

**MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING OF THE
RINCON VALLEY FIRE DISTRICT GOVERNING BOARD MEETING
VIRTUAL AND IN-PERSON MEETING
HELD June 18, 2026**

A public meeting of the Rincon Valley Fire District Governing Board was convened on June 18, 2026, at 6:00 P.M. The following members were Present at the meeting: Chairperson Jennifer Spears, Clerk Kevin McKinley, Member Chris Klasen, and Member Glenn Rodriguez.

The following matters were discussed, considered, and decided at the meeting:

1. Call to Order at 6:00 P.M. by Chairperson Spears

A. Roll Call –Chairperson Jennifer Spears	Present
Clerk Kevin McKinley	Present
Member Chris Klasen	Present - Virtual
Member Glen Rodriguez	Present
Member Lora Gruner	Absent

- Fire Chief James Tucker, Assistant Chief Yalen, Administrative Manager Laura Bucklin, were in attendance. Steven Rodriguez from the James Vincent Group was also present.

2. Pledge of Allegiance – Chairperson Spears led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. The next meeting is scheduled for July 16, 2026, at 6:00 P.M.

- Confirmed by all board members present.

4. Call to the Public

- District resident Ed Shunk addressed the Board regarding an ambulance transport bill he received. He stated he assumed everything was covered through the taxes. He stated the firefighters told him that we will be billing district residents in the future, but not yet. He was not aware of the change and stated we should have sent out mailers to all district residents. Board members thanked Mr. Shunk for his comments. No action was taken.

5. Employee Recognition

- Paramedic/Firefighter Steven Rodriguez - 10 Years of Service
- Paramedic/Firefighter Martin Diaz - 10 Years of Service

6. 2026-068 – Review, discussion, and possible action of the Consent Agenda

- A. Approval of the minutes of May 21, 2026, Board Meeting.
- B. Approval of the minutes of June 3, 2026, Special Board Meeting.
- C. Resolution #26-029 – Sanchez Annexation (13585 S. Bird Dog Ave.)

- Motion by Clerk McKinley, seconded by Member Rodriguez, to approve the monthly consent agenda. The motion passed 4 to 0.

7. Reports and Correspondence

A. Board Member Report

- No comments.

B. 2026-069 - Fire Chief's Report – Reviewed by the Board. Report on file. No action taken. Discussion only.

- Received direction on the next steps for the Congressional Funding, almost complete.
- Type-6 reimbursement submitted to the State.
- Working on the 2025 SAFER
- 25 New Housing Permits 284 Incidents
- 130 Transports

C. 2026-070 - May's Financial Reports—Review, discussion, and possible action for the district's financial status, including monthly summary reports for May 2026. Steven Rodriguez, with JVG, presented the financial report.

Key points:

- ☐ Revenues for the month of May were \$2,002,774 which was \$482,714 over budget.

- o Pima County revenue for May is \$1,890,599 which is \$484,662 over budget.

- o Non-Tax Levy revenue for May is \$112,175 which is \$1,948 under budget.

- ☐ Expenses for the month of May were \$516,058 which was \$111,810 under budget.

- ☐ Fiscal year revenue is \$9,309,372 which is over budget by \$286,526 and 99% of the total annual budget.

- ☐ Fiscal year expense is \$7,102,304 which is under budget by \$351,469 and 87% of the total annual budget.

-Motion by Member Rodriguez, seconded by Clerk McKinley, to approve the monthly financial reports. The motion passed 4 to 0.

8. Unfinished Business

A. 2026-065 - Review, discussion, and possible action regarding the November 2026 Election Process. No action taken. Discussion only.

- Reminder that the Rincon Valley Fire District will hold a general election for three (3) Board Member vacancies on November 3, 2026.
- Candidate Petition filing dates are between June 6, 2026, and July 6, 2026.
- A candidate must file between 79 and 250 signatures.

9. New Business

A. 2026-071 - Public Hearing for the FY 2027 Rincon Valley Fire District Budget.

OPEN Public Hearing – Motion by Clerk McKinley, second by Chairperson

Spears to adjourn the Regular Meeting and open the Public Hearing at 6:15 pm. Motion passed unanimously 4 to 0.

The proposed total budget is \$10,759,207
Proposing an increase in the tax rate from \$2.7834 to \$2.80

The Bond Rate will decrease from \$0.3313 to \$0.3013 The combined tax rate will be \$3.1013, decreasing 0.0134.

No comments from the public.

CLOSE Public Hearing – Motion by Member Rodriguez, second by Chairperson Spears to adjourn the Public Hearing and reconvene the Regular Meeting at 6:20 pm. Motion passed unanimously 4 to 0.

B. 2026-072- Review, discussion, and possible action to approve the Fiscal Year 2027 Budget.

- Chief Tucker is requesting approval of the FY27 budget.
 - Set the tax rate at \$2.80, up from \$2.7834
 - Includes merit steps for eligible employees.
- Motion by Member Rodriguez, second by Chairperson Spears, to adopt Resolution #26-030 to formally adopt the Rincon Valley Fire District's Fiscal Year 2026-2027 Budget. Motion passed unanimously from 4 to 0.

C. 2026-073 - Review, discussion, and possible action to approve the revised Memorandum of Understanding between VFFA & RVFD.

- Tabled to next Board Meeting. Board Member Klasen was attending virtually but had to leave the meeting. Board Member Rodriguez abstained from voting on this topic due to a possible conflict of interest. No action was taken.

D. 2026-074 - Review, discussion, and possible action to adopt a new fee schedule for Permits & Plans Review.

- In July 2024, after board approval, we revised our fee schedule to mirror the Northwest Fire District out of district fees.
- On July 1, 2026, we will no longer have the IGA with NWFD and should not follow their out of district fee schedule. In addition, I was advised recently that NWFD never implemented charging their out of district rate for permitting and inspections in our area.

-Motion by Clerk McKinley, second by Member Rodriguez to approve the revised fee schedule effective July 1, 2026. Motion passed 3 to 0.

E. 2026-075 - Review, discussion, and possible action to approve the revised EMS Billing Agreement with Golder Ranch Fire District.

- In April 2019 RVFD entered into an agreement with Golder Ranch Fire District for EMS billing services.

- The billing fee will increase from 6% to 7% and the new agreement has been attached for your review. This is the first price adjustment since entering into the original agreement. RVFD Attorney Donna Aversa has already signed off on the new agreement.
- Board Members had concerns regarding Attorney Donna Aversa representing both RVFD and GRFD in this agreement. Board members recommended that in the future, if Donna Aversa has already signed on behalf of another fire district, Rincon Valley should seek other counsel.
- Chief Tucker will reach out to other attorneys as a backup.

-Motion by Clerk McKinley, second by Chairperson Spears to approve the agreement for EMS billing with Golder Ranch Fire District. Motion passed unanimously 3 to 0.

F. 2026-076 - Review, discussion, and possible action to enter into a shared services agreement with Santa Rita and Drexel Heights Fire Districts.

- Chief Tucker is recommending entering into a shared services agreement with Santa Rita and Drexel Heights Fire Districts. Our IGA with NWFD will end on July 1, 2026, and we will lose fire investigations with the IGA. Sharing investigators with NWFD is not an option, we would have to request mutual aid. This agreement is primarily for prevention related services, but we have included Administrative and Training as there may be opportunities for these in the future.
- Each agency will assist with plan reviews and inspections in each district. Each agency will also share fire investigators. The investigators will rotate being on call for a one-week period.
- Sharing services is in the 25-29 Strategic Plan and this agreement is a good starting point to evaluate future opportunities.
- There should be minimal impact on the FY27 budget as we have increased the unscheduled OT budget. The RVFD investigator will receive \$0.87 per hour (\$1,800 annually) as a wage differential for being on-call and mirrors DHFD & SRFD compensation.

-Motion by Member Rodriguez, second by Clerk McKinley to approve the shared services agreement with Santa Rita and Drexel Heights Fire District. Motion passed unanimously 3 to 0.

G. 2026-077 - Review discussion and possible action to approve the IGA with Pima County for severity patrols.

- Chief Tucker recommends we enter the IGA with Pima County for severity patrols. The idea was brought to the Pima County Fire Chiefs Association in early 2026. Pima County has set aside funds for area fire agencies to conduct severity patrols and participation is optional.
- We do not anticipate providing services this year, but we would like to have the option to participate in the future.
- Member Rodriguez expressed concerns about this agreement not being a benefit to our district and not being in favor of the IGA.
- Clerk McKinley expressed he was in favor of the IGA and it is a good first step for mutual aid.

-Motion by Clerk McKinley, second by Chairperson Spears to approve the IGA with Pima County for Fire Agency Prevention Patrol Program. Vote: Spears – Aye, McKinley – Aye, Rodriguez – Nay.
Motion carried 2 to 1.

H. 2026-078 – Review, discussion, and possible action to approve the Public Safety Personnel Retirement System Pension Funding Policy.

- Arizona House Bill 2097 was passed in April 2018, requiring every governing body to adopt annually a pension funding policy for PSPRS beginning on or before July 1 each year.

-Motion by Member Rodriguez, second by Clerk McKinley to approve the FY 2027 PSPRS Pension Funding Policy. Motion passed 3 to 0.

10. ADJOURNMENT - Motion by Member Rodriguez, seconded by Chairperson Spears, to adjourn. The motion passed 3 to 0. The meeting was adjourned at 6:44 p.m.

Dated 23rd day of June 2026.

Rincon Valley Fire District Governing Board

Chairperson, Jennifer Spears

Clerk, Kevin McKinley

Board Member, Lora Gruner

Board Member, Christopher Klasen

Board Member, Glen Rodriguez