

**RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS FOR THE
COLORADO RIVER FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
MAY 12, 2026
STATION 41
1850 RAILROAD AVE., RIFLE, CO 81650**

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

ROLL CALL:

Board Members Present:

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

Others Present:

Leif Sackett, Fire Chief
Dino Ross, Legal Counsel (Via Video Conference)
Scott Van Slyke, EMS/Operations Division Chief
John Gredig, IT Director
Orrin Moon, Prevention Division Chief
PJ Tillman, Administrative Director
Matt Mikowski, Lieutenant (Via Video Conference)
Kevin Carlson, Acting Battalion Chief
Jerrod Merriam, Battalion Chief
Eric Davis, Facilities Manager (Via Video Conference)
Kevin Alvey, Battalion Chief (Via Video Conference)
Joe Farstad, Wember (Owner's Representative)

ADDITIONS/DELETIONS/CHANGES TO THE AGENDA:

None.

CONSENT AGENDA:

- a. Minutes of April 14, 2026, Regular Board Meeting
- b. April 2026 Financial Reports
- c. April 2026 Accounts Payable Reports
- d. April 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 updated the board on legal matters and key legislation impacting fire districts, including firefighter cancer coverage, EMS reimbursement requirements, workers' compensation changes, and AI disclosure laws. He advised the board on the timeline for issuing the Certificates of Participation ("COP"), noting the COP process has had a slight delay of about two weeks. The board will consider final approval of the transaction at its June 9 meeting and the closing will be on June 11. He also discussed with the board Senate Bill 26-184 and House Bill 26-1069 related to cancer coverage and EMS reimbursement.

FIRE CHIEF REPORT:

Fire Chief Sackett reported on additional staffing discussions and finalizing the guaranteed maximum price for the Station 61 renovation/expansion project. CRFR also hosted a public meeting on the renovation/expansion project, began department-wide wellness assessments, and is preparing for the final inspection of the new engine. The Chief also recognized personnel for their professionalism and response to recent high-acuity incidents.

NEW BUSINESS/ACTION ITEMS:

a. Fire Chief/Operations: Review and Consider Additional Line Staffing Action Item

Chief Vanslyke presented a staffing and overtime analysis, recommending an increase in line staffing from 42 to 45 personnel to reduce structural overtime, improve operational resiliency, and better accommodate attrition, training, and modified duty assignments. The board reviewed overtime and attrition data, staffing impacts, and projected cost savings associated with reduced overtime usage. Following discussion, the consensus of the board was that additional sustainability research and historical overtime analysis needed to be completed before the board would revisit the recommendation.

OLD BUSINESS/DISCUSSION ITEMS/FOLLOW-UP ITEMS:

a. Fire Chief/Administration: Review and Consider Accepting the Guaranteed Maximum Price (GMP) for Station 61 Renovation Project

The board reviewed the GMP Amendment for the Station 61 renovation/expansion project, including contract revisions, budget contingencies, and project security measures. Discussion included bonding requirements, project costs exceeding prior estimates due to

the District not receiving anticipated grant funding, and planned use of contingencies and deductive change orders to manage expenses. The board also confirmed that fencing, CCTV cameras, and construction site management measures will be implemented to improve safety and reduce liability.

Vice President Bristol moved to approve the exhibit A GMP Amendment, subject to final changes by legal counsel and chief staff to finalize the document. Secretary Miller seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

WILDLAND/SUPPORT SERVICES UPDATES:

Wildland & Support Services Division Chief Pigati was unable to attend, and Fire Chief Sackett reported ongoing wildfire deployments in Florida, Southeast Colorado, and New Mexico, along with successful community chipping efforts that converted 200 cubic yards of material into mulch for residents. Engine 64 was repaired and returned to service following a February snowstorm accident, and grounds maintenance required less weed spraying this year due to last year's treatment efforts.

EMS/OPERATIONS UPDATES:

EMS/Operations Division Chief Van Slyke recognized crews and partner agencies for their effective response to the recent train derailment, which resulted in limited injuries despite significant potential hazards. He also highlighted strong recruitment efforts, ongoing training initiatives, and recognized staff members for their contributions to firefighter and paramedic development.

PREVENTION UPDATES:

Prevention Division Chief Moon provided an update on new airport hangar construction, upcoming Xcel power line work along Highway 335, and coordination efforts with contractors to maintain safety throughout the summer project. He also highlighted recent community risk reduction activities, including participation in a child safety fair and outreach events with local elementary students.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY/DATA UPDATES:

IT Director Gredig provided an update on wildfire mitigation tracking efforts, implementation of a new electronic Knox key system to improve mutual aid access with neighboring agencies, and ongoing work to enhance reporting processes in preparation for future technologies and treatment advancements.

ADMINISTRATION/FINANCE UPDATES:

Administrative Director Tillman reported that the financial audit has reached the draft report stage, leading to preparation of a Amended 2025 Budget and upcoming public hearing notice. She also highlighted the success of the “We Are Hiring” campaign and continued outreach efforts at local CMC job fair.

LOCAL 4951:

Local 4951’s representative, Lieutenant Bill Smith, reported that there has been continued progress on the IAFF project and GIS study, with final products expected soon. He also mentioned plans for a retirees’ reunion breakfast and a family summer outing aimed at supporting employee engagement and family participation.

DEPARTMENT GOOD NEWS:

Fire Chief Sackett highlighted several positive accomplishments and community engagement efforts, including station tours for local youth groups, crews assisting a local business during a wind event, and recognition of Paramedic Bosman and her crew for successfully performing a cricothyrotomy procedure during a critical medical call. Additional appreciation was shared through community thank-you notes recognizing compassionate hospice care responses, wildfire mitigation and chipping assistance provided to residents, and the professionalism displayed during the recent train incident response.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS:

Secretary Miller said that he is amazed by the crew members and appreciates each one of them.

Treasurer Milton-Baker expressed that she is amazed by the crew members, as well, and feels privileged to be a part of this team.

Vice President Bristol thanked staff for their reports and expressed appreciation for the department’s continued focus on staffing, budgeting, and the work performed by all providers

President Lambert read and acknowledged a thank-you note from the train manager involved in the recent incident, recognizing the professionalism and service provided by department personnel during the response.

ADJOURNMENT:

With no other business coming before the Board, Chairperson Lambert adjourned the meeting at 8:20 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: 6/9/20

Sharon M. Furbush

Date: 6/9/26

Plamira