

**Gunnison County Fire Protection District**  
**Minutes**  
**Public Hearing**  
**November 20, 2025**

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: Heath Smith, Walt Cranor, Tom Stoeber, Rob Hughes and Paul Morgan.

City Accountant present: Not Present

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: None.

Others: None.

II. Amended 2025 Budget: No amendment needed.

III. 2026 Budget: No public comment.

IV. Adjourn: A motion was made by Cranor and seconded by Hughes to close the public hearing at 6:32 p.m. Motion passed unanimously.

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**Minutes**  
**Regular Meeting**  
**November 20, 2025**

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

City Accountant present: Not Present

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: None.

Others: None.

**II. Minutes:**

The minutes from the October 16, 2025 regular meeting were reviewed. A motion was made by Cranor and seconded by Stoeber to approve the October 16, 2025 regular meeting minutes. Motion passed unanimously.

**III. Financial Report & Bills:**

H. Ferchau presented the financial report through October, 2025. National Dispatch payment for approximately \$50,000 should be received soon. A motion was made by Stoeber and seconded by Cranor to approve the financial report and bill statement. Motion passed unanimously.

**IV. Correspondence:**

A. **Pitkin Volunteer Fire Department:** Pitkin Volunteer Fire Department submitted a request for \$4,000.00 for operating costs and \$4,000.00 for handheld radios. Roster, training schedule and proof of insurance was submitted with the request. Morgan asked the Board if they are alright with a general amount of \$4,000.00 or should the request be more specific. H. Ferchau stated that he doesn't believe the request has any hidden items or fluff. Stoeber asked about financial statements at the end of the year to make sure that outlying departments are running in the black, if appropriate. Morgan does not want to support the general funding for \$4,000.00 without specifics. Morgan is on board with the radio request. H. Ferchau would like them to purchase better radios. Board consensus is to have H.

Ferchau take the request back to Pitkin Volunteer Fire Department with notes mentioned and to bring back a more specific request to the December meeting.

**V. Old Business:**

- A. **Board Bylaws:** H. Ferchau stated there is nothing new to report. Work will start on the Bylaws now that the election is over.
- B. **Election – Mil Levy Increase/New Station (November, 2025):** The District ballot measure did not pass: Gunnison County: Yes = 985, No = 1,315; Saguache County: Yes = 27, No = 38. 48% of registered voters voted in this election.
- C. **Budget 2026:** H. Ferchau presented the revised budget since the District portion of the mil levy increase did not pass. Morgan asked if the Board was in agreeance with putting \$1.5 million toward next steps or is there a different way to obtain the needed \$1.5 million. Hughes asked if the \$1.5 million is for actual design to construction documents. Hughes is concerned with public perception as we move forward but is on board with issuing a survey to the public. Stoeber stated that the Board needs to be proactive as we proceed down the road. Stoeber is comfortable with spending that money because the fleet is in great shape. It would demonstrate that tax payer money has been used well on fleet and now the Board is putting money towards the project they are asking for assistance. Stoeber suggested a full page ad saying thank you for your support, we are listening and going back to the drawing board and also tell them about the upcoming survey. Stoeber doesn't want to stop with the process, the Board needs to be proactive not reactive. Stoeber suggested a freeze on buying new apparatus unless there is a catastrophic event. Board consensus agrees. Cranor stated that a real number is going to go further with public minus so many contingencies. Morgan stated the individual cost should be a part of the story. Stoeber commented that they should run mailers with specific examples of housing costs with the offer to call to calculate their specific costs. If we don't go all in we will fail again. Board consensus is to go all in. A motion to adopt Resolution 4 – A Resolution of the Governing Board of the Gunnison County Fire Protection District Adopting and Appropriating an Annual Budget for the fiscal year beginning January 1, 2026 and ending December 31, 2026 was made by Stoeber and seconded by Cranor. Motion passed unanimously. A second motion to adopt Resolution 5 – A Resolution of the Board of Directors of the Gunnison County Fire Protection District, Colorado, setting a tax levy for the 2026 budget year was made by Stoeber and seconded by Hughes. Motion passed unanimously.

**VI. Chief's Report:**

- A. H. Ferchau reported that Academy finished tonight and it was a very good class. Cranor asked if there is gear available for them. H. Ferchau stated that the gear they used during Academy is in rough shape but he will be ordering new gear.
- B. H. Ferchau stated that there have been several wildland fires and they have been on some forest service fires with no forest service crews due to the government shut down. There was a fatal accident on Highway 135, vehicle at fault was passing on a double yellow, blind curve, no skidmarks. The driver at fault has been charged with vehicular homicide and this accident may end up in court. Crested Butte rolled for mutual aid. Brown stated that Crested Butte has several new fire fighters and a new training Captain who is excited about how we train in Gunnison and will tie in their training to ours. There was also a greenhouse/hay fire in Upper Castle Mountain.

**VII. Deputy Chief's Report:**

- A. McDonough reported that the fleet is in good condition. F250's are complete.
- B. McDonough reported that the current garage doors on the fire house are unrepairable. We do have some parts and pieces for the next time one breaks but the doors may need to be replaced. All garage door repairs are contracted out.
- C. McDonough advised the Board that the Ladder truck did not certify at its last test. Rosenbauer came out and made the needed repairs under warranty.

**VIII. New Business:**

- A. Christmas Dinner: Morgan suggested that it be catered. H. Ferchau commented that he will look at prime rib costs and if it is too much he will look into catering. The normal invitations will be sent out by D. Ferchau.

**IX. Unscheduled Business:**

- A. Morgan and Stoeber stated that they just recently got to see the training facility in use and they were blown away. Stoeber stated that he is super proud of this fire department. Videos of these trainings should be pushed out and the Board should be more involved and let volunteers know they are supported. Smith asked if Board members can come to a fire department business meeting. H. Ferchau stated typically no but Board member are welcome to attend any of the trainings or community events, etc.

**X. Adjourn:**

- A motion was made by Cranor to adjourn the meeting at 7:48 p.m.