

**Gunnison County Fire Protection District**  
**Minutes**  
**Regular Meeting**  
**January 15, 2026**

**I. Call to Order:**

The meeting was called to order at 6:35 p.m. by Tom Stoeber. 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 Paul Morgan.

City Accountant present: Ben Cowan

Board Secretary present: Deborah Ferchau (via zoom)

Chief present: Hugo Ferchau (via zoom)

Deputy Chief present: Tom McDonough

Captain present: Tyler Brown

Board Attorney: Not present.

The following firemen were present: None.

Others: None.

**II. Minutes:**

The minutes from the December 18, 2025 regular meetings were reviewed. A motion was made by Cranor and seconded by Hughes to approve the December 18, 2025 regular meeting minutes as corrected. Cranor, Hughes and Morgan voted yes. Stoeber abstained as he was not in attendance at the December meeting. Motion passed.

**III. Financial Report & Bills:**

Cowan presented the financial report through December, 2025. Cowan advised the Board that they have received \$127,000 from National Dispatch. Brown commented that he just submitted another small bill to National Dispatch for payment (\$700.00). These monies go into a separate fund for future use on wildland equipment. A motion was made by Cranor and seconded by Hughes to approve the financial report. Motion passed unanimously. Cowan advised the Board that the bills packet now has an added column to describe items being paid for. Board consensus likes this addition to the report. Cowan has added a page that lists Board authorization items listed in the financial report. A second 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:** H. Ferchau stated they are hoping to have a draft at the next meeting. Cowan stated that he has a draft of finances that can be presented at the next meeting as well.

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

- A. H. Ferchau reported that Crested Butte Fire Protection District would like an automatic aid agreement signed based on a given response line. H. Ferchau likes the idea as long as it is best for all involved and is looking for Board approval to move forward with the agreement. H. Ferchau will also have Burgemeister review the document before signing anything. Morgan asked if there are any downsides? H. Ferchau stated that there may be some potential for leaving our District without coverage but we mitigate that all the time and will make sure that there is always coverage for our District. Stoeber stated that it is a no brainer and is in favor of the agreement.
- B. H. Ferchau advised the Board that the Colorado Wildfire Resiliency Code has been adopted state wide. The City of Gunnison and Gunnison County adopted the WOOE Code before this new code came out to get ahead of it. Now that the resiliency code is less prohibitive they will move to that code AND the State has mandated adoption of the resiliency code. H. Ferchau stated that he can get copies of the code to the Board members.
- C. H. Ferchau commented that the Department of Interior has formed the U.S. Wildfire Service and is now in service. This is the combination of the Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, Park Service, etc. Don't know what that looks like yet and what that will mean locally. H. Ferchau will keep the Board apprised.
- D. H. Ferchau advised the Board that the State is working on recommendations on what a Colorado Fire Organization would be like. They are Developing Standards of Coverage for the entire State. This has not been done before and may be problematic for our area because of the distances covered.
- E. H. Ferchau stated that Mike Morgan with National Dispatch wanted to give the District Board and staff kudos for using the program correctly as a reimbursement program NOT direct payment.
- F. H. Ferchau advised the Board that the survey has been sent out 3 times. They are trying to understand what triggered a No vote and trying to address needed main education points or if the money is the main problem maybe trimming the project. There were 200 respondents to the survey, they were looking for 250 to get the needed results. Cranor asked if the survey was random or blanket. H. Ferchau stated it was supposed to be random to District voters who have shared their cell phone numbers.

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

- A. McDonough advised the Board that at the end of next week our reporting system will be changed, it will no longer be NIFFERS. Now using ESO per the Feds. ESO is not a better system, is a challenge to learn and does not have room for all the documentation we usually prefer to include. Hopefully things will be improved. Not able to pull information out of data entered as easily. Working through it.
- B. Fleet is good, no red flags.

**VIII. New Business:**

None.

**IX. Unscheduled Business:**

A. Morgan stated that when the Board was talking about buying property for the new fire house they didn't want to buy old Dollar Tree building because of businesses being up front. RTA is putting a bus turn around by Safeway, which will not be a money generator either. H. Ferchau stated that the City is not involved in that project, John Cosentino sold that property to RTA. It does have potential to generate more foot traffic.

**X. Adjourn:**

A motion was made by Cranor and seconded by Morgan to adjourn the meeting at 7:11 p.m.