



BEN LOMOND FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

AGENDA of the BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**Ben Lomond Fire Protection District.
Wednesday February 18, 2026 at 9:00 AM
Ben Lomond Firehouse, 9430 Hwy 9, Ben Lomond, California
Telephone: 831-336-5495 Fax: 831-246-8890
blfdchief@benlomondfd.com is inviting you to a Meeting**

The Board meeting agenda and all supporting documents are available for public review at 9430 Hwy 9, Ben Lomond, CA, 72 hours in advance of a scheduled board meeting.

District facilities and meetings comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act. If special accommodations are needed, please contact the District Administrative Assistant as soon as possible, but at least two days prior to the meeting.

FLAG SALUTE/MOMENT OF SILENCE ROLL CALL

President Director Tom Maxson, Director (Vice) Marty Walker, Director Kirt Hackett
Director Lisa Hill, Director Andrew Cope and Fire Chief Stacie Brownlee

REGULAR MEETING- Call TO ORDER

OPEN TIME FOR PUBLIC EXPRESSION

Please observe a three minute time limit

This is an opportunity for any member of the public to briefly address the District Board on any matter that does not appear on this agenda. Items that appear to warrant a more lengthy presentation or Board deliberation will be considered for placement on the agenda for discussion at a future meeting. There will also be an opportunity to comment on action items, following Board discussion and before any action is taken. The Board asks anyone who speaks to state their name.

DIRECTOR MATTERS/AGENDA AMENDMENTS

Directors may report on their activities and meetings.
Any changes to the agenda may be made at this time.

CHIEF'S REPORT

The Fire Chief will report on the district's business activities and operations.

COMMUNICATIONS- Records request & response to records request

BOARD CALENDER EVENTS- Chiefs review- 700 Forms

COMMITTEE REPORTS- Budget- Hill & Walker, Building- Walker & Cope, Chiefs Rev.- Hackett & Maxson

Directors may report on committee activities and meetings

CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS

These items can be acted on in one consolidated motion or may be removed from the Consent Calendar and separately considered at the request of any person.

1. Approval of Minutes January 21, 2026

2. Regular Meeting of February 18, 2026
3. Approval of Expenditures for February 18, 2026
 - 1.1 Paid bills in the amount of \$ 21,193.05
 - 1.2 Paid Payroll in the amount of \$ 16,863.08

Old BUSINESS

1. SOP Review
Key discussion points: SOP #2160 Confidentiality Regarding Resignations
Decision(s) made:
Action items and assignee(s)
2. Type 3
Key discussion points:
Decisions made:
Action Items and assignees:
3. RING
Key discussion points: Let from he Board
Decision(s) made:
Action items and assignee(s)

NEW BUSINESS

1. 2024-2025 Audit
Key discussion points:
Decision(s) made:
Action items and assignee(s)
State Controller Report will now be done by Pehling instead of the County of Santa Cruz Auditor Office
2. Ride Along Baymont
Key discussion points: 4th and 1st Day of school. Fund Raiser
Decision(s) made:
Action items and assignee(s)

CLOSED SESSION

At any time during the regular meeting, the Board may adjourn to a closed session to consider land negotiations, litigation, and personnel matters or to discuss with legal counsel matter within the attorney-client privilege. Authority; Gov. Code Section Code §54956.8, 54956.9, and 54957.

INFORMATION/FUTURE MEETINGS

Items of a general nature that the staff wishes to bring to the attention of the Board, and any future agenda items.

Scheduling of future meetings

Regular Meeting –March 18, 2026

ADJOURNMENT/



BEN LOMOND FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

Board Meeting Minutes

Regular Board Meeting

Wednesday January 21, 2026 at 9:00 AM

Ben Lomond Firehouse, 9430 Hwy 9, Ben Lomond, California

Telephone: 831-336-5495 Fax: 831-336-0300

ROLL CALL

Directors Present: Director Lisa Hill, Director Tom Maxson, Director Andrew Cope, Director Kirt Hackett and Director Marty Walker

Fire District Staff: Chief Brownlee

Absent: none

Also Present: Jamie Helmer

Call to Order

CALL TO ORDER BOARD REGULAR BOARD MEETING

The meeting of the Board of Directors of the Ben Lomond Fire Protection District was held on Wednesday, January 21, 2026, Chairperson Maxson called the meeting to order at 9:00 AM.

OPEN TIME FOR PUBLIC EXPRESSION

Please observe a three-minute time limit

Jamie Helmer reported on RTC and their 25-year plan that they review every 4 years. Jamie will help draft a letter in support to have the Highway 9(Holiday slide) addressed

This is an opportunity for any member of the public to briefly address the District Board on any matter that does not appear on this agenda. Items that appear to warrant a lengthier presentation or Board deliberation will be considered for placement on the agenda for discussion at a future meeting. There will also be an opportunity to comment on action items, following Board discussion and before any action is taken. The Board asks anyone who speaks to state their name.

DIRECTOR MATTERS/AGENDA AMENDMENTS

Directors may report on their activities and meetings.

Any changes to the agenda may be made at this time.

CHIEF'S REPORT

The Fire Chief will report on the district's business activities and operations.

Chief reported on the 2024-25 Audit.

COMMUNICATIONS- Letter from Burtons

BOARD CALENDER EVENTS-Chiefs Review

COMMITTEE REPORTS- Committees set. Budget- Marty & Lisa, Building- Marty & Andrew. Chiefs review- Kirt & Tom

Directors may report on committee activities and meetings

CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS

These items can be acted on in one consolidated motion or may be removed from the Consent Calendar and separately considered at the request of any person.

1. Approval of Minutes December 17, 2025
2. Regular Meeting of January 21, 2026
3. Approval of Expenditures for January 21, 2026
 - 1.1 Paid bills in the amount of \$ 34,670.98
 - 1.2 Paid Payroll in the amount of \$115,871.08

Approval of Consent Calendar Items

Motion was made by Director Walker seconded by Director Hill to approve all Consent Calendar items

Ayes: Director Hill, Director Maxson, Director Walker and Director Cope & Hackett

Noes: None

Abstain: None

Absent: None

Old BUSINESS

1. SOP Review

Key discussion points: SOP #2150 Separation from District

Decision(s) made: No changes

Action items and assignee(s): none

2. Type 3

Key discussion points:

Decisions made: None

Action Items and assignees:

NEW BUSINESS

1. RING

Key discussion points: Board was reminded off the meeting set at Zayante Jan. 22 @6

Decisions made:

Action Items and assignees:

CLOSED SESSION

At any time during the regular meeting, the Board may adjourn to a closed session to consider land negotiations, litigation, and personnel matters or to discuss with legal counsel matter within the attorney-client privilege. Authority; Gov. Code Section Code §54956.8, 54956.9, and 54957.

INFORMATION/FUTURE MEETINGS

Items of a general nature that the staff wishes to bring to the attention of the Board, and any future agenda items.

Scheduling of future meetings

Regular Meeting –February 18, 2026

ADJOURNMENT

ATTEST:

Chairperson Tom Maxson

Stacie Brownlee, Secretary



Ben Lomond Fire Protection District
Post Office Box 27, Ben Lomond, California 95005
Telephone: 831-336-5495 Fax: 831-336-0300

TO:	Board of Directors	FROM:	Stacie Brownlee Fire Chief
SUBJECT:	Chief's Report	DATE:	02/18/2026
	Approved	Date	

Correspondence

Administration

Operations

BLFD responded to 48 calls in Jan/Feb

- Structure (0)
- EMS (20)
- Haz Mat (0)
- Vehicle Acc. (5)
- Public Service (15)
- Smoke Checks (8)
- Other, wires (16)
- Mutual Aide calls (3) Boulder, FEL (4)
- Wildland (0)

Training

- Self-Rescue, Ropes, Large Animal

Logistic

Fire Prevention/Ed

**BEN LOMOND FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT
OF SANTA CRUZ COUNTY**

Date: February 18, 2026

To: County Auditor, Controller

From: Laurie Dennis (831) 336-5495

Subject: Approved Bills for Payment Transmittal

Vendor bills have been approved for payment out of district funds totaling an amount of

\$ 21,193.05 .

These payments were approved by the Board of Directors during their meeting on

February 18, 2026 .

Signed _____

Signed _____

Signed _____

Signed _____

Signed _____

CLAIMS BY VENDOR

01/21/2026

Filter: (Open Claims Only) (Pre-Approved Excluded)

Vendor	Claim Date	GL Obj	Message	Amount	
GL Key: 680600					
L.N. CURTIS & SONS	/ /	61731	2 @ Terminator carbide saw chains, 1 @ Dragon carbide saw chain	\$674.55	<input type="checkbox"/>
PEHLING & PEHLING CPAS	/ /	62301	Audit services- balance due for 23/24 and 24/25 audits	\$4,440.00	<input type="checkbox"/>
PUBLIC AGENCY RETIREMENT SERVICES	/ /	52015	PARS administrator services for month ending 11/30/25	\$300.00	<input type="checkbox"/>
			Total	<u>\$5,414.55</u>	

CLAIMS BY VENDOR

01/28/2026

Filter: (Open Claims Only) (Pre-Approved Excluded)

Vendor	Claim Date	GL Obj	Message	Amount	
GL Key: 680600					
EMT CERTIFICATION FUND / EMSA	//	62826	EMT program - renewal Matsuoka #E133983	\$37.00	<input type="checkbox"/>
SANTA CRUZ CO - HSA	//	62826	EMS Program - renewal Matsuoka #E133983	\$150.00	<input type="checkbox"/>
SCARBOROUGH LUMBER & BUILDING SUPPLY	//	62715	High velocity floor fan	\$82.11	<input type="checkbox"/>
SCARBOROUGH LUMBER & BUILDING SUPPLY	//	61846	Station repair and maint. supplies (plug ground, hose nozzle, ant killer, etc.)	\$108.67	<input type="checkbox"/>
SCARBOROUGH LUMBER & BUILDING SUPPLY	//	61721	vehicle maintenance supplies	\$57.15	<input type="checkbox"/>
SILKE COMMUNICATIONS	//	61217	repair-Hytera, constant transmission (tuned and tested)	\$222.88	<input type="checkbox"/>
US BANK CORPORATE PAYMENT SYSTEMS	//	62715	Main account bill - Electric wheeled battery charger (charger, starter, boost)	\$237.59	<input type="checkbox"/>
US BANK CORPORATE PAYMENT SYSTEMS	//	62219	Main account bill- Adobe, Apple and backup softwares	\$84.97	<input type="checkbox"/>
US BANK CORPORATE PAYMENT SYSTEMS	//	63074	Main account bill- Arden property PG& E and SLV Water billings	\$84.74	<input type="checkbox"/>
US BANK CORPORATE PAYMENT SYSTEMS	//	62826	Main account bill- Firefighter training books for BFFA	\$437.80	<input type="checkbox"/>
US BANK CORPORATE PAYMENT SYSTEMS	//	61110	Main account bill- flashlights (part of 50/50 grant purchase)	\$613.16	<input type="checkbox"/>
US BANK CORPORATE PAYMENT SYSTEMS	//	62223	Main account bill- office chair	\$153.29	<input type="checkbox"/>
US BANK CORPORATE PAYMENT SYSTEMS	//	61721	Main account bill- replacement parts for R2266 ipad	\$105.00	<input type="checkbox"/>
US BANK CORPORATE PAYMENT SYSTEMS	//	62221	Main account bill- shipping fees	\$4.89	<input type="checkbox"/>
US BANK CORPORATE PAYMENT SYSTEMS	//	63074	Main account bill- station PG&E and SLV Water billings	\$1,852.03	<input type="checkbox"/>
US BANK CORPORATE PAYMENT SYSTEMS	//	61720	Main account bill- Tow bill for C2200 (tree fell on it)	\$375.00	<input type="checkbox"/>
US BANK CORPORATE PAYMENT SYSTEMS	//	61221	Main account bill- Verizon, Starlink and fax billins	\$1,767.96	<input type="checkbox"/>
Total				\$6,374.24	

CLAIMS BY VENDOR

02/11/2026

Filter: (Open Claims Only) (Pre-Approved Excluded)

Vendor	Claim Date	GL Obj	Message	Amount	
GL Key: 680600					
CALIFORNIA DEPT OF TAX & FEE ADMIN	//	62888	Use Tax - untaxed purchases out of State 01/01-12/31/2025	\$449.00	<input type="checkbox"/>
FIRE RISK MANAGMENT SERVICES- FRMS	//	53010	Monthly insurance premium - March 2026	\$183.66	<input type="checkbox"/>
GREENWASTE RECOVERY INC	//	61425	Garbage & Recycle Jan 2026	\$154.16	<input type="checkbox"/>
IHWY, LLC	//	62381	Web hosting / Mail Accts for February 2026	\$105.00	<input type="checkbox"/>
JLV ELECTRIC INC	//	61846	6 @ high bay lights	\$655.50	<input type="checkbox"/>
MUNICIPAL EMERGENCY SERVICES INC	//	61110	4 pair structure boots- part of 50/50 grant (Ja Auldrige, Fisher, LaVerne, Garahan)	\$2,515.52	<input type="checkbox"/>
SANTA CRUZ CO PUBLIC WORKS	//	61425	Dump fees- January 2026	\$41.38	<input type="checkbox"/>
SCOTT'S PPE RECON INC	//	61110	PPE cleaning and repairs (Scarborough)	\$404.50	<input type="checkbox"/>
SOUTHERN COUNTIES LUBRICANTS, LLC	//	62920	Fuel purchase- delivered 01/28/26 - 792 gal diesel	\$3,915.51	<input type="checkbox"/>
WEX BANK	//	62920	Shell Card billing - fuel purchases	\$980.03	<input type="checkbox"/>
Total				\$9,404.26	

PAYROLL SD 02
 PAY PERIOD #03
 GL KEY#

Beg Date: 01/17/26

ATTN: Auditor-Controller
 End Date: 01/30/26

EMPLOYEE #	NAME	PAY RATE	PAY TYPE	KEY CODE	HOURS	SALARY / TOTAL PAY
800973	Stacie Brownlee	\$46.70	SALARY	888	0.00	\$3,736.00
			Health Benefit Stipend	ILB	0.00	\$461.54
			VACATION	011	0.00	\$0.00
			SICK	022	0.00	\$0.00
803033	Laurie Dennis	\$37.00	REGULAR HOURS	888	32.00	\$1,184.00
			SICK	022	0.00	\$0.00
DUTY CHIEF						
EMPLOYEE #						
800494	Mike Ayers	\$75.00	PER SHIFT	888	5.00	\$375.00
803541	Nick Burgess	\$75.00	PER SHIFT	888	6.00	\$450.00
801757	Matt Sanders	\$75.00	PER SHIFT	888	3.00	\$225.00
		\$75.00	PER SHIFT	888	0.00	\$0.00
DAY WORKER- STATION						
EMPLOYEE #						
803842	Garrett Fisher	\$25.00	HOURLY	888	32.00	\$800.00
804051	Owen Garrahan	\$25.00	HOURLY	888	24.00	\$600.00
804050	Connor Scarborough	\$25.00	HOURLY	888	24.00	\$600.00
		\$25.00	HOURLY	888	0.00	\$0.00

Prepared by

Laurie Dennis 01/28/26
 DATE

Pay Type	Hours	Dollars
REGULAR HOURS	32.00	\$7,970.00
VACATION	0.00	\$0.00
Health Benefit Stipend	0.00	\$461.54
SICK	0.00	\$0.00

Payroll Batch Control

Employees 8
 Line Entries 9
 Total Reg. & Special Hours 32.0
 Total Regular & Special Amounts \$8,431.54



TOTAL 32.00 \$8,431.54

51000 Regular Pay	\$7,970.00
51015 Sick Pay	\$0.00
51010 Volunteer Pay	\$0.00
53010 Emp Ins & Ben	\$461.54
Total	\$8,431.54

0.000 *
 8,431.540 +
 1,184.000 -
 7,247.540 *

PAYROLL SD 02
 PAY PERIOD #04
 GL KEY#

Beg Date: 01/31/26

ATTN: Auditor-Controller
 End Date: 02/13/26

EMPLOYEE #	NAME	PAY RATE	PAY TYPE	KEY CODE	HOURS	SALARY / TOTAL PAY
800973	Stacie Brownlee	\$46.70	SALARY	888	0.00	\$3,736.00
			Health Benefit Stipend	ILB	0.00	\$461.54
			VACATION	011	0.00	\$0.00
			SICK	022	0.00	\$0.00
803033	Laurie Dennis	\$37.00	REGULAR HOURS	888	32.00	\$1,184.00
			SICK	022	0.00	\$0.00
DUTY CHIEF						
EMPLOYEE #						
800494	Mike Ayers	\$75.00	PER SHIFT	888	4.00	\$300.00
803541	Nick Burgess	\$75.00	PER SHIFT	888	8.00	\$600.00
801757	Matt Sanders	\$75.00	PER SHIFT	888	2.00	\$150.00
		\$75.00	PER SHIFT	888	0.00	\$0.00
DAY WORKER- STATION						
EMPLOYEE #						
803842	Garrett Fisher	\$25.00	HOURLY	888	8.00	\$200.00
804051	Owen Garrahan	\$25.00	HOURLY	888	16.00	\$400.00
804050	Connor Scarborough	\$25.00	HOURLY	888	56.00	\$1,400.00
		\$25.00	HOURLY	888	0.00	\$0.00

Prepared by

[Signature] 02/11/26
 DATE

Pay Type	Hours	Dollars
REGULAR HOURS	32.00	\$7,970.00
VACATION	0.00	\$0.00
Health Benefit Stipend	0.00	\$461.54
SICK	0.00	\$0.00

Payroll Batch Control

Employees 8

Line Entries 9

Total Reg. & Special Hours 32.0

Total Regular & Special Amounts \$8,431.54

VOLUNTEER PAY		\$0.00
TOTAL	32.00	\$8,431.54

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0•000 *

8,431.54 +

1,104.000 -

7,247.540 *

51000 Regular Pay	\$7,970.00
51015 Sick Pay	\$0.00
51010 Volunteer Pay	\$0.00
53010 Emp Ins & Ben	\$461.54
Total	\$8,431.54

	Ben Lomond Fire Protection District	Policy # 2160 Date 4/06
	SOP ADMINISTRATION PERSONNEL	TITLE: Confidentiality Regarding Resignations Revision date 6/12

2160.1 To the extent permitted by law, District staff and Directors shall keep confidential the circumstances giving rise to an employee's resignation from the District.

2160.1.1 This policy is itself a public record which the District must release upon request.



DATE

County of Santa Cruz
Attn: Board of Supervisors
701 Ocean Street
Santa Cruz, CA 95060

RE: RING Radio Project

To: Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors

On behalf of the Boards of Directors of all independent fire districts in Santa Cruz County, we write to reiterate serious opposition to advancing the County's Public Safety Radio Project (RING) as currently proposed. While we support the goal of regional interoperable communications, the project contains unresolved financial, operational, and governance deficiencies that directly threaten public safety and fire protection services. The need for robust, resilient, regional interoperable communications has been seen/felt first hand by the residents of Santa Cruz County. The CZU Lighting Complex, Trabing Fire, Summit Fire, etc. are just a few examples of how important our dispatch and communication needs are. If one of the stated goals of the RING project is interoperability and regional communications, then it becomes even more critical that the County Supervisors listen to all the stakeholders (especially first responders who rely on the system).

Primary concerns:

- Unsustainable long-term cost: Current estimates show annual radio service costs approaching or exceeding 8.5% of some district's operating budgets by 2030, which would materially compromise core emergency services.
- Inadequate validated coverage: Vendor maps claim "coverage" but do not demonstrate reliable service in several high-risk, fire-prone and hard-to-serve areas (Lompico, North Rodeo Gulch, North Branciforte, upper Soquel-San Jose Road). Advancing the project without transparent, independent validation of coverage assumptions places responders and residents at unacceptable risk.
- Incomplete project elements: Critical items remain unresolved or undrafted—funding formula, cost allocation methodology, governance structure, system use and Subscriber Agreements, and verified radio inventory/allocations. Fire districts cannot commit to a system with undefined or changeable costs, obligations, and governance. The success of this project will require strong partnerships, collaboration and a commitment from everyone to ensure its success and meets the needs of all first responder agencies in the county. Not to mention, all the residents of Santa Cruz County.

*On behalf of the Boards of Directors serving Santa Cruz County Fire Agencies:
Ben Lomond Fire Protection District, Felton Fire Protection District, Pajaro Valley Fire Protection
District, Scotts Valley Fire Protection District, Zayante Fire Protection District*



These issues have been raised repeatedly by our chiefs without resolution. According to recent research, the combined population of all of the listed fire districts is between 142,000-144,000 citizens and, those are the very citizens who vote and who we are obligated to protect. Absent Board-level commitments and clear direction, districts must evaluate alternative dispatch systems and radio providers to meet operational and fiduciary duties. Withdrawal from RING could also force exit from NetCom, fragment regional communications, and raise county and city costs—current estimates suggest roughly \$850,000 per year in added County costs and nearly doubling costs for NetCom cities.

We request explicit Board direction to staff to develop a more equitable funding model, identify alternative revenues, and mitigate disproportionate impacts on special districts (including consideration of Measure Q and Measure K funds). We remain committed to a regional communications system that is interoperable, reliable, financially sustainable, and includes appropriate district representation—but that outcome cannot be achieved under the present proposal.

Sincerely,

Daron Pisciotta - Board President
Scotts Valley Fire Protection District

Michael Hushaw – Board Chair
Central Fire District

Norm Crandell – Board Chair
Felton Fire District

Lyle Fleming – Board Chair
Zayante Fire District

Bob Locatelli – Board Chair
Boulder Creek Fire District

Tom Maxson – Board President/Chairman
Ben Lomond Fire District

Dave Martone – Board President
Pajaro Valley Fire District

*On behalf of the Boards of Directors serving Santa Cruz County Fire Agencies:
Ben Lomond Fire Protection District, Felton Fire Protection District, Pajaro Valley Fire Protection District, Scotts Valley Fire Protection District, Zayante Fire Protection District*