

Gunnison County Fire Protection District
Minutes
Public Hearing
November 21, 2024

I. Call To Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:38 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. Mark Selkee via zoom.

Board Accountant present: Tom Stoeber

Board Secretary present: Deborah Ferchau

Fire Marshal/Chief present: Hugo Ferchau

Fleet Maintenance Manager present: Not present.

Maintenance Technician present: Not present.

The following firemen were present: None

Others: None

- II. Amended 2024 Budget: An amendment was hand out by Stoeber. The amendment is because the District is picking up the City piece of hazmat, \$50,000 DOLA grant, \$150,000 for the City officer vehicle, lease and attorney's fees. There was not an election this year so that line item was not spent. City will reimburse District mid-January, 2025. A motion was made by Cranor and seconded by Smith to approve the amendments to the 2024 budget. Motion passed unanimously.

- III. 2025 Budget: No public comment.

- IV. Adjourn: A motion was made by Cranor and seconded by Smith to close the public hearing at 6:45 p.m. Motion passed unanimously.

Gunnison County Fire Protection District
Minutes
Regular Meeting
November 21, 2024

I. Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order at 6:45 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. Mark Selkee via zoom.

Board Accountant present: Tom Stoeber

Board Secretary present: Deborah Ferchau

Fire Marshal/Chief present: Hugo Ferchau

Fleet Maintenance Manager present: Not present.

Maintenance Technician present: Not present.

The following firemen were present: None

Others: None

II. Minutes:

The minutes from the October, 2024 regular meeting were reviewed. A motion was made by Cranor and seconded by Smith to approve the October , 2024 regular meeting minutes. Motion passed unanimously.

III. Financial Report:

Stoeber handed out the financial report through October, 2024. Capital funds will decrease by approximately \$700,000 for apparatus purchases that are finally able to be made as apparatus is completed and being delivered. Morgan asked if there should be some minimum funding amounts. Stoeber would make that change now. There will be National Dispatch funding being deposited in November in the amount of \$80,000. Radios were originally in the communication line item but those were for specific vehicles so that change was made. A motion was made by Cranor and seconded by Smith to approve the financial report. Motion passed unanimously.

IV. Bills:

Stoeber handed out the bills packet. The bills were reviewed and approved. Selkee asked about the Holiday Inn invoice. H. Ferchau advised that it was for the state test proctor. 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. **Budget:** A motion was made by Cranor and seconded by Morgan to approved the 2025 budget as proposed. Morgan asked about the wellness benefit. H. Ferchau commented that wellness benefit is through the City. The CSU wellness program is another line item.
- B. **District/City IGA:** H. Ferchau reported that the City/District meeting regarding the IGA happened on Tuesday. The document has gone through many changes and is now a much better document than was previously presented. Spritzer stated that the presence of both attorneys made the creation better. There will be a final draft out on 12/6/24 and the District will move and sign at their December meeting. Selkee stated that using the city purchasing agent may be problematic if that person doesn't understand the complexity of some of our purchases. Selkee wanted to know if the volunteers are comfortable with the IGA and what the procedure of electing a chief will be. H. Ferchau advised that that procedure has not been written yet, there is a committee within the fire department to discuss and create this document (handbook). Selkee stated that he did not see anything earth shaking in the IGA and it was well written. Spritzer commented that District approval of the IGA will be on the District Board agenda for the December meeting. Smith stated that the Tuesday meeting went well. A copy of the revised draft IGA will be sent out prior to the next meeting. The question was asked if the volunteers will still elect their chief. H Ferchau stated that if the IGA is signed whoever is the Chief is will need to meet the NFPA qualifications of a Chief. Right now there are two people on the department that are certified to that level and there will be 3 more by the end of the year. The volunteers are working hard on their certifications. Selkee confirmed that the certifications are attainable for volunteers. H. Ferchau stated yes. H. Ferchau advised the Board that the volunteers have all been given a copy of the IGA and there have been several meetings with them throughout this process. Selkee asked if the IGA would be revisable on a yearly basis. H. Ferchau answered yes but it is a process. Spritzer reminded the Board that District bylaws still need to be adopted, copies of the proposed bylaws have already been passed out for review. H. Ferchau advised the Board that the Statement of Qualifications for the new station are due 11/22/24. They are expecting to have companies that can do both and some partnerships. The schedule is meeting between now and 12/5/24 with a group to score those and choose the top three companies. H. Ferchau would like a Board member and a volunteer to be members of that group. Amanda would like herself, H. Ferchau, two professionals, Board member and a volunteer. Cranor and Smith are both interested but Smith can't do it if the meetings are not held on Mondays. Cranor will be the Board member. H. Ferchau advised the Board that he is thinking about Gydessen, Klingsmith, Hughes or McDermott for the volunteer representative.
- C. **Election – Mil Levy Increase/New Station (November, 2025):** Nothing new to report.

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

- A. H. Ferchau reported that they have seven applicants that are being interviewed right now. The department is working through an idea about having an on duty engineer. Also thinking about increasing the number of volunteers during the creation of the handbook.

VIII. Fleet Maintenance Manager's Report:

A. **Not present** – in Ft Collins doing final inspections.

IX. New Business:

A. Stoeber stated he will no longer be the District accountant as of 12/31/24 and the signing of the IGA. Ben Cowan and he will do the transfer. Thank you for the past twelve years. Morgan said thank you so much you will be missed. Stoeber advised the Board that he would be interested in a Board position if one ever comes up. Stoeber left the meeting at 7:00pm.

B. Spritzer advised the Board that he will be leaving the Board after the April meeting. Morgan asked if there should be a plan in place to replace Spritzer as chair. H. Ferchasu reminded the Board that Selkee and Smith are up for re-election in May 2025. Stoeber and Hearne are interested in being board members.

X. Unscheduled Business:

A. **Christmas Dinner:** Same set up as last year at the District Shop. Same invitee list as previous years.

XI. Adjourn:

A motion was made by Cranor to adjourn the meeting at 7:51 p.m.