



**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
**MINUTES**

**FLORISSANT FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT  
BOARD MEETING**

**Wednesday, January 21, 2026**

**6:00 PM – Regular Board Meeting**

**2606 US Highway 24, Florissant, CO 80816**

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1. Call to Order

- Meeting called to order by: Paul del Toro
- Pledge of Allegiance: completed
- Board Roll Call
  - Members present: Jim McGovern, Paul del Toro, LeAnne Spicer, Mark Harter
  - Members Absent: Debbie Blanc

2. Approval of Meeting Minutes

- Monthly Board minutes (12/17/2025), motion by Paul del Toro, second by Mark Harter, approval Board Vote 4-0.
- Special Mtg minutes (1/8/2026), motion by Paul del Toro, second by Mark Harter, approval Board Vote 4-0.

3. Public Comment

- Mark Kohlman, CME. “When fire incidents occur, how does FFPD communicate that to the community?” Board / Chief Buchan response that FFPD doesn’t have resources to report details of all fire incidents (118 fire incidents in FFPD district in 2025). Major trends and lessons learned are reported in the FFPD Chief’s Monthly Report and discussed at each monthly FFPD Board meeting.

4. Announcement and discussion of Board Position Vacancy

- Paul del Toro read Debbie Blanc’s (Board Secretary) resignation letter from FFPD. Debbie will be missed, she was a valuable contributor to FFPD in 2025 with Secretary duties, Policy Committee Chair, and grant knowledge.
- FFPD will post a vacancy announcement to fill the vacant Board her position. Applications will be accepted until Feb 18, 2026, upon which the Board will review the applicants and appoint a qualified replacement. By policy, the appointed position will be for the period until the 2027 FFPD Board election.

## 5. Old Business

- 2026 SDA Annual Meeting: Board member Mark Harter summarized the 2026 SDA Annual meeting held on Jan 9, 2026. Highlights include: SDA audit successful with good financial standing; SDA is pursuing CORA reform in 2026; progress with Colorado funding fire-fighter trusts; SDA offers DEO training.
- FWSD Fire Hydrant Status: Board member Mark Harter reported that the new fire hydrant at the Florissant Crystal Peak water tower was successfully installed, tested, invoiced, and paid for on Dec 27, 2025. This additional water hydrant increases FFPD water resource access and improves the ISO rating for the Crystal Peak subdivision.

## 6. New Business

- Post Fire Recovery / Incident Assistance Policy for Approval. Policy #FFPD-OPS-001-2026, provides administrative guidelines for consistent, lawful, community-focused guidelines for post-fire recovery and voluntary post-incident remediation assistance provided by FFPD. Board member Paul del Toro read the entire policy with time for Board discussion and questions. FFPD may provide limited, voluntary, temporary assistance up to \$250 when safe conditions allow and proper approvals are obtained (by authorities and property owners). District personnel will not perform permanent repairs, negotiate insurance, or provide legal advice. No District tools, logos, or vehicles shall be loaned to or used by non-district personnel. Motion for approval of Policy #FFPD-OPS-001-2026 by Paul del Toro, second by LeAnne Spicer, approval Board Vote 4-0.
- Capital Improvements and 2026 FFPD Millage Increase  
FFPD capital needs require additional revenue and funding for 2026 and beyond (facilities, vehicles, water availability) for sustained emergency response operations. The Board again believes the best method to obtain additional funding is with a 2026 election for a district millage increase in property taxes, which hasn't occurred for 21 years for FFPD (2004). The FFPD Capital Improvements team will identify needs, propose solutions, and implement a 2026 election ballot initiative. The committee will have its first meeting in February 2026 at FFPD Station 51 (details to be announced). Community participation is welcome as the FFPD Board will begin to address and shape the following:
  - Finance / Budget: revenues, expenses, economic impacts, millage rate needed
  - Strategy: Simplified (Station, Infrastructure, Vehicles, Water Access are top priorities); determine options and best approach for the millage increase (points, all at once vs incremental, etc).

- DEO for coordinated election in November 2026
  - Public Engagement: accurate, clear, consistent messaging; public events; media (local newspapers); social media; suggestion box; website postings; etc. This is a critical aspect of the ballot initiative.
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- 2026 Wildfire Outlook. Chief Buchan presented a data-based approach to 2026 FFPD wildfire operations with information from the National Interagency Fire Center (NIFC). 2026 is transitioning from a La Nina to El Nino pattern (historically El Nino has more wildfire risk). Severe drought conditions continue in Colorado, particularly northwest Colorado. Mountain Pine Beetle across state has significantly increased fuel, and is now spreading to Ponderosa Pines in the Colorado front range from Boulder to Pueblo. Slides posted on FFPD website.
  - Second Half of Tactical Tender Payment. \$24,133.77 remaining to complete Tactical Tender (truck only), already budgeted for 2026. The tank and pump will be additional and a separate project that Chief is currently researching (FFPD has \$50k budgeted for the tank and pump). Motion to approve remaining payment of the Tactical Tender truck (24,133.77) by Paul del Toro, second by LeAnne Spicer, approval Board Vote 4-0.
  - Squad 51 Replacement. FFPD needs to replace the existing Squad 51 vehicle (2009 Tahoe), which is primarily used for EMS response. Squad 51 was damaged during a response call; the insurance adjuster is providing an estimate this week, possibly totaled. Replacement of Squad 51 was already planned and partially budgeted for later in 2026, but is needed now. In addition to vehicle replacement cost, an estimated \$16,000 is needed for lights, sirens, radios, stickers. During this Board meeting, the Board initially approved a motion to approve Chief Buchan to research and purchase a late model vehicle to replace Squad 51, up to the \$25K already budgeted plus insurance reimbursement (motion by Paul del Toro, second by Jim McGovern, approval Board Vote 4-0). Later during the Board meeting, discussion on the priority of authorizing wildfire crews earlier than planned due to wildfire risk led to the Board rescinding the Squad 51 replacement motion; motion to rescind by Jim McGovern; second by Paul del Toro, approval Board Vote 4-0. Further discussion on replacing Squad 51 will continue in future Board meetings.
  - 2026 Seasonal Wildfire Crew Hiring. FFPD had a historic record year of 15 fire deployments in 2025 which were essential in training, experience, knowledge, and revenue. One limitation is availability of FFPD firefighters. Given the predicted increased wildfire risk in 2026, Chief Buchan requests additional firefighter staff to be available for FFPD wildfire deployments. Current FFPD 2026 budget allocates

\$130,000 for the year for wildfire crews. Chief Buchan is requesting \$87,360 to cover wildfire crews on staff starting in Feb 2026. Other Teller County FPDs are already building their wildland fire crews, and if FFPD delays we could lose qualified and experienced wildland firefighters to other districts. Other financial considerations: FFPD is waiting for \$150,000+ in receivables from 2025 expenses; FFPD will receive the majority of property tax revenue in March, May, and June. Board motioned to bring ½ wildfire crew (2 Squad Bosses) on line with a start date of NET Feb 16; motion by Mark Harter, second by Paul del Toro, Board Vote 4-0.

Note: Jan Franke is developing a mitigation plan for local wildfire fighters to include increased FFPD chipping services (Spring, Summer, Fall chipping program using Teller County chipper). Wildland firefighter crews can be used to support this if they're not deployed on wildfire missions.

## 7. Board Reports

- Secretary's Report: Completed 2 agendas and 2 sets of minutes (12/17/2025; 1/8/2026). Processed one CORA request, which was not completed due to requestor not paying for the required deposit.
  
- Treasurer's Report: As of 12/31/2025, FFPD financials ended on track with 2025 budget. Total cash & receivables is \$551,245.73. FFPD still waiting for \$150,556.91 accounts receivable (wildfire deployments). Reserve account is \$400,678. 2025 FFPD audit is required due to budget size and is being scheduled by CBIZ.
  
- Chief's Report:
  - Fire reported in Indian Creek on 12/14/2025, FFPD responded, determined to be an unauthorized burn. TCSO was informed and incident report filed.
  - 52 FFPD response calls in December 2025 including 27 EMS and 8 fire.
  - Total 2025 calls were 518 (record for FFPD)
  - Fire Corps major activities: Woodland Park Parade, Toy Drive,
  - Board Motion: Continue using Colorado Department of Public Safety (CDPS) position pay rate matrix as adjusted for 2026. Motion by LeAnne Spicer, second by Paul del Toro, approval Board Vote 4-0.
  - Numerous high-level awards were presented to FFPD volunteers and staff in 2025:
    - Medal of Valor for heroic efforts during Elk Fire: Mike Lucarelli, Chloe Sebring
    - Mary Barrowman Prospect Award: Dayton Smith
    - Officer of the Year: Jordan Moon
    - Firefighter of the year: Vicky Collings
    - Top Responder of the Year: LeAnne Spicer
    - Rookie of the Year: Sue Davis

- Fire Corps Award: Terri Churchill
- Chief's Award: Gary North
- Citizens Award: The Thetford Team
- Committee Reports
  - Policy Committee: Post Fire Incident policy approved by FFPD Board on 1/21/2025.
  - Budget Committee: No activity during holiday period.
  - Technology Committee: evaluating FFPD needs and solutions for cyber security, anti-virus, password management, VPN, 3<sup>rd</sup> party tools, licenses, AV system, connectivity, intranet, sharepoint, copier replacement, new bunkhouse server, internal data back-ups, information technology.
  - Water Resources Committee: working with FWSD on new fire hydrant combination locks, and grants for 7 new fire hydrants.

8. Adjournment: 8:55pm, Paul del Toro, second by Jim McGovern, approval Board Vote 4-0.