board of Directors: President William Norton, Vice President John (Matt) Atkinson, Treasurer Mark Johnson, Brian Brady, John Cooper, Mark Emery, and Robert Uboldi

**3. Pledge of Allegiance**

**4. Confirmation of Agenda**

Opportunity for the Board to reorder agenda items.

**5. Comments from the Public**

*(At this time, members of the public may comment on any item not appearing on the agenda. It is recommended that you keep your comments to three minutes or less. Under State Law, matters presented under this item cannot be discussed or acted upon by the Board at this time. For items appearing on the agenda, the public will be invited to make comments at the time the item comes up for consideration by the Board of Directors.)*

**6. Presentations**

**7. Consent Calendar**

a) Approval of minutes from the regular meeting held on, April 14, 2026.  
**Action Item**

**8. Fire Chief's Monthly Report**

April 2026 Chief's Report – to be distributed at the meeting.  
Link to SVFD Monthly Reports. <https://www.sonomavalleyfire.org/svfd-monthly-report>

**9. Old Business**

10. **New Business**

- a) Memorandum of Understanding between SVFD and the retired KWFD Fire Chiefs (Bellach and Uboldi) - **Action Item**

11. **Other Business to Come before the Board**

12. **Comments from the Floor**

13. **Comments/Reports from the Board**

14. **Closed Session**

54957.6. Closed session; Labor negotiations

*(a) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, a legislative body of a local agency may hold closed sessions with the local agency's designated representatives regarding the salaries, salary schedules, or compensation paid in the form of fringe benefits of its represented and unrepresented employees, and, for represented employees, any other matter within the statutorily-provided scope of representation. Closed sessions of a legislative body of a local agency, as permitted in this section, shall be for the purpose of reviewing its position and instructing the local agency's designated representatives. Closed sessions, as permitted in this section, may take place prior to and during consultations and discussions with representatives of employee organizations and unrepresented employees.*

15. **Adjournment**

This meeting will be adjourned to a regular Board meeting on Tuesday, June 9, 2026 at 6:00 p.m. in the Training Room of Sonoma Valley Fire District, Station 1, located at 630 2<sup>nd</sup> Street West, Sonoma, CA.

*Copies of all staff reports and documents subject to disclosure that relate to any item of business referred to on the agenda are available at the following website at <http://sonomavalleyfire.org>.*



**Sonoma Valley Fire District**  
**Board of Directors Meeting**  
 Agenda Item Summary  
 May 12, 2026

<b>Agenda Item No.</b>	<b>Staff Contact</b>		
7a	Maci Bettencourt, Clerk of the Board		
<b>Agenda Item Title</b>			
Approval of the regular meeting minutes held on April 14, 2026			
<b>Recommended Actions</b>			
Approve the minutes.			
<b>Executive Summary</b>			
The minutes have been prepared for Board review and approval.			
<b>Alternative Actions</b>			
Correct or amend minutes prior to approval.			
<b>Strategic Plan Alignment</b>			
<b>Fiscal Summary – FY 25/26</b>			
<b>Expenditures</b>			
Budgeted Amount	\$	<b>Funding Source(s)</b>	\$
Add. Appropriations Req'd.	\$	District General Fund	\$
	\$	Fees/Other	\$
	\$	Use of Fund Balance	\$
	\$	Contingencies	\$
		Grants	\$
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>Total Sources</b>	<b>\$</b>
<b>Narrative Explanation of Fiscal Impacts (if required)</b>			
Not Required			
<b>Attachments</b>			
1. Minutes for April 14, 2026 regular meeting			

# SONOMA VALLEY FIRE DISTRICT

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, April 14, 2026

**Meeting was held in person at Station 1, 630 2<sup>nd</sup> Street W, Sonoma, Ca. 95476  
and via video conference for general public access.  
Join by phone: 1-669-900-9128 | Meeting ID: 914 153 1767 | Meeting Passcode: 3300**

### 1. Call to Order

President Norton called meeting to order at 6:00 PM

### 2. Roll Call and Determination of a Quorum

Board of Directors present: President William Norton, Vice President John (Matt) Atkinson, Treasurer Mark Johnson, Director Brian Brady, Director John Cooper, and Director Robert Uboldi. Director Mark Emery joined via video conference, abstained from voting.

### 3. Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Director Cooper and recited by all.

### 4. Confirmation of Agenda

Chief Akre requested that an addition be made to the presentations. Newly hired probationary firefighter, Oliver Dorantes was in attendance and will be sworn in.

### 5. Comments from the Public

Public and staff present/virtual: DC Norrbom, CFO Jason, BC Campbell, BC Cyr, Capt. Lewis, Capt. Banuelos, Capt. Loftus, Firefighters Ortiz, Gonzalez, and Dorantes, Station 5 Crew, Local 3593 President Derner and VP Molesworth, SIT Reporter Ruchi Shahagadkar and MVFF Erich Pearson.

No comments heard from the public.

### 6. Presentations

- a) Paul Pham with Chavan & Associates, LLP presented Sonoma Valley Fire District's annual financial audit for fiscal year 2024/2025. The board did not have any questions for Mr. Pham.
- b) Chief Akre introduced newly hired probationary firefighter, Oliver Dorantes. President Norton delivered the SVFD oath of office to FF Dorantes.

### 7. Consent Calendar

- a) The board reviewed and President Norton approved the meeting minutes from the regular board meeting held on March 10, 2026, **6 ayes/1 abstention**

### 8. Fire Chief's Monthly Report

Chief Akre gave his monthly report to the board, which included numerous updates covering: administrative, incidents, finance, personnel, training, equipment, facilities, prevention and community outreach, and association new and upcoming events.

### 9. Old Business

None

### 10. New Business

- a) The Board reviewed and accepted the annual financial audit for fiscal year 2024/2025, based on the earlier presentation from Chavan & Associates, LLP. **M/S/P Johnson/Brady - 6 ayes/1 abstention**
- b) Chief Akre presented current fund balance allocations in correlation with the FY 2024/2025 audit findings. Direct Brady motioned to approve the allocations and Director Johnson seconded. **M/S/P Brady/Johnson - 6 ayes/1 abstention**
- c) Direct Cooper motioned to adopt Resolution 2025/2026-12; establishment of bank accounts and designated signatory authority by the Fire Chief. **M/S/P Cooper/Atkinson - 6 ayes/1 abstention**

**11. Other Business to come before the Board**

- a) Board reviewed current subcommittee assignments with the following updates:
  - Finance: Johnson and Norton
  - Equipment and Facilities: Cooper and Uboldi
  - Personnel: Atkinson, Brady, and Emery
  - Consolidation: Atkinson, Emery, and Norton
- b) The board reviewed the nominees for the open FRMS Board of Directors and agreed on their selections. Clerk Bettencourt to place the vote on their behalf, prior to the deadline.

**12. Comments from the Floor**

Capt. Lewis gave a report on current personal protection equipment (PPE) grant acquisition and the move to CO2 industry standard cleaning techniques. Due to the high costs of the machinery, In a joint effort, several Sonoma County special districts are looking to purchase a unit for the county.

**13. Comments/Reports from the Board**

President Norton took a moment to express how he is continually impressed with our members and their commitment to training to better serve the Sonoma Valley community.

**14. Closed Session**

None

**15. Adjournment**

**M/S Brady/Norton – 6 ayes/1 abstention**

Meeting was adjourned at 7:05 p.m., to a regular Board meeting on May 12, 2026, at 6:00 p.m. This meeting will be conducted in person with videoconference capabilities available to the public. *Copies of all staff reports and documents subject to disclosure that relate to any item of business referred to on the agenda are available at the following website: <http://sonomavalleyfire.org> under the Governance tab.*

Respectfully submitted,

Maci Bettencourt  
Clerk of the Board



**Sonoma Valley Fire District**  
**Board of Directors Meeting**  
 Agenda Item Summary  
 May 12, 2026

<b>Agenda Item No.</b>	<b>Staff Contact</b>			
8a	Steve Akre, Fire Chief			
<b>Agenda Item Title</b>				
Monthly Fire Chief's Report				
<b>Recommended Actions</b>				
None				
<b>Executive Summary</b>				
<p>The monthly Fire Chief's report is crucial for maintaining transparency and accountability within the District. It provides an overview of current administrative updates, incident responses, budget and financial status, personnel changes, training activities, and the status of buildings and land. Additionally, it covers equipment readiness, fire prevention initiatives, community outreach efforts, and events hosted by the fire association. This comprehensive report ensures that all stakeholders are informed about the department's operations, challenges, and achievements, fostering better decision-making and community trust.</p>				
<b>Alternative Actions</b>				
None needed				
<b>Strategic Plan Alignment</b>				
<b>Fiscal Summary – FY 25/26</b>				
<b>Expenditures</b>				
Budgeted Amount	\$	<b>Funding Source(s)</b>	District General Fund	\$
Add. Appropriations Req'd.	\$	Fees/Other		\$
	\$	Use of Fund Balance		\$
	\$	Contingencies		\$
		Grants		\$
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>Total Sources</b>		<b>\$</b>
<b>Narrative Explanation of Fiscal Impacts (if required)</b>				
Not Required				
<b>Attachments</b>				
1. Monthly Fire Chief's Report - to be distributed at the meeting.				



**Sonoma Valley Fire District**  
**Board of Directors Meeting**  
 Agenda Item Summary  
 May 12, 2026

<b>Agenda Item No.</b>	<b>Staff Contact</b>		
10a	Fire Chief Steve Akre		
<b>Agenda Item Title</b>			
Updated MOU for Kenwood Retiree Medical Benefits			
<b>Recommended Actions</b>			
Approve contract or request changes			
<b>Executive Summary</b>			
<p>This updated agreement formalizes the commitments that have previously been made to retired Kenwood Fire Chiefs Bob Uboldi and Daren Bellach for post-employment medical insurance coverage. These commitments have been an ongoing part of our consolidation with the Kenwood District. The district has been paying these benefits on a “pay as you go” basis, which is consistent with our ongoing practice of paying for former VOM District employees. In addition, the Kenwood District established a restricted Medical Benefits Trust fund that has a balance of \$1.2 million that can and will be used to fund these benefits in an ongoing manner. This fund is in the process of being transferring to the SVFD.</p>			
<b>Alternative Actions</b>			
Not Approve the MOU			
<b>Strategic Plan Alignment</b>			
Goal 2, Objective 2B; Goal 5, Objective 5E.			
<b>Fiscal Summary – FY 25/26</b>			
<b>Expenditures</b>		<b>Funding Source(s)</b>	
Budgeted Amount	\$	District General Fund	\$
Add. Appropriations Req'd.	\$	Fees/Other	\$
	\$	Use of Fund Balance	\$
	\$	Contingencies	\$
		Grants	\$
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>Total Sources</b>	<b>\$</b>
<b>Narrative Explanation of Fiscal Impacts (if required)</b>			
<p>The district has more than adequate funds in the Medical Benefits fund to cover the agreements costs. There are no additional budget impacts.</p>			
<b>Attachments</b>			
1. MOU Agreement			

# MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (MOU)

## Transition of Retiree Medical Benefits

This Memorandum of Understanding (“MOU”) is entered into by and between the Sonoma Valley Fire District (“District”) and the former Kenwood Fire Protection District Fire Chiefs (“Retirees”), collectively referred to as the “Parties.”

### 1. Purpose

The purpose of this MOU is to establish the terms and conditions governing the transition and continuation of retiree medical benefits for the former Fire Chiefs of the Kenwood Fire Protection District following consolidation into the Sonoma Valley Fire District.

### 2. Eligibility

This MOU applies solely to Robert Uboldi and Daren Bellach, each of whom served as Fire Chief of the Kenwood Fire Protection District; and retired from the District in good standing. Eligible dependents shall be defined in accordance with the District’s health plan eligibility rules.

### 3. Medical Benefit Coverage

The District agrees to continue to provide retiree medical benefits to Chiefs Uboldi and Bellach and their eligible dependents under the following terms:

- \* The District shall pay for medical insurance premiums up to the equivalent cost of the United Healthcare plan rates available to the District’s active and retired employees.
- \* Coverage shall include the Retiree and eligible dependents for the duration of the Retiree’s and eligible dependent (s) lifetimes.
- \* If the Retiree selects a plan with a premium cost exceeding the applicable United Healthcare rate, the Retiree shall be responsible for paying the difference.
- \* Alternatively, the Retiree may seek individual coverage from a carrier outside of the District’s plan. In this case, the District will reimburse the retiree for costs up to the equivalent United Healthcare rates.

### 4. Coordination with Medicare

Upon eligibility for Medicare:

- \* Retirees and their eligible dependents shall enroll in Medicare Parts A and B.
- \* The District-provided coverage shall become secondary to Medicare and may be provided through a Medicare-coordinated or supplemental plan.
- \* The District’s contribution shall remain capped at the equivalent United Healthcare rate.

5. Administration

\* The District shall administer these benefits in accordance with its policies and procedures, as may be amended from time to time, provided such changes do not reduce the benefits under this MOU.

\* The District retains the right to change insurance carriers or plan structures, provided that benefits remain substantially equivalent.

6. Duration

This MOU shall remain in effect for the lifetime of each eligible Retiree and shall continue for eligible dependents in accordance with District policy following the Retiree’s death.

7. No Precedent

This MOU applies only to the specific Retirees identified herein and shall not establish a precedent or entitlement for any other employees, retirees, or groups.

8. Entire Agreement

This MOU constitutes the entire agreement between the Parties regarding the subject matter herein and supersedes any prior agreements, whether written or oral, relating to retiree medical benefits for the covered individuals.

9. Amendments

This MOU may only be amended by a written agreement signed by representatives of both Parties.

10. Signatures

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Parties have executed this MOU as of the dates written below.

SONOMA VALLEY FIRE DISTRICT

Daren Bellach, FORMER KENWOOD FIRE CHIEF (Retiree)

By: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Printed Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Robert Uboldi, FORMER KENWOOD FIRE CHIEF (Retiree)

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Printed Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_