

Gunnison County Fire Protection District
Minutes
Regular Meeting
February 20, 2025

I. Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order at 6:40 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, Heath Smith and Paul Morgan.

City Accountant present: Ben Cowan

Board Secretary present: Deborah Ferchau

Chief present: Hugo Ferchau

Deputy Chief present: Tom McDonough

Captain present: Tyler Brown

Board Attorney: Not present

The following firemen were present: Rob Hughes

Others: Tom Stoeber

II. Minutes:

The minutes from the January 16, 2025 regular meeting were reviewed. A motion was made by Cranor and seconded by Smith to approve the January 16, 2025 regular meeting minutes. Motion passed unanimously. Spritzer voting for quorum.

III. Financial Report:

Cowan advised the Board that when Stoeber closes out the 2024 books Cowan will take those numbers and begin 2025. Stoeber advised that he is waiting for the City reimbursement payment. Cowan advised the Board that the format of the financial report will change a bit moving forward. A motion was made by Cranor and seconded by Smith to approve the financial report. Motion passed unanimously.

IV. Bills:

Cowan handed out the bills packet. The bills were reviewed and approved. Cowan asked the Board if they are good with electronic invoices or if they want to continue to receive hard copies. The Board is good with receiving invoices electronically and not printing them out. A motion was made by Cranor and seconded by Smith to approve payment of the bills. Motion passed unanimously. No transfer needed.

V. Correspondence:

None.

VI. Old Business:

- A. **Board Bylaws:** H. Ferchau has not had a chance to go over them with Kendall Bergemeister. Board consensus was that they would like Kendall at the meeting when discussing and approving the Bylaws.
- B. **Election – Mil Levy Increase/New Station (November, 2025):** H. Ferchau stated that they talked with the investment banker today and he is working on it. H. Ferchau had a report. They have met with Nienan regarding the station and will continue to meet with them every Monday. Nienan has indicated that a phase build may add more cost, and that idea will be discussed further at the next meeting. Will look at other placement possibilities. Cowan stated that the investment banker is looking at certificates of participation. Fire department meeting regarding the new building will be 3/29/25 all day. City is moving forward with the property exclusions.
- C. **Election – Board Members (May, 2025):** D. Ferchau reported that Self-Nominations are due Friday, February 28, 2025. If she has no more nominations than positions available at that deadline she will be able to cancel the election.

VII. Chief's Report:

- A. H. Ferchau reported that 2025 is the 50th year anniversary of the creation of the Gunnison County Fire Protection District. The fire department insignia committee is working on some t-shirts. H. Ferchau asked the Board if they want a celebration. Morgan stated that he would like to see a celebration, banner over Tomichi Avenue at both ends of the city, Facebook, front page full add in the newspaper (Shopper and Times) and t-shirts.

VIII. Deputy Chief's Report:

- A. McDonough advised the Board that the weight station is in and the lift is on the way.
- B. McDonough commented that Brown has been working on getting titles for all apparatus and commended him for his work on this project.

IX. New Business:

- A. **Fire Station:** Talked about under VI.B.
- B. **Budget Amendment:** Cowan stated the changes are that the City is paying directly for some items and those need to be added. Appropriate the National Dispatch fund. Combining general and capital funds with a capital reserve. Presented a resolution for the amendment. A motion was made by Cranor and seconded by Smith to approve the amendments and sign the Resolution. Motion passed unanimously.

X. Unscheduled Business:

- A. H. Ferchau advised the Board that they received an opinion from an Attorney about payment to volunteers to keep them volunteer. What we have been doing, in issuing W2's instead of 1099's is the correct way to handle payment. National Dispatch funding is paid by the feds.

XI. Adjourn:

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