

Gunnison County Fire Protection District
Minutes
Regular Meeting
June 18, 2026

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: Walt Cranor, Rob Hughes, Tom Stoeber, Scott Frazier and Heath Smith.

City Accountant present: Ben Cowan

Board Secretary present: Deborah Ferchau

Chief present: Hugo Ferchau

Deputy Chief present: Tom McDonough

Captain present: Not present

Board Attorney: Not present

The following firemen were present: Kenny Tomlin, Captain.

Others: None.

II. Minutes:

The minutes from the May 21, 2026 regular meeting were reviewed. A motion was made by Stoeber and seconded by Cranor to approve the May 21, 2026 regular minutes. Motion passed unanimously.

III. Financial Report & Bills:

The financial report through May, 2026 was presented by Cowan. Cowan advised the Board that the Treasurer's fees were being calculated incorrectly and some funding will be refunded. Cowan stated that he did not realize that the District is charged higher than the City so he did not budget this line item correctly so it will be over budget due to that difference. A motion was made by Stoeber and seconded by Cranor to approve the financial report and payment of the bills. Motion passed unanimously. H. Ferchau stated that the training line item will be over budget but the CSU Health line item will be under budget because the program has been cut.

IV. Correspondence:

1. Pitkin Volunteer Fire Department: Turn in a request for annual funding in the amount of \$4,000.00 and an additional amount of \$4,000.00 for handheld radios. The packet included proof of insurance, training and roster. H. Ferchau advised that the radio program is ongoing and the outlying department line item has been increased to \$15,000 per department as the Board sees fit to fund. Cranor is in favor of supporting the request. Stoeber asked how they interact with Gunnison.

McDonough advised that they are up and comers. When they work with Gunnison they know their place and are good support, having a good communication program and equipment is essential. H. Ferchau commented that he just double-checked the outlying department line item and it is now \$20,000 per department but this line item is also where truck maintenance funding should be pulled from. Cowan stated he could set up activity accounts for each outlying department. Stoeber asked how many radios they need. H. Ferchau stated they now have four. A motion was made by Stoeber and seconded by Cranor to contribute \$8,000 for radios and \$4,000 for operating expenses to the Pitkin Volunteer Fire Department. Motion passed unanimously.

V. Old Business::

A. **Board Bylaws:** H. Ferchau advised they are working with Lexipol for department documents and will see if anything works for the District.

B. **Fire Station:**

1. **6/30 – Mechanical Systems:** Neenan would like to meet 6/30/26 to meet with the Board. H. Ferchau and McDonough talk with them weekly on Tuesdays, 2 board members could come to one of those meetings or a night meeting can be scheduled for everyone to attend. Neenan asked about conditions of satisfaction. Looking for most efficient, user friendly and easily maintained system, capable of thawing out trucks upon return quickly. Need to know what the County will dictate. So far, geothermal and all electric. Have been told that all electric is not possible. Stoeber stated that all Board members need to be at this meeting to hear the same information. Meeting will be 6/30/26 at 6:30p.m.
 2. **8/20 0 SD Sign-off:** Neenan would like to get a Board member to get sign off on schematic design.
 3. **Temporary Facility:** H. Ferchau has been talking with the County about a new building they need around the airport. Gunnison Volunteer Fire Department is asking for 5 bays and a bathroom but ultimately it will be a County building.
 4. Utility locates and core drilling is beginning around the fire house.
- C. **Resiliency Code:** Effective 7/1/26, the County has adopted, City of Gunnison has not yet adopted, Saguache County has declined. H. Ferchau stated this should not be a problem because people understand best practices generally with fire codes and don't normally push back on those codes.

VI. Fire Chief's Report:

- A. H. Ferchau advised the Board that they need to update the IGA with the City regarding how the station is to be built. This should be done at the July District Board meeting.
- B. H. Ferchau stated that Stage 1 fire restriction are in effect for the County and BLM. USFS is not putting Stage 1 fire restriction in place yet but probably next week. H. Ferchau advised the Board that he is also trying to work with the Sheriff and BOCC to clean up some ordinances regarding red flag warnings to streamline restrictions when and if applied.
- C. H. Ferchau reported that GVFD had their annual meeting last night, no voting. GVFD invested \$60,00 into an interest compounding bond, instead of funds making next to no interest.
- D. H. Ferchau reported that there is a dispatch crew on local severity for USFS (Bergman, Larsson, Carpenter and Largent). The District should receive \$20,000 for the truck. Per diem is not paid, so he is using the District credit card for sack lunches.

VII. Deputy Chief's Report:

- A. McDonough advised the Board that they are upgrading tires on Tender 26, Rescue 20 and Engine 12. State bid is from Kruger on Toyo tires.
- B. McDonough commented that there has been a lot of training lately. He advised the Board that Crested Butte hosted an amazing training by Sean Gray recently showcasing their culture changing to match ours. Rescue rigging (RFR) training will be this weekend and Hartman's. H. Ferchau advised the Board that RFR came in two years ago and looked at the way we do uphaul system and did proof of safety and some tweaks that are working very well. We can now go up and over and around to rescue. All teachers are in service and part of rescue teams.
- C. Chief 1 should be wrapped up between 6/19 and 6/23. The District will have to pay the \$1,000 deductible. Our insurance company is going after the uninsured motorist that hit Chief 1. Diversified has been great to work with. Tom added a hood repair while the truck was being fixed that will cost \$800.

VIII. New Business:

- A. Smith stated that in the latest look at what do you want the new fire house to look like it was stated that constructing a building straight up is cheaper and leaves spaces for future growth. In doing this there is an area in the building that may work for a new dispatch center. Dispatch has outgrown their area as has the police department. After the fire department passes there is the possibility that there may be a push for a new police department and dispatch center. H. Ferchau has not mentioned this new possibility to anyone yet, needs to talk to District and GVFD. Smith asked if there would be a lease? H. Ferchau answered yes. Board consensus is on board with the possibility of Dispatch being a part of the fire station.

IX. Unscheduled Business:

None.

X. Adjourn:

A motion was made by Cranor to adjourn the meeting at 7:29 p.m.