

**RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS FOR THE
COLORADO RIVER FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
MARCH 10, 2026
STATION 41
1850 RAILROAD AVE., RIFLE, CO 81650**

Chairperson Bristol called the regularly scheduled meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

ROLL CALL:

Board Members Present:

Addy Bristol, Vice President/Acting Chairperson
Dick Miller, Secretary
Alan Lambert, President/Chairperson (arrived late)
Paige Haderlie, Director (Via Conference Call)
Adria Milton-Baker, Treasurer

Others Present:

Leif Sackett, Fire Chief
Dino Ross, Legal Counsel (Via Video Conference)
Scott Van Slyke, EMS/Operations Division Chief
John Gredig, IT Director
Zach Pigati, Wildland/Support Service Division Chief (Via Video Conference)
PJ Tillman, Administrative Director
Jonathan Baker, Lieutenant (Via Video Conference)
Kevin Carlson, Acting Battalion Chief
Matt Mikowski, Lieutenant (Via Video Conference)
Bruce Kimmel, Ehlers Consulting Group (Via Video Conference)
Matt Messner, Battalion Chief (Via Video Conference)
Eric Davis, Facilities Manager (Via Video Conference)
Bill Smith, Lieutenant (Via Video Conference)

ADDITIONS/DELETIONS/CHANGES TO THE AGENDA:

None.

CONSENT AGENDA:

- a. Minutes of February 10, 2026, Regular Board Meeting
- b. February 2026 Financial Reports
- c. February 2026 Accounts Payable Reports
- d. February 2026 Lexipol Policy Review

Secretary Miller moved to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Treasure Milton-Baker seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

None.

LEGAL COUNSEL UPDATE:

Attorney Ross commented on his attorneys' report and provided a general update on several legislative items, noting that some bills are moving forward while others are stalled or delayed.

FIRE CHIEF REPORT:

Fire Chief Sackett's report covered upcoming Board items, including COP funding options and a UTV purchase. Efforts are underway with regional partners to adopt a consistent wildfire resiliency code, and the department's ISO rating remains at 3/10. Work has also begun on developing a shared "CRFR Way," and staff dedication was acknowledged.

NEW BUSINESS/ACTION ITEMS:

a. Fire Chief/Administration: Station 61 Preliminary Overview and Recommendation of Financing Options – Ehlers Public Finance Advisors

Bruce Kimmel outlined a financing plan for the Fire Station 61 project, proposing a competitive bid approach for the issuance of up to \$10 million in COPs to fund most of the \$11.3 million estimated cost of the project, with the remainder covered by District reserves. He believes a competitive sale will secure favorable interest rates. The plan includes a 20-year repayment period at approximately \$740,000 annually. The District is expected to receive a strong credit rating. Key milestones include Board approval of a "parameters resolution" at its April meeting and closing by late May.

A motion was made by Secretary Miller and seconded by Treasurer Milton-Baker to authorize the COP Committee and Ehlers, with legal counsel's assistance, to proceed with the potential funding through a competitive bid process and submit a parameters resolution at the April Board meeting.

OLD BUSINESS/DISCUSSION ITEMS/FOLLOW-UP ITEMS:

a. Fire Chief/Operations: Review and Consider Updated Executive Summary for the Purchase of a 911 Rescue UTV, Trailer, and EMS-R Rescue Slide

EMS/Operations Division Chief Van Slyke presented additional data and a proposal for a UTV program, including a four-seat UTV, patient care module, and enclosed trailer for

storage and transport. The unit would support rescue operations, wildland access, and large community events by improving patient access and response efficiency.

Treasurer Milton-Baker moved to approve Option 2, authorizing the purchase of the UTV, enclosed trailer, and related equipment for \$49,137.44. Vice President Bristol seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

WILDLAND/SUPPORT SERVICES UPDATES:

Wildland & Support Services Division Chief Pigati provided an update, highlighting recent achievements, including Lieutenant Robbins completing RXB2 training and Chief Nix attending a national Air Attack Academy. He noted ongoing fleet repairs and maintenance, preparation of wildland equipment for the upcoming season, and continued facility improvements to enhance training spaces.

EMS/OPERATIONS UPDATES:

EMS/Operations Division Chief Van Slyke reported on a recent incident where a District fire engine was struck on the interstate, with no injuries. Recruitment efforts are ongoing, including participation in a career fair and updates to the District's hiring website. Training highlights included District-wide pediatric (PALS) training and a command and control "train-the-trainer" course, which will support future training initiatives. Overall, staff efforts and commitment to safety and development were recognized.

PREVENTION UPDATES:

No report.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY/DATA UPDATES:

IT Director Gredig reported on assisting with data analysis for the UTV program and researching response times to evaluate potential equipment needs on fire engines. He also submitted a grant application to help fund replacement radios and is attending a conference focused on accreditation and credentialing, with plans to share insights for training opportunities.

ADMINISTRATION/FINANCE UPDATES:

Administrative Director Tillman reported on her participation in weekly COP Committee meetings and work on pension-related election items. Administrative Assistant Valencia has been busy with recruitment efforts, including preparation of promotional materials for upcoming job fairs.

LOCAL 4951:

Local 4951's representative, Acting Battalion Chief Carlson, reported that the Local approved moving forward with a wage study through the IAFF and a GIS analysis, both supported through the Local's resources. The Local is collaborating with staff to gather necessary data, has launched a new auxiliary group for families, and is planning a social event in May.

DEPARTMENT GOOD NEWS:

Fire Chief Sackett stated that no formal recognitions were submitted for the month. He noted there was a recent public letter recognizing first responders, which will be included in a future report.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS:

Vice President Bristol stated she had no comment this evening.

Treasurer Milton-Baker thanked everyone for their unwavering commitment to the community and thanked Vice President Bristol and President Lambert for all the work they are putting into the COP Committee for Station 61.

Director Haderlie also thanked Vice President Bristol and President Lambert for all the work they have been doing on the COP Committee and thanked EMS/Operations Division Chief Van Slyke for the extra work on providing the information the Board needed to make their decision on the on the side-by-side purchase.

Secretary Miller shared a personal experience with his CO2 alarm and would like the public to be more aware.

President Lambert thank Vice President Bristol for starting the meeting and thanked everyone for all the hard work.

ADJOURNMENT:

With no other business coming before the Board, Chairperson Lambert adjourned the meeting at 7:49 p.m.

APPROVAL:

The foregoing Minutes, which have been approved by the affirmative majority vote of the Board of Directors of the Colorado River Fire Protection District, are a true and accurate record of the meeting held on the date stated above.

Date: Adria Milton-Baker 4-12-2026

Date: 4/14/20

Sh.M. Lombard