

**OLYMPIC VALLEY PUBLIC SERVICE DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES #952
MARCH 31, 2026**

A. Call to Order, Roll Call, and Pledge of Allegiance.

Director Cox called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m.

Directors Present: Dale Cox, Katy Hover-Smoot, Bill Hudson, Richard Koffler, and Joshua Toub

Directors Absent: None

Staff Present: Jessica Asher, Program Manager & Board Secretary; Gary Bell, Legal Counsel; Brad Chisholm, Fire Chief; Chris Dedeo, Fire Captain; Keith Erickson, Firefighter; Dave Hunt, District Engineer; Jeff Geigle, Fire Engineer; Kurt Gooding, Fire Engineer; Nic Massetani, Operations Superintendent; Charley Miller, General Manager; Danielle Mueller, Finance and Administration Manager; John Rogers, Firefighter; and Travis Smith, Firefighter.

Others Present: Jean Lange; Chief Leighton, North Tahoe Fire Protection District Fire Chief; Paul Moen, North Tahoe Fire Protection District; Ted Soloski, North Tahoe Fire Protection District; and David Stepner.

A. Call to Order, Roll Call & Pledge of Allegiance

Jen Lange led the Pledge of Allegiance.

B. Community Informational Items.

B-1 Olympic Valley Watershed Alliance (OVWA) – None.

B-2 Friends of Olympic Valley (FoOV) – None.

B-3 Olympic Valley Design Review Committee (OVDRC) – None.

B-4 Olympic Valley Municipal Advisory Council (OVMAC) – Mr. Stepner reported that the OVMAC recently received a presentation on the Granite View Condominium project, which is scheduled for Planning Commission consideration on April 9th. He summarized OVMAC's comments on the project, which concerned propane tank placement, parking, drainage, and avalanche zone studies. He also noted that the Planning Commission is scheduled to hear the Village at Palisades Tahoe Specific Plan project on April 16th.

B-5 Olympic Valley Mutual Water Company (OVMWC) – None.

B-6 Firewise Community – None.

B-7 Tahoe-Truckee Sanitation Agency (T-TSA) – Director Cox reported that the agency is operating well, has met all waste discharge requirements, and recently held a strategic planning meeting to establish priorities and a clear path for moving those plans forward.

C. Public Comment/Presentation.

None

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Jessica Asher (Apr 29, 2026 16:19:20 PDT)

D. Financial Consent Agenda Items.

Director Koffler and Director Toub convened with staff on March 31st, 2026, from approximately 7:45 A.M. to 8:12 A.M. to review items D-1 through D-18 and other finance-related items on the agenda. Ms. Mueller reported that the Finance Committee discussed capital projects, noted that the Other Post-Employment Benefit (OPEB) liability is anticipated to increase this year, confirmed that staff vacancies have been conditionally filled, and shared that bike trail snow removal expenses are expected to come in under budget. Director Koffler noted that revenues and expenses are tracking as expected with no significant surprises.

Public Comment – None

Director Toub motioned to approve the financial consent agenda, which Director Koffler seconded; the motion was approved.

Cox – Yes | Hover-Smoot – Yes | Hudson – Yes | Koffler – Yes | Toub – Yes

E. Approve Minutes.

E-1 Minutes for the Regular Board of Directors meeting of February 24th, 2026.

The Board reviewed the item, accepted public comment, and approved item E-1

Public Comment – None

Director Koffler moved to approve the Board of Directors meeting minutes for February 24th, 2026, which Director Hudson seconded. The motion was approved.

Cox – Yes | Hover-Smoot – Abstain | Hudson – Yes | Koffler – Yes | Toub – Yes

F. Old and New Business.

F-1 Fire Department Annexation

The Board reviewed the item and accepted public comment.

Chief Chisholm reviewed the staff report and provided history on the concept of consolidation and background on the current reorganization study among four regional agencies (North Tahoe Fire Protection District (NTFPD), Truckee Fire Protection District, Northstar Fire Department, and Olympic Valley Fire Department (OVFD). He shared that, in parallel with studying a four-agency consolidation, OVFD is considering an annexation by NTFPD, whereas the Olympic Valley Public Service District (OVPSD) would divest emergency services. Alpine Springs County Water District (ASCWD) is considering the same. Chief Chisholm explained that the two parallel studies are necessary because studying four regional agencies introduces significant complexity, whereas OVFD and NTFPD are more closely aligned and have general support from key entities, including the Boards, Fire Chiefs, Staff, and Labor Representatives. This alignment and support are expected to allow for a more seamless and timely approach. Chief Chisholm highlighted the potential benefits of annexation with NTFPD, including a more robust agency with greater depth and staffing flexibility, a dedicated battalion chief, economies of scale, enhanced training opportunities, and the potential for an ambulance to be stationed in the Valley. Mr. Miller noted that staffing has been an ongoing challenge and that annexation by NTFPD would help address it for several reasons, including more opportunities for

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advancement, greater diversity and professional opportunities, and the fact that OVFD requires Social Security contributions from firefighters, which some candidates and employees view as a deterrent.

He reviewed the anticipated process: adoption of resolutions by both NTFPD and OVPSD boards; application submission to the Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO); preparation of a Plan for Service and fiscal analysis; potential CEQA review; and development of a tax-sharing agreement. He estimated the full process would take 18 to 24 months and emphasized that while he supports the concept, it must make financial sense and have community support.

Mr. Bell noted that the most efficient path to annexation is for one district to assume services previously provided by another. Expanding into new service areas or reducing existing service areas would trigger CEQA review and complicate the process. He explained that the tax sharing agreement is negotiated by the County on the District's behalf. He noted that LAFCO cannot process the application until it receives the tax-sharing agreement from the County, and the timing is unknown. If ASCWD joins, there will be three separate applications, with each agency expected to express support for the others. Following LAFCO approval, the matter enters a protest period open to property owners and registered voters; if protests reach the 25% threshold, the matter proceeds to an election.

Chief Chisholm shared that he does not have a retirement date and hopes to remain at the Department through the process. Directors Hudson and Miller agreed that contingency planning is important given the lengthy timeline, but that a contract for administrative services with NTFPD could be considered if needed. Staff shared that annexation at the start of a fiscal year, ideally in 15 months, would be most efficient, though it was acknowledged that it was an aggressive timeline.

Director Koffler asked when the Board would review projected operational efficiencies. Mr. Miller responded that the ongoing LAFCO four-agency service review, along with a dedicated Plan for Service and fiscal analysis specific to the NTFPD-OVFD annexation, would collectively address operational, fiscal, and administrative considerations, and that the Board would have the opportunity to review those findings as they become available.

The Board shared that it supported further exploration of the concept of annexation and that the next steps shall include consideration of resolutions by the NTFPD and OVPSD Boards next month. It was determined that a standing item on the agenda was premature, but Mr. Miller committed to providing updates to the Board as the discussions progressed.

Public Comment –

Ms. Lange asked about potential negatives to annexation. Mr. Miller acknowledged concerns about the loss of local identity and control, noting that while Valley representation on the NTFPD board is anticipated, the at-large voting structure may reduce local oversight. Directors Hover-Smoot and Cox shared concerns about ensuring Olympic Valley has a meaningful voice in any consolidated agency. Ms. Lange asked how the annexation effort relates to the ongoing incorporation effort of the Town of North Lake Tahoe. Mr. Miller briefly explained that while both efforts involve bringing organizations together, they are distinct in purpose. The incorporation effort focuses on local planning and

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governance, while the annexation effort focuses on unifying local fire departments to improve service delivery.

Mr. Stepner asked if the District would continue to manage fuel reduction projects in the Valley; Mr. Miller noted this is yet to be determined.

Chief Steve Leighton of NTFPD addressed the Board, expressing confidence in both agencies and interest in exploring whether the agencies can serve their communities more effectively together. He described how NTFPD structured board representation during the Meeks Bay consolidation, with designated seats for Meeks Bay representatives during a transition period, and indicated a similar model could be considered for Olympic Valley.

Director Cox discussed the District's aggressive CALPERS Unfunded Accrued Liability (UAL) paydown efforts as an important consideration. Chief Leighton acknowledged NTFPD's similar focus, noting NTFPD is funded at approximately 72% and Olympic Valley at approximately 80%, and confirmed that UAL will be addressed through the fiscal analysis.

F-2 Strategic Plan – Annual Review

The Board reviewed the item and accepted public comment.

Staff provided a slideshow presentation to deliver an annual update on the strategic plan adopted in August, highlighting progress over the past year and setting direction as the District heads into development of the fiscal year budget. The presentation focused on the most active and impactful work, not every item in the strategic plan. The presentation was included in the Board Exhibit.

The Board praised the presentation and shared their appreciation that the Strategic Plan had been translated into an active work plan. The Board asked whether the budget is aligned with the Strategic Plan; staff confirmed that it is, noting this would be further demonstrated in the following item.

Public Comment –

Mr. Stepner requested that financial assistance programs and grant procurement to support homeowners with home hardening and Zone 0 defensible space improvements be prioritized as key considerations in the upcoming Community Wildfire Protection Plan update and the District's proactive planning goals.

F-3 First Draft of FY2027 Budget and Rates

The Board reviewed the item and accepted public comment.

Ms. Mueller reviewed the preliminary financial summary for Fiscal Year 2027, emphasizing that the process is still in its early stages and that assumptions will be refined as details are finalized. She also reviewed the schedule for budget review and adoption.

Staff presented a slideshow included in the board exhibit. Topics included personnel costs, rate and tax revenue projections, operating expenses, capital projects, unfunded accrued liability (UAL), and

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next steps in the budget preparation process. Ms. Mueller noted that the maximum rate increases permitted under the District's five-year Proposition 218 notice are 6% for water, 5% for sewer, and 6% for garbage; however, the current draft budget reflects more modest proposed increases of 5% for water, 4% for sewer, and 5.5% for garbage.

The Board commented that the presentation was clear and easy to follow. At the Board's request, Ms. Mueller agreed to include a summary of rate increases over the past ten years during the next budget review.

Public Comment – None

F-4 Award Contract – 2026 Sewer Rehabilitation Project.

The Board reviewed the item, accepted public comment, approved the agreement with Express Sewer and Drain for an amount not-to-exceed \$994,755, including a contingency amount not to exceed \$100,000, and authorized the General Manager to execute the contractual documents

Ms. Herring reviewed the staff report and provided details on the proposed design. Staff noted that while the District has not previously worked with Express Sewer and Drain, positive references have been received from DOWL and neighboring agencies. Ms. Mueller confirmed the project is within the approved budget. Staff confirmed that while individual bid item costs may vary, the contractor costs can not exceed the total contract amount, even if bid item acquisition costs are higher.

Public Comment – None

Director Hover-Smoot motioned to authorize the General Manager to execute contract documents with Express Sewer and Drain for an amount not to exceed \$994,755, including a contingency amount not to exceed \$100,000, and to authorize the General Manager to execute the contractual documents. Director Toub seconded the motion; which was approved.

Cox – Yes | Hover-Smoot – Yes | Hudson – Yes | Koffler – Yes | Toub – Yes

F-5 2026 Sewer Rehabilitation Project – File California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Notice of Exemption

The Board reviewed the item, accepted public comment, and adopted Resolution 2026-05 authorizing the General Manager to execute and file the Notice of Exemption pursuant to CEQA for the 2026 Sewer Rehabilitation Project.

Ms. Herring reviewed the staff report.

Public Comment – None

Director Koffler motioned to adopt Resolution 2026-05, which was seconded by Director Hover-Smoot. Resolution 2026-05 was adopted unanimously.

Cox – Yes | Hover-Smoot – Yes | Hudson – Yes | Koffler – Yes | Toub – Yes

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F-6 Green Waste Programs

The Board reviewed the item, accepted public comment, and adopted Resolution 2026-06 authorizing the district to implement a rebate program for the rental of six-yard green-waste-only dumpsters from July 1, 2026, through June 30, 2027.

Ms. Asher reviewed the staff report.

Public Comment –

Ms. Lange requested that a green waste disposal day be scheduled for April, a request the Board supported. Ms. Asher noted that Palisades Tahoe, which owns the lot used for the event, has previously expressed concern about early-season green waste days due to ground saturation, but that staff would follow up with them given the early snowmelt and drier conditions.

Director Hover-Smoot motioned to adopt Resolution 2026-06, which Director Hudson seconded. The Resolution was adopted.

Cox – Yes | Hover-Smoot – Yes | Hudson – Yes | Koffler – Yes | Toub – Yes

F-7 Truckee Tahoe Airport District – Approve Grant Agreement

The Board reviewed the item, accepted public comment, and authorized the General Manager to execute the \$400,000 grant agreement.

Ms. Asher reviewed the staff report and expressed gratitude to the Truckee Tahoe Airport District for their support. She shared that she explored combined bidding with the National Forest Foundation for the nearly 800-acre Alpine Meadows/Olympic Valley project; however, due to timing differences and differing project prescriptions, a combined bid did not make sense. The District will coordinate with NFF on communications about both projects. Ms. Asher noted that the project prescription has not yet been developed but that commercial thinning to create a shaded fuel break similar to the OV-1 prescription is anticipated. The project may also receive funding from Placer County and CAL FIRE, though those details are still being developed. Ms. Asher provided a thank you letter to TTAD for Board signatures.

Director Hover-Smoot emphasized the importance of trail preservation and restoration as part of this project, noting that the project area includes one of the most heavily used trail access points to the Western States Historic Trail. She expressed concern regarding trail damage from similar work in other areas, and stressed that the Valley has limited bike and trail running infrastructure. Staff shared that they can require trail-marking and restoration language in the contract, and withhold retention until trail restoration is completed to the District's satisfaction.

Public Comment – None.

Director Toub motioned to authorize the General Manager to execute the grant agreement, which Director Hudson seconded, and the motion passed.

Cox – Yes | Hover-Smoot – Yes | Hudson – Yes | Koffler – Yes | Toub – Yes

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F-8 Olympic Valley Reduction Project, OV-5 – Feather River Forestry – Professional Services Agreement

The Board reviewed the item, accepted public comment, approved the agreement with Feather River Forestry for an amount not-to-exceed \$35,000, and authorized the General Manager to execute the contractual documents.

Ms. Asher reviewed the staff report, highlighting the project's aggressive timeline. She noted that beginning July 1, 2026, changes to the definition of public works projects will subject fire prevention work to prevailing wage requirements. As a result, staff is working to complete design and permitting in April, advertise the project in May, and bring an award recommendation to the Board at the June meeting, an aggressive though feasible timeline, if weather cooperates. Project implementation would occur in the late summer/fall of 2026 or 2027 operational season.

There was a brief discussion regarding burn piles versus chipping and broadcasting as treatment methods. Staff explained that the anticipated prescription for OV-5 is similar to OV-1, with marketable timber removed commercially and remaining material chipped and broadcast. Chief Chisholm noted that burn piles are used when other options are not feasible, and that proximity to homes and susceptibility to inversions make burning particularly challenging. Ms. Asher added that the forestry consultant's preference has been for a first-entry project is mechanical treatment, and that chipping also helps suppress regrowth, but that burning may be incorporated into future maintenance cycles. She also shared that the NFF project, due to access issues, would be piled by the contractor and in the future the United States Forest Service (USFS) will burn the piles, though it may take several years to complete the pile burning. She committed to inviting the District's forestry consultant to a future meeting to address these questions directly.

Public Comment – None.

Director Hover-Smoot motioned to authorize the General Manager to execute contract documents with Feather River Forestry in an amount not to exceed \$35,000, and to authorize the General Manager to execute the contractual documents. Director Toub seconded the motion; which was approved.

Cox – Yes | Hover-Smoot – Yes | Hudson – Yes | Koffler – Yes | Toub – Yes

F-9 General Legal Counsel Agreement Amendment.

The Board reviewed the item, accepted public comment, approved the amended agreement with Colantuono, Highsmith, & Whatley, PC for general legal services, and authorized the General Manager to execute the contractual documents.

Mr. Miller reviewed the staff report, noting that it has been over two years since the agreement was last updated. He shared that the revisions reflect current costs and add a reimbursable rate for developer-related services, which was not previously included. Mr. Miller and Director Koffler spoke highly of the legal services provided by Mr. Bell.

Public Comment – None.

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Director Koffler motioned to authorize the General Manager to execute contract documents with Colantuono, Highsmith, & Whatley, PC for general legal services, and to authorize the General Manager to execute the contractual documents. Director Hudson seconded the motion; which was approved. Cox – Yes | Hover-Smoot – Yes | Hudson – Yes | Koffler – Yes | Toub – Yes

F-11 California Special Districts Association (CSDA) – Board of Directors, Nominations Seat C

The Board reviewed the item, accepted public comment, and did not nominate a candidate.

Mr. Miller reviewed the staff report, sharing that Sean Barclay, Tahoe City Public Utility District General Manager, knew and endorsed Pete Kampa, the incumbent.

Public Comment – None.

F-10 Placer County Local Area Formation Commission (LAFCo) – Special District Representative Election

The Board reviewed the item, accepted public comment, and cast a ballot for Judy Friedman as commissioner.

Ms. Asher reviewed the staff report, reminding the Board that they had nominated Judy Friedman and that she was qualified and on the ballot. The Board determined Friedman would be an excellent candidate.

Public Comment – None

Director Hudson motioned to cast a ballot for Judy Friedman as commissioner, which Director Hover-Smoot seconded; the motion was approved.

Cox – Yes | Hover-Smoot – Yes | Hudson – Yes | Koffler – Yes | Toub – Yes

F-12 Review of Policy 4031 – Expenditure Reimbursement and Use of Public Resources Policy

The Board reviewed the item, accepted public comment, and adopted Resolution 2026-07 approving revisions to Policy 4031, Expenditure Reimbursement and Use of Public Resources Policy.

Ms. Asher reviewed the staff report and the recommendations included therein.

Public Comment – None

Director Toub moved to waive the reading and adopt Resolution 2026-07, approving revisions to the Expenditure Reimbursement and Use of Public Resources Policy, which was seconded by Director Koffler. Resolution 2026-07 was adopted by roll-call vote.

Cox – Yes | Hover-Smoot – Absent | Hudson – Yes | Koffler – Yes | Toub – Yes

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G. Management Status Reports.

G-1 Fire Department Report

Chief Chisholm reviewed his report, highlighting that while overtime has remained reasonable, B shift has experienced a notable number of minimum staffing days due to a vacant firefighter position. He noted that a conditional employment offer was accepted, which should alleviate staffing challenges.

G-2 Water & Sewer Operations Report

Mr. Massetani reviewed the report, sharing that annual reports had been submitted to and accepted by the State, and that the District's newest operator had achieved their Level 1 certifications. The Board asked how the District plans to manage groundwater heading into summer following a warm, dry winter, and whether conservation measures would follow State guidance. Mr. Hunt responded that while the current outlook does not indicate a drought year, conservation measures may be necessary based on the draft Water Management Action Plan (WMA) and National Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) streamflow reports. He noted that the WMA was developed specifically to address conditions unique to Olympic Valley, which may warrant a different response than statewide guidance, and that groundwater pumpers in the Valley are well-positioned to understand the relevant triggers and implementation requirements. Mr. Hunt confirmed that staff will monitor conditions closely throughout the season and communicate any necessary actions to the Board and community.

G-3 Engineering Report

Mr. Hunt reviewed the staff report, sharing that the items in the report has already been discussed during the meeting.

G-4 Administration & Office Report

Ms. Asher reviewed the report. The Board suggested the Spring Newsletter contain some information about the early end to winter and being mindful of water conservation.

G-5 General Manager Report

Mr. Miller reviewed his report, noting his upcoming vacation schedule. The Board requested an update on the status of the agreement for the Village at Palisades Tahoe Specific Plan (VPTSP). Mr. Bell shared the anticipated County approval schedule and noted that staff continue to work on the agreement, but are proceeding cautiously pending County action. Mr. Hunt provided a brief update on the progress of the utility capacity work currently underway.

G-6 Legal Report (verbal)

None.

G-7 Directors' Comments (verbal)

The Board commended the strategic plan and budget presentations. The Directors requested staff consider enabling comments on the District's social media accounts, prompting a brief discussion. Legal counsel noted concerns related to First Amendment implications and staff indicated they are reviewing best practices and talking to peers at other agencies to develop social media guidelines for Board consideration in May or June. It was suggested that posts and direct messages include a disclaimer noting that the accounts are not actively monitored and directing the public to contact the District office directly. The Board also requested that the guidelines include direction on appropriate Board member

conduct on social media. The Board also requested staff consider dark-sky compliant lighting as replacements are needed.

Director Hover-Smoot made a motion, seconded by Director Hudson, to adjourn to closed session at 11:20 A.M. The motion passed.

Cox – Yes | Hover-Smoot – Yes | Hudson – Yes | Koffler – Yes | Toub – Yes

H. Closed Session – Public Employee Performance Evaluation

The Board met in Closed Session pursuant to Government Code §54957.6 et al regarding the performance evaluation of the General Manager. Only the item on the agenda was discussed, and no action was taken.

Director Hover-Smoot made a motion, seconded by Director Koffler, to adjourn to open session at 11:42 A.M. The motion passed.

Cox – Yes | Hover-Smoot – Yes | Hudson – Yes | Koffler – Yes | Toub – Yes

I. Report from Closed Session.

Mr. Bell stated that there was no reportable action from Closed Session.

J. Adjourn.

Director Hover-Smoot made a motion, seconded by Director Koffler, to adjourn at 11:43 A.M. The motion passed.

Cox – Yes | Hover-Smoot – Yes | Hudson – Yes | Koffler – Yes | Toub – Yes

By, J. Asher

Approved on 04/28/2026


Jessica Asher (Apr 29, 2026 16:19:20 PDT)