

**MORONGO VALLEY COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

11207 OCOTILLO STREET. MORONGO VALLEY, CA 92256

**REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

6:00 p.m. Regular Business

**JUNE 18, 2025**

Covington Park – MPR  
11165 Vale Drive  
Morongo Valley, CA 92256

<https://morongocsd.specialdistrict.org/>

This Board Meeting will take place in person at Covington Park MPR, located at the address above. As a convenience to the public, the meeting will be livestreamed for those who wish to observe remotely. Please note that due to the in-person meeting format and technical limitations, members of the public will only be able to provide public comments in person. Please also note that in the event of technical issues that disrupt the meeting livestream, the meeting will continue.

*The Morongo Valley Community Services District complies with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. If you require special assistance to attend or participate in this meeting, please call (760) 363-6454. Materials related to any items on this agenda submitted to the Board after distribution of the agenda packet are available for public inspection during normal business hours at the CSD Main Office, 11207 Ocotillo Street, Morongo Valley, CA 92256.*

**A. CALL TO ORDER**

**B. ROLL CALL**

1. Christina Gorke, President, present
2. Lance Fisher, Vice President, present
3. Johnny Tolbert, Director, present
4. Steve Hayden, Director, present
5. Eva Rowles, Director, present

**C. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**D. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

The Board of Directors now takes time to consider your comments on items which are on the agenda. The acting Chairperson will recognize you at the appropriate time to assist in the orderly and timely conduct of the meeting. When called upon to speak, please state your name and residence. Comments will be limited to three (3) minutes or less for both agenda items and non-agenda items. If you wish to comment on an agenda item or non-agenda item during Public Comment or raise your hand. In addition, members of the public may submit comments electronically prior to the meeting using the form on the District's website. The acting Chairperson will recognize all electronic comments submitted at least 48 hours prior to the meeting either by reading the comment(s) at the meeting or noting on the record that comments were received and provided to the Board at or before the meeting.

Gilbert Vasquez

"Good evening board members and residents who came out to hear about this board meeting. I would just like to bring up something to your guy's attention that was happening with a 360-degree investigation. We have not heard nothing back on it yet and I keep continuing to get harassed from Interim Fire Chief Ryan McEachen. I sent you guys a letter stating what has happened, what has taken place and you guys have failed to do anything about it. He keeps continuing to harass me and as our commanding officer, we should not have to feel, in our place of business, to where we're getting harassed. He keeps continuing to harass us on a day in day out basis. Just today he harassed me again and I did talk to our interim general manager, and I said I would like the board to put me off on paid administrative leave until this investigation is over. And he said well give it in writing and bring it to the board. I've had several meetings with Mr. Campos, and no one is doing nothing about the harassment. And now

the interim fire chief is living behind our station in an RV, spending our utilities when we can't even – we have a lockbox on our AC box. But he's running his RV 12-13 hours in the daytime not being in there, wasting our electricity. So, I come to you guys today to please ask you to please remove him from the situation of harassing our employees. We have a stressful job enough to be able to protect your guy's residents and your family and I feel like I have to look over back of when I'm going to mess up because the chief is harassing us. Thank you"

Kyle Miller

"Good evening board members, residents – um I was going to kind of piggyback off what he was saying I didn't know who lived in that RV in the back. I was wondering why the RV was in the back and why our half a million-dollar fire engine is currently parked unshaded exposed to the elements. We went through a lot of hoops, I know the fire department went through a lot of hoops to get that fire engine wasn't easy. Um and now those tax dollars are essentially sitting out in the sun and that is a concern to me. And that's something I would like to see addressed."

Sean Miller

"How you doing, my name is Sean Miller. I am a resident here in Morongo Valley I am also a firefighter/paramedic with the department as well as a EMS coordinator. I would just like to come here and express a growing concern that I and many of the firefighters and paramedics and engineers all have concerns with our current interim fire chief. Following recent events and discussions it has become clear that confidence in the interim fire chief's ability to lead has been significantly **\*Inaudible word here.** At a recent department meeting it was made evident to me that the safety and well-being of our firefighters is not being prioritized appropriately. While the chief has verbally stated the firefighter's safety is important, his actions show otherwise. Leadership in any department must come from the top down and at this time I do not believe the interim fire chief is effectively able to guide this department in a way that fosters safety, moral and operational excellence that you guys expect from us. For the future of this department and the safety of both our personnel and the community we serve I respectfully request that the board begin actively searching for a qualified full-time fire chief and remove the interim fire chief from his position. One who can lead with integrity, compassion and clear focus on firefighters and public safety. Thanks for hearing me."

Michael Sanchez

"Good evening board members, citizens my name is Michael Sanchez firefighter/paramedic here. Um just addressing the same concerns. There's been a lot of like, Engineer Vasquez said kind of harassing kind of things that have just made us feel uncomfortable in our station, in our home if you will, our second home. Um for example, as small as it sounds, we had a TV on and was forced to turn it off because we were told it wasn't supposed to be on for business hours. Nowhere in the guidelines or SOP's or rules or anything does that state that that's supposed to be and instead of giving us um how do I say it – a more respectful response it came off really rude. Other things like for example, me as a paramedic arriving on scene to a medical aids and we have a fire chief that shows up on a medical aid and then at times not show up on a fire related call. Which is generally the opposite. Um that's pretty much all I have. Can we just address the situation please."

Donna Yerman

"Um I've been meeting with Chief Ryan and he's been doing all sorts of extra work and meeting with the community so I'm kind of surprised to hear what I'm hearing tonight. He's gone way out of his way for a project I'm working on and I've watched him really go out of his way for a lot so I'm not sure what the other side of this is, but I know that he's working a lot and tirelessly to help the community and other people besides myself. So, I just wanted to share that, thank you."

Linda Christiansen

"I just wanted to piggyback off what Donna was saying, with Chief Ryan is um he's reached out a lot to the community looking for solutions of major problems we have in this town. So, on a greater scale I see so much more involvement trying to make things work better here. And I admire that because we've had a lot of chiefs that have kind of ignored the town and not paid attention to stuff. I just wanted to throw in that, I've met with him many times on different issues in the community and getting support there."

Brian Duke

“Good evening, everyone, my name is Brian Duke, I am the president of the Morongo Valley Firefighter’s Auxiliary. Aside from what’s happening here tonight we are doing a huge fundraiser on Saturday at 8AM in Hawk’s landing if anyone wants to come. The golf teams are all filled up but we do have opportunities for fun events and we would love to have you there and take your money.”

## E. AGENCY REPORTS

1. Acting General Manager – Matthew Campos

**Acting General Manager Campos reported that the Covington Park dog leash signs have been purchased and are pending delivery. There have been tire replacements on some of the fire apparatus’.**

2. Fire Chief Report – Ryan McEachen

**Chief McEachen reported that there were 65 calls for services, announced new hires onboarding and development of a robust training program. Possibly opening training access to outside agencies. June 28<sup>th</sup> CERT Round-up Exercise announcement and invitation to the public.**

3. Cash / Check Disbursements & Credit Card Purchases for May \$84,448.03 - Director Tolbert

**In the month of May, the total spending for the CSD was \$84,448.03, that is \$5,748.00 less than the previous month. Bills outside of our normal bills for this month were to Mr. Ed Nichols \$4,000 for the park vehicle purchased. Paying back our bank at \$1,231.23. Gold Mountain News Media \$436.00. Meaning for the month of May our normal bills were \$78,177.89. Higher than our normal amount because we had three pay periods in May. As of May 31, 2025 our bank account had \$410,870. Total assets \$381, 005.00**

## F. CONSENT CALENDAR

Items on the consent calendar are routine matters or formal documents covering previous District Board instruction. Items may be acted on by one motion of the Board unless a Board Member requests a separate discussion and/or action on an item.

1. Minutes of the Special Board Meeting of May 22, 2025.

**MOTION:** President Gorke motioned to approve the Minutes of the Special Board Meeting of May 22, 2025 as presented.

**SECOND:** Director Tolbert

**RESULT:** Motion passes with a 4-0-1 vote with President Gorke abstaining

## G. CONTINUED BUSINESS

1. COVINGTON PARK MANAGEMENT

**This item was tabled.**

2. MORONGO VALLEY DOG PARK

**This item was tabled.**

3. PURCHASE OF SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY LEASH LAW SIGNAGE FOR COVINGTON PARK AND GEESON FIELD

**This item was tabled.**

4. SECURITY CAMERAS & LIGHTING FOR COVINGTON PARK

**This item was tabled.**

5. SECURITY CAMERAS FOR GEESON FIELD

**This item was tabled.**

**H. NEW BUSINESS**

1. OPEN PUBLIC HEARING ON PRELIMINARY BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2025-2026

2. FINAL BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2025-2026

**MOTION:** President Gorke motioned to approve the Final Budget for Fiscal Year 2025-2026. **SECOND:** Director Tolbert

**RESULT:** Motion passes with 5-0 vote

3. FIRE SAFE COUNCIL PROPOSED WORK FOR FIRE STATION #2

**MOTION:** President Gorke motioned to approve Fire Safe Council Proposed work for Fire Station #2.

**SECOND:** Director Fisher

**RESULT:** Motion passes with 5-0 vote

4. LEASE PARAMETERS BETWEEN MORONGO VALLEY COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT AND FIRE SAFETY COUNCIL

**This item was tabled.**

5. INSTRUCTIONAL SERVICE AGREEMENT BETWEEN MORONGO VALLEY FIRE DEPARTMENT AND COPPER MOUNTAIN COLLEGE

**MOTION:** Director Tolbert motioned to accept the Instructional Service Agreement between Morongo Valley Fire Department and Copper Mountain College.

**SECOND:** President Gorke

**RESULT:** Motion passes 5-0 vote

6. IGLOOHOME DEADBOLT GO SMART LOCK

**MOTION:** President Gorke motioned to approve purchase of the Igloo home Deadbolt Go Smart Lock not to exceed \$850.

**SECOND:** Director Tolbert

**RESULT:** Motion passes 5-0 vote

**I. INDIVIDUAL DIRECTOR REPORTS**

1. Christina Gorke, President

President Gorke announced that she will be arranging a meeting with the Director of Preserves.

2. Lance Fisher, Vice President

Director Fisher gave condolences to the Watts family and expressed appreciation to all attendees.

3. Johnny Tolbert, Director

Director Tolbert stated a reminder for the June 27<sup>th</sup> & 28<sup>th</sup> CERT exercise.

4. Steve Hayden, Director

No report

5. Eva Rowles, Director

Director Rowles announced possible park updates to include volleyball, a horseshoe area and a new flag.

**L. CLOSED SESSION**

**M. CLOSED SESSION REPORT**

**J. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

1. Next Regular Board Meeting July 16, 2025.

**K. ADJOURNMENT**

Moved: President Gorke Second: Director Tolbert Vote: 5/0