

**Gunnison County Fire Protection District**  
**Minutes**  
**Regular Meeting**  
**January 16, 2025**

**I. Call to Order:**

The meeting was called to order at 6:32 p.m. by Dennis Spritzer. Meeting was held upstairs in the meeting room at the Fire House.

The following board members were present: Dennis Spritzer, Walt Cranor and Paul Morgan.

Accountant present: Tom Stoeber and Ben Cowan

Board Secretary present: Deborah Ferchau

Fire Marshal/Chief present: Hugo Ferchau

Fleet Maintenance Manager present: Tom McDonough

Maintenance Technician present: Tyler Brown

Board Attorney: Kendall Bergemeister

The following firemen were present: None.

Others: Troy Bernberg, Investment Banker

**II. Minutes:**

The minutes from the December 19, 2024 regular meeting were reviewed. A motion was made by Cranor and seconded by Morgan to approve the December 19, 2024 regular meeting minutes. Motion passed unanimously. Spritzer voting for quorum.

**III. Financial Report:**

- A. Stoeber handed out the financial report through December, 2024. Stoeber advised that we are still expecting \$80,000 to \$90,000 from National Dispatch. Stoeber reminded the Board that Workers Compensation always goes up and down year to year. Morgan asked if the ColoTrust interest was at 4.5%. A motion was made by Cranor and seconded by Morgan to approve the financial report. Motion passed unanimously.
- B. Accountant Transition: H. Ferchau advised the Board that in the future with Ben Cowan paying bills for the District the invoices will be paid as they come in and each check will need two signatures. H. Ferchau stated that they will have to go to the banks to add signatures and give authority to Ben to move funding. Cowan stated that he would like to see 4 signers to cover all possible absences when bills need to be paid. A motion was made by Cranor and seconded by Morgan to approve Hugo Ferchau, Tom McDonough and Ben Cowan be added as signers to all bank accounts. Motion passed unanimously. Cowan stated that his reports will be a little

different format. H. Ferchau will be the approver on purchase cards but they will need someone else to approve H. Ferchau's purchases. Cranor will be that approver. Cowan recommended combining the General and Capital funds to streamline the accounting. Cowan would like to see a new fund for National Dispatch. Any excess monies from National Dispatch can be transferred to General at the end of the year.

**IV. Bills:**

Stoerber handed out the bills packet. The bills were reviewed and approved. Spritzer asked about the items labeled fraudulent. H. Ferchau stated that T. Brown's credit card numbers were stolen. A motion was made by Cranor and seconded by Morgan to approve payment of the bills. Motion passed unanimously. No transfer needed.

**V. Correspondence:**

None.

**VI. Old Business:**

- A. **Board Bylaws:** H. Ferchau just wanted the Board's thoughts about the draft Bylaws that were handed out earlier. Cranor asked about term limits. H. Ferchau stated that could be removed. Kendall stated that he has not had a minute to go through them yet with all the other agreements that have been going on. H. Ferchau really wanted to know if in general the Board is good with the direction of this document. Spritzer asked if these bylaws need to be in place to tie to a document. H. Ferchau stated no.
- B. **Election – Mil Levy Increase/New Station (November, 2025):** The process is moving forward. Troy Burnberg came to town to begin the talk about what is available funding wise.

**VII. Fire Marshal's/Chief's Report:**

- A. H. Ferchau reported that 2024 was a good year, no catastrophic fires like in 2023.
- B. H. Ferchau advised the Board that Rob Larson is out in California on those fires. That roll will be billed differently because CalFire is paying. Over 300 pieces of equipment and crew from Colorado are in California. H. Ferchau stated that the reimbursement process for this fire will be that we put together a bill, send that bill to the State. The State will review and approve it, then they will send it to that fire. The fire pays the State and the State pays the fire departments that assisted on the fire.
- C. H. Ferchau stated that they will host an academy in the fall with 6 inactive fire fighters.

**VIII. Fleet Maintenance Manager's Report:**

- A. McDonough advised the Board that Chevy Chase bid opening is scheduled for 1/27/25
- B. McDonough commented old Rescue 21 is decommissioned and out of service to be removed from the fleet.
- C. McDonough advised that Rescue 20 and 21 are on line.
- D. McDonough reported that the officer vehicles will get graphics toward the end of the month and he is with Jackie at the City to make some capital purchases.

**IX. New Business:**

- A. Fire Station IGA: H. Ferchau passed out copies of the IGA. Kendall stated that the city is about to sign a contract with a design firm for the new fire house. The City would like an agreement in place with the District before signing that contract. This needs to be done before going to the ballot. Kendall, H. Ferchau and Amanda with staff support are writing this document. H. Ferchau stated that Attachment A to the IGA details responsibilities. Morgan asked if owner's representatives should be involved now? H. Ferchau stated that they need to get funding in place first. H. Ferchau advised the Board that the City has a representative hired for their water project and he may be a good one to hire as our representative for the new fire station project. Kendall stated that he is comfortable with the IGA. A motion was made by Cranor and seconded by Morgan to approve and sign the Fire Station IGA. Motion passed unanimously. Cowan stated the City is ready to sign this IGA on 1/28/25.
- B. Exclusion of property within the City of Gunnison: Kendall stated that during the writing of the first IGA there were some properties that are in the City that were not removed from the District boundary. Kathy and Kendall are working on that paperwork. The process is easier if both the city and district are good with what the city is filing. These areas are Gunnison Rising, VanTuyle and the north substation. A motion was made by Cranor and seconded by Morgan to authorize Kendall Bergemeister to represent the District during this boundary adjustment. Motion passed unanimously.
- C. Designation of Election Official: H. Ferchau passed out the Resolution for this designation. H. Ferchau further advised the Board the traditionally this resolution is just to designate an election official. This year the resolution has been written to include the names of those Board members whose terms are coming up and a polling place where the election will be done if needed. Kendall approves the resolution. A motion was made by Cranor and seconded by Morgan to approve Resolution 2025-1, Designation of an Election Official. Motion passed unanimously.

**X. Unscheduled Business:**

None.

**XI. Adjourn:**

A motion was made by Cranor to adjourn the meeting at 7:28 p.m.