

**MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING OF THE
RINCON VALLEY FIRE DISTRICT GOVERNING BOARD MEETING
VIRTUAL AND IN-PERSON MEETING
HELD May 21, 2026**

A public meeting of the Rincon Valley Fire District Governing Board was convened on **May 21, 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 6:01 P.M. by Chairperson Spears

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

- Fire Chief James Tucker, 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 June 18, 2026, at 6:00 P.M.

- Confirmed by all board members present.

4. Call to the Public

- No response.

5. Employee Recognition

- Engineer Addam Roads – Individual Citation, Probationary Program.

6. 2026-056 – Review, discussion, and possible action of the Consent Agenda

- A. Approval of the Minutes of April 16, 2026, Board Meeting.
- B. Resolution #26-025 - Pallack Annexation (961 N Solar Dr.)
- C. Resolution #26-026 – Ashman Annexation (3980 E Sheldon Plc.)
- D. Resolution #26-027 – Swapp Annexation (141 N Atrisco Dr.)
- E. Resolution #26-028 – Tibbets Annexation (42 N. Atrisco Dr.)

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

7. Reports and Correspondence

A. Board Member Report

- No comments.

- B. 2026-057 - Fire Chief's Report** – Reviewed by the Board. Report on file. No action taken. Discussion only.
- Several unplanned expenses. Facilities = \$10,500 and Apparatus = \$19,000
 - Discussing shared services for fire investigations with Santa Rita Fire District, related to the Support Services Strategic Objective.
 - Still waiting on Feds for the next steps to receive Congressional Funding.
 - The Type-6 project has started, pictures included with report.
 - 51 New Housing Permits in April. 271 Incidents
 - 103 Transports
- C. 2026-058 - April's Financial Reports**—Review, discussion, and possible action for the district's financial status, including monthly summary reports for April 2026. Steven Rodriguez, with JVG, presented the financial report.

Key points:

- Revenues for the month of April were \$1,000,183 which was \$494,378 under budget.
 - o Pima County revenue for April is \$796,898 which is \$516,640 under budget.
 - o Non-Tax Levy revenue for April is \$203,285 which is \$22,262 over budget.
- Expenses for the month of April were \$898,405, which was \$27,798 over budget.
- Fiscal year revenue is \$7,306,598 which is under budget by \$196,188 and 78% of the total annual budget.
- Fiscal year expense is \$6,586,605 which is under budget by \$239,300 and 81% of the total annual budget

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

8. Unfinished Business

None

9. New Business

- A. 2026-059 - Review and discussion of the Station 293 Project.**
- Chief Yalen and Chief Tucker reviewed the latest set of plans and made some minor corrections. Chief Tucker has attached the furnishing and equipment budget for Board review. The plans have been sent out for the final GMP. Reminder that our special meeting for the GMP is scheduled for June 3 at 6:00 pm.
 - No comments from the Board.
 - No action taken. Discussion only.

B. 2026-060 - Review, discussion, and possible action to revise District Policy #1200 Compensation Administration.

- The changes are:
 - Changing the appointment time with acting assignments from ten consecutive shifts to four.
 - Changing the minimum call-back time from four hours to six hours.
- Motion by Member Klasen, second by Chairperson Spears to approve the changes to the Compensation Administration Policy #1200. Motion passed unanimously from 4 to 0.

C. 2026-061 - Review, discussion, and possible action to approve the Proposed Budget for FY 26-27.

- The tentative budget has been attached for Board review.
 - Set the tax rate at \$2.80, up from \$2.7834.
 - Includes merit steps for eligible employees.
 - W/Comp, Health Insurance and General Insurances increases.
 - PPE increased due to new hires.
 - Approx \$10,000 for furniture for the new station 293.
 - Budget details & budget projections are attached.
 - We will have a public hearing on June 18, 2026, board meeting to formally adopt the proposed budget.
 - In lieu of the 2% COLA, Chief Tucker would like to pay out a \$1,200 one-time uniform allowance to each employee.
- Motion by Clerk McKinley, second by Member Klasen to approve the proposed budget for FY 26.27. Motion passed unanimously from 4 to 0.

D. 2026-062 - Review, discussion, and possible action to renew general insurance with VFIS.

- Increase over FY 25-26 = \$9,190 with automobile being the primary category.
 - \$9,190 increase in account 7080 included in the tentative budget.
- Motion by Member Klasen, second by Chairperson Spears to renew General Insurance with VFIS. Motion passed unanimously from 4 to 0.

E. 2026-063 - Review, discussion, and possible action to purchase wildland portable radios and extrication equipment.

- Wildland Radios - We need to replace four (4) portable radios. The quote for these is separated into two parts, seed program & regular price, the total is \$14,119. The vendor will field program two of the radios to match the ones purchased directly from BK saving \$2,200. Total savings by ordering now are approximately \$4,000.
- Extrication Equipment - We need to replace a combi-tool that is significantly under powered. The quote is for one spreader and one cutter, both demo units that retain the full warranty. The equipment will be placed on EN291. I have attempted two grant opportunities and was not

successful. The quote is \$36,203. The quote for purchasing new and not demo is \$41,364, a savings of \$5,161. \$50,321 from Capital.

- Motion by Member Klasen, second by Member Rodriguez to approve purchasing new extrication equipment and wildland radios. Motion passed unanimously from 4 to 0.

F. 2026-064 - Review, discussion, and possible action to approve Blue Cross Direct health insurance.

- Chief Tucker recommends changing health insurance from EMI to Blue Cross Direct. Crest, our health insurance broker, bid out health insurance to EMI (current provider), United Health Care, & Blue Cross/Blue Shield. Increases over current rates are:
- EMI 14.08% Increase
- United Healthcare 12.84% Increase Blue Cross 9.41% Increase
- After review, we believe the best option is Blue Cross. We have included a 1% increase in employer costs.
- Our anticipated annual premium will be around \$453,200. We will have the final amount after open enrollment.
- We will be keeping Nice Healthcare, our supplement.

- Motion by Clerk McKinley, second by Chairperson Spears to approve Blue Cross Blue Shield Health Insurance. Motion passed unanimously from 4 to 0.

G. 2026-065 - Review, discussion, and possible action regarding the November 2026 Election Process.

- The Rincon Valley Fire District will hold a general election for three (3) Board Member vacancies on November 3, 2026.
- Attached are an Election Timeline with important dates for notices and publishing requirements.
- The following notices will need to be signed, sent and published on May 21, 2026, Board Meeting:
 - Notification of Fire Board Vacancies to the Pima Co. Board of Supervisors
 - Call of Election Resolution approved by the Board.
 - Notice of Call of Election to publish in local newspaper and 3 public places.
- Candidate Petition filing dates are between June 6, 2026, and July 6, 2026.
- A candidate must file between 79 and 250 signatures.

- Motion by Chairperson Spears, second by Member Klasen to approve the Notification of Fire Board Vacancies, the Election Resolution, and the Election Notice for November 6, 2026, General Election. Motion passed unanimously from 4 to 0.

10. ADJOURNMENT - Motion by Clerk McKinley, seconded by Chairperson Spears, to adjourn. The motion passed 4 to 0. The meeting was adjourned at 6:32 p.m.

Dated 26th day of May 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