

Gunnison County Fire Protection District
Minutes
Regular Meeting
February 19, 2026

I. Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Heath Smith. Meeting was held upstairs in the meeting room at the Fire House.

The following board members were present: Tom Stoeber, Walt Cranor, Rob Hughes and Heath Smith.

City Accountant present: Ben Cowan

Board Secretary present: Deborah Ferchau

Chief present: Hugo Ferchau (Not Present – at GVFD Concerts)

Deputy Chief present: Tom McDonough

Captain present: Tyler Brown

Board Attorney: Kendall Burgermeister

The following firemen were present: None.

Others: None.

II. Minutes:

The minutes from the January 15, 2026 regular meeting and February 5, 2026 special meeting were reviewed. A motion was made by Hughes and seconded by Smith to approve the January 15, 2026 and February 5, 2026 minutes. Motion passed unanimously.

III. Financial Report & Bills:

Cowan presented two financial reports, end of year 2025 and beginning of 2026. Brown advised the Board that there is a National Dispatch bill in the amount of \$1,300 still pending payment. The State is approximately 76 days behind in processing these payments. A motion was made by Stoeber and seconded by Cranor to approve the financial reports. Motion passed unanimously. A second motion was made by Stoeber and seconded by Cranor to approve the GETSA bill in the amount of \$43,750 for payment. Motion passed unanimously. A third motion was made by Cranor and seconded by Hughes to approve payment of the bills. Motion passed unanimously.

IV. Correspondence:

None.

V. Old Business:

- A. **Board Bylaws:** McDonough stated nothing new to report.
- B. **Firehouse Education:** McDonough advised the Board that H. Ferchau and Amanda Wilson attended the Emergency Management Conference and made some good contacts. The grant that was just applied for was done on a 60/40 split which may give us a better chance of being awarded. Cranor saw a good article in this weeks paper about the fire house. Cowan stated it was a part of the Cities normal section they have in the paper weekly.

VI. Fire Marshal's/Chief's Report: (Presented by McDonogh)

- A. McDonough advised the Board that Ricks and Tomlin have put together a SOP for fire fighter attendance. This SOP has been well received and attendance has increased including training. McDonough commented that it was possible that fire fighter didn't realize what their absence was having an affect. Copy of the SOP was passed around.

VII. Fleet Maintenance Manager's Report:

- A. McDonough advised the Board that normally Pitkin Volunteer Fire Department takes care of their own equipment maintenance. This year they approached McDonough for help with maintenance. They brought in their first due engine to the shop last week and it has catastrophic repair issues, no parts available for repair and the manufacturer has been out of business for years. Pitkin has no maintenance records. McDonough stated that they haven't taken anything apart yet to look further because that are not sure it will go back together it has significant rust. McDonough's recommendation is for Pitkin to fully disclose issues and sell this apparatus. McDonough further recommended to the Board that they place the old City 1 out in Pitkin. McDonough estimated that it would cost approximately \$10,000 dollars to get City 1 ready to work, which would include getting rid of split rims. Board would retain ownership. Cranor commented that the disrepair on this apparatus never came to light possibly because of the size of Pitkin and further commented that if City 1 is going to be an actual reserve it needs to be ready to go. McDonough stated that City 1 was kept for just this reason. City 1 holds less water but will not affect the ISO in Pitkin as they didn't have enough water to begin with. A motion was made by Stoeber and seconded by Hughes to make need repairs to City 1 and place in Pitkin. Motion passed unanimously. McDonough stated that he will make sure that City 1 has proper insurance coverage for active duty. Kendall suggested that it be delivered with a letter of parameters of use and allocation of responsibilities. Stoeber asked if there were any other worries with outlying apparatus. McDonough stated no.

VIII. New Business:

- A. McDonough advised the Board that they are looking at a new CAD systems and have seen many vendor presentations. Cowan further commented that Pitkin County has also been involved in this search and went with 10 8. Gunnison County Dispatchers like the 365 system better and we don't have to pick the same company. Cowan further commented that this system is not a huge affect on the fire department. There is some group pricing advantages if Getsa pays one bill and then farms out invoices to entities. All these reviews were done in Executive Session. District doesn't get much say, just paying dispatch fees. McDonough stated that 10 8 will interface with ESO. Smith when will decisions be made. Cowan, next Getsa meeting is in April unless they call a special meeting. The better it works for Dispatch, the better it works for everyone.

IX. **Unscheduled Business:**

- A. Wildland Resiliency Code: Smith commented that he and H. Ferchau have talked about this code and Board members should read it for the next meeting. McDonough stated that the resiliency code is not as restrictive as the WOOE code. An issue may be that Saguache County may opt out of complying with the code so we may have to think about that with the portions of the Gunnison County Fire Protection District that are in Saguache County. Cranor asked if the District can place requirements on the property in the District. Kendall stated that Gunnison County has already adopted it. The City would probably have to adopt. Hughes stated he thought the City was exempt. District is not in the business of issuing building permits. Cowan asked if non compliance would be a reason to not be insured.
- B. Smith extended a thanks to McDonough, Brown and H. Ferchau for their assistance with the dog attack.

X. **Adjourn:**

A motion was made by Cranor and seconded by Stoeber to adjourn the meeting at 7:20 p.m.