

**RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS FOR THE  
COLORADO RIVER FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
DECEMBER 09, 2025  
STATION 64  
775 CASTLE VALLEY BLVD., NEW CASTLE, CO 81647**

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

**ROLL CALL:**

**Board Members Present:**

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

**Others Present:**

Leif Sackett, Fire Chief  
Dino Ross, Legal Counsel (Via Conference Call)  
Scott Van Slyke, EMS/Operations Division Chief  
Zach Pigati, Wildland/Support Service Division Chief  
John Gredig, IT Director  
PJ Tillman, Administrative Director  
Orrin Moon, Prevention Division Chief  
Eric Davis, Facilities Manager (Via Conference Call)  
Kortnie Valencia, Administrative Support Assistant  
Matt Mikowski, Lieutenant (Via Conference Call)  
Jared Robbins, Wildland Lieutenant (Via Conference Call)  
Jonathan Baker, Lieutenant (Via Conference Call)  
Bill Smith, Lieutenant  
Matt Messner, Battalion Chief

**ADDITIONS/DELETIONS/CHANGES TO THE AGENDA:**

Fire Chief Sackett asked to add action item c.) under New Business: Consider the Rifle Fire Protection District Volunteer Firefighter Pension Plan (7306-5) Board of Trustees' recommendation to adopt Plan C of the July 2025 pension plan actual valuation report by Gabriel, Roeder, Smith & Company (GRS). The Board accepted the requested amendment.

**CONSENT AGENDA:**

Vice President Bristol moved to accept the Consent Agenda as presented. Secretary Miller seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

## **PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

None.

## **LEGAL COUNSEL UPDATE:**

Attorney Ross explained that the budget resolution is more complex this year due to TABOR refund requirements resulting from the projected over-collection of tax revenue that will be generated by the final voter-approved phased-in mill levy increase, and the first-year impact of HB24B-1001. He highlighted the challenges in calculating the tax credit and mill levy reduction. He suggested that at some point the Board consider asking the District's voters to exempt the District from HB24B-1001's property tax revenue growth limits..

## **FIRE CHIEF REPORT:**

Fire Chief Sackett presented annual highlights, recognizing personnel promotions, and a significant increase in training hours. He also noted successful community outreach efforts, expanded communication and administrative improvements, and increased occupancy inspections and plan reviews for new developments. He expressed appreciation for the dedication and professionalism of the District's members and for the Board's continued support.

## **NEW BUSINESS/ACTION ITEMS:**

- a. Fire Chief/Administration: Review and Consider Resolution No. CRFPD-2025-12-01 Adopting a Budget for the Calendar Year 2026 | Appropriating Sums of Money | Certifying and Levying Property Taxes**

Fire Chief Sackett reviewed with the Board Resolution No. CRFPD-2025-12-01 adopting the 2026 budget, appropriating funds, and certifying the property tax mill levy. Discussion focused on Sections 3 and 4, which address the mill levy reductions that are necessary to comply with HB24B-1001 and TABOR's over-collection mill levy reduction requirement. Section 5 certifies the 2026 mill levy at 11.858 mills, which reflects an overall reduction of approximately one mill from the previously planned mill levy rate, and is consistent with proceeding under the 2026 base budget.

Vice President Bristol moved to approve Resolution No. CRFPD-2025-12-01. Treasurer Milton-Baker seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

- b. Fire Chief/Administration: Review and Consider 2026 Health & Wellness Services Proposals**

Fire Chief Sackett presented proposals from Solid Ground Health and Frontline Mobile Health, noting that both were similarly priced and budgeted. He stated that Chief Staff is

recommending Frontline Mobile Health due to additional services, including chest X-rays and cancer screening ultrasounds.

Following discussion, Vice President Bristol moved to accept the recommendation to move to Front Line Medical for the Health and Wellness Provider. Treasurer Milton-Baker seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

**c. Consider the Rifle Fire Protection District Volunteer Firefighter Pension Plan Board of Trustees' recommendation to adopt Plan C of the July 2025 pension plan actuarial valuation report by Gabriel, Roeder, Smith & Company (GRS).**

The Board discussed the Trustees' recommended increase in the monthly pension benefit for Fund 7306-5, noting that the pensioners of that fund have requested a 5% increase, which is provided under Plan C. Vice President Bristol stated that she supports Plan B because it provides a 3% increase in the monthly pension benefit for Fund 7306-5, which matches the increase in the monthly pension benefit that the Board of Trustees of the Burning Mountain Fire Protection District Volunteer Firefighter Pension Fund made for Fund 7247-5 .

Vice President Bristol moved to adopt the proposed Plan B, providing a 3% benefit increase for the Fund 7306-5, with the intent of addressing long-standing benefit disparities between Fund 7247-5 and Fund 7306-5. Treasurer Milton-Baker seconded the motion. Director Haderlie abstained. The motion passed unanimously..

**OLD BUSINESS/DISCUSSION ITEMS/FOLLOW-UP ITEMS:**

**a. Fire Chief/Facilities: Station 61 Renovation Progress Report**

Fire Chief Sackett provided an update on Station 61, noting that progress toward 90% design and development was delayed a little. Work was completed to dissolve multiple lot lines into a single parcel, simplifying the planning and zoning process. Prevention Chief Moon has presented the project to the Town of Silt's Planning and Zoning Commission. Chief Staff is waiting for any feedback or requested changes.

---

**WILDLAND/SUPPORT SERVICES UPDATES:**

Wildland & Support Services Division Chief Pigati reported ongoing Wildland and Support Services activity, including job fair participation, fleet and facility maintenance, assistance to neighboring fire departments/districts, and completion of 71 pile burns treating approximately 6.6 acres in Newcastle. He also noted that Battalion Chief Nix was selected to attend the National Aerial Supervision Academy in Arizona as one of 16 participants nationwide.

**EMS/OPERATIONS UPDATES:**

EMS/Operations Division Chief Van Slyke reported EMS crews successfully managed the first major snowstorm of the season, responding to multiple incidents, particularly on the Interstate, while operating safely and efficiently under hazardous conditions. Firefighter/EMT Austin Cooper completed the EMS field training evaluation program and is now cleared to operate independently.

#### **PREVENTION UPDATES:**

Prevention Division Chief Moon reported that the Planning and Zoning Commission meeting for Station 61 went well, with no significant concerns raised. District members supported multiple community fireworks events and completed training related to a new solar and battery storage facility at Eagle Springs Ranch Road, which is designed to provide power to the valley and requires specialized safety preparation.

#### **INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY/DATA UPDATES:**

IT Director Gredig reported that he has been finalizing preparations to transition to the new National Emergency Response Information System (NERIS), including completing updates and providing crews with a preliminary overview of upcoming changes.

#### **ADMINISTRATION/FINANCE UPDATES:**

Administrative Director Tillman reported that she has been focused on the 2026 budget and completing compliance filings with Department of Local Affairs (DOLA).

#### **DEPARTMENT GOOD NEWS:**

Fire Chief Sackett reported that the District received several notes of appreciation highlighting the professionalism, dedication, and skill of its personnel. Praise included recognition for acting Battalion Chief Carlson's leadership, successful medical response, and airlift of an injured visitor in Coulter Mesa, positive experiences from a ride-along participant, and a crew's lifesaving CPR at a local campground.

#### **BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS:**

Secretary Miller said that he is happy to be here and that he loves what the District's personnel do.

Treasurer Milton-Baker praised the firefighters' professionalism, training, and life-saving actions, highlighting their dedication and the positive impact on those they serve.

Vice President Bristol expressed appreciation to Administrative Director Tillman and the chief team for handling the 2026 budget. She also stated her agreement with Treasurer

Milton- Baker, that the District has excellent personnel and it is encouraging to see members recognizing one another.

President Lambert expressed pride in being part of the organization and gratitude for the professionalism of the firefighters, EMTs, and medics, and their dedication to serving the community.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

With no other business coming before the Board, Chairperson Lambert adjourned the meeting at 7:31 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: 1/13/2020



Date: 1/13/2020

