



# Hurricane Valley Fire District

202 East State Street, Hurricane, Utah 84737  
Administrative Office (435) 635-9562



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Hurricane Valley Fire District  
Board Meeting  
Monday, February 3, 2025, at 6:00 p.m.  
Fire Station #46/64  
56 N Coral Canyon Blvd, Hurricane UT 84737

***Board Members Present:***

*Board Chair Mayor Bill Hoster of Leeds*

*Board Member Paul Luwe of Virgin*

*Board Member LaRene Cox of the Unincorporated area of Washington County*

*Board Member Randy Aton of Springdale      Board Member Robin Smith of Rockville*

*Board Member Richard Hirschi of La Verkin      Board Member Drew Ellerman of Hurricane*

*Board Vice Chair Justin Sip of Toquerville*

***Board Members Absent:***

***Staff:***

*Chief Joseph Decker      Deputy Chief Nick Wright*

*District Clerk Cari Bishop      Legal Counsel Ben Ruesch*



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- A. *Called to Order*— by *Board Chair Bill Hoster* at 6:00 pm.  
*Invocation by Invitation* – *Board Member Drew Ellerman*  
*Pledge of Allegiance* – *Board Chairman Bill Hoster*

B. Declaration of Conflict of Interest.

No conflicts of interests for the Board.  
NONE

C. *Approval of Consent Agenda*

1. Agenda
2. Approval of Minutes: December 2, 2024.
3. Review Checks & Deposits from December 2024 and January 2025.

Motion: *Board Vice Chair Justin Sip* approved the agenda and approve the agenda for December 2, 2024, and approve the checks and deposits from December 2024 and January 2025.

Second: *Board Member Paul Luwe*

Vote:

<i>Board Vice Chair Justin Sip</i>	<i>AYE</i>
<i>Board Member Richard Hirschi</i>	<i>AYE</i>
<i>Board Member Drew Ellerman</i>	<i>AYE</i>
<i>Board Member LaRene Cox</i>	<i>AYE</i>
<i>Board Chair Bill Hoster</i>	<i>AYE</i>
<i>Board Member Paul Luwe</i>	<i>AYE</i>
<i>Board Member Randy Aton</i>	<i>AYE</i>
<i>Board Member Robin Smith</i>	<i>AYE</i>

- D. *Citizen Comment & Request for Future Agenda Items:* All public comments need to be submitted in writing and emailed to [info@hvffsd.org](mailto:info@hvffsd.org) by noon on the day of the meeting. No action may be taken on a matter raised under this agenda item. This item is reserved for items not listed on this agenda. (Three minutes per person)

No public comment



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## *E. Business:*

### **1. Oath of Office for Captain Ryan Kooser**

Chief Joe Decker introduces Captain Ryan Kooser to the board members. Chief Joe Decker will swear him in, and his wife will pin him.

### **2. Discussion of Critical Fire Insurance Issues**

Board Chair Bill Hoster goes over the critical fire insurance bill that is getting adopted. Chief Joe Decker goes over the bill that will challenge the insurance. There is a giant insurance policy that hits a threshold then picks up the cost of the fire. Each of the participating commitments is part of what we meet the threshold to cover the cost not your city. We must show a breakdown in your jurisdiction. There are things that we can do from mitigation to clearing lots. We will use the Wildland Captain to help with this mitigation. We can put fire lines in there too. This can change the map by what we do for the area if the law goes through then we can change the area that the insurance uses.

Board Chair Bill Hoster goes over the issues that happened in California, insurance canceled, and the homeowners had nothing. We need to start acting for the residence of the area. Chief Joe Decker states that we need to take part first and use our operational plans first so that the cities don't have to pay outside then we have to find something else to do, this way we can meet both needs. We can come in and pinpoint areas that need to be taken care of. Board Member Paul Luwe offers to connect his emergency manager with the Chief.

This will be in between seasons. This will be in between chipping. Board Member LaRene Cox says she has email contacts that she can send and help. The threats are the concerning parts of where the fires would be. Some have said that couldn't happen here. All agree that it could. There is a form that states the information for each city and the amount that should be done for each city by us.

Board Chair Bill Hoster asking about Federal reimbursement funding or State. The form is stating the amount that the value of what the district needs to do before 2025 is over.

The bill here vs California is different here because the insurance and the areas need to work together.

### **3. ISO Summary Report**

Chief Joe Decker states that we were a 6/9 and now we are a 4/4X. Chief Joe Decker goes over page 7 and the scoring that was done on the report. Chief Joe Decker has already gone over and highlighted what we can do to make these better. The rules have changed so the backup ladder would be needed based on the height of a building. They stated in the report that we are 5 stations down. On a structural fire we are what we are supposed to be but sometimes we are lower than what we need. Training is another one, we need to have the ability to track the training of the fire fighters. We will start doing the pressure test on the hydrants and work with the water departments in the different cities. We can be re-rated after we clean up all the issues that are low. Board Member LaRene Cox asks about Kolob. The rates can drop but not be as big as commercial. UWRAP maps will have different avenues where we can do different things.



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## 4. Discussion on Ordering of Needed Apparatus for the Future

Chief Joe Decker states that we need to order engines, and they will take 48-54 months to get them. If we get in the queue now, we can get them and order them and pay later. We want to do something different with the brush trucks in the rural area. They are all state contracts so we can get in the queue and then we can use the impact fee amount. Board Member Justin Sip asks if the growth that is coming is enough for the impact fee to pay for the engines. Chief Joe Decker states that if we do not pay for them, they will find someone to buy them. No penalty. If we map those homes coming in, states Board Chair Bill Hoster can we get this committed. Chief Joe Decker states that we can bond for this project. Board Member Paul Luwe states forecast out what we need so that we know what the numbers are. If we can add the 4 stations on, we can add two engines, 1 ladder and 3 brush trucks. Each station moving forward will be a multijurisdictional building whether they want to move in or not.

## 5. Discussion on SB 67

Board Chair Bill Hoster states that he and Chief Joe Decker went to the Capital and went to committee for SB 67. Going over the bill and what happened there at the meeting. Chief Joe Decker states that he has been going over the recommendation that they passed it without the lowering of the property tax. All of them are stating that the bill will pass through the Senate Floor. We are on the second reading calendar item 22. Board Chairman Bill Hoster goes over a recap of the sales tax for the new board member.

## 6. 2025 Meeting Times

Going over the meeting times everyone agrees that they can make the meeting dates and times.

Motion: *Board Vice Chair Justin Sip* motion to approve and exclude September, for the dates, Board Member Paul Luwe suggested that we leave the dates as is then cancel them at the time later, amend motion was made by Board Vice Chair Justin Sip to leave the motion to approve the dates and times as is.

Second: *Board Member Richard Hirschi* seconded both the first motion, and second motion amended.

Vote:

<i>Board Vice Chair Justin Sip</i>	<i>AYE</i>
<i>Board Member Richard Hirschi</i>	<i>AYE</i>
<i>Board Member Drew Ellerman</i>	<i>AYE</i>
<i>Board Member LaRene Cox</i>	<i>AYE</i>
<i>Board Chair Bill Hoster</i>	<i>AYE</i>
<i>Board Member Paul Luwe</i>	<i>AYE</i>
<i>Board Member Randy Aton</i>	<i>AYE</i>
<i>Board Member Robin Smith</i>	<i>AYE</i>



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### **7. Continuing Operations**

Chief Joe Decker states that January 528 calls in the month with an increase in calls. I'm worried about the rain that may come in the coming months here.

Board Member Paul Luwe states that he was able to witness a call, the response call time and professionalism was good. Chief Joe Decker states that we have an amazing staff right now.

*Closed Session* the Board may vote to discuss certain matters in Closed Session pursuant to the Utah Code Annotated 52-4-5.

No Closed Session.

Board Vice Chair Justin sip motion to adjourn all approved.

*F. Adjourn:*

*Meeting adjourned at 7:01 pm*



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Date approved:

Minutes taken by Cari Bishop

\_\_\_\_\_  
Bill Hoster, Board Chairman

Attest:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Cari Bishop, District Clerk