



PUBLIC NOTICE

MINUTES

FLORISSANT FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT BOARD MEETING

Wednesday, April 15, 2026

6:00 PM – Regular Board Meeting

1. Call to Order
 - Meeting called to order by: Jim McGovern at 6:00pm
 - Pledge of Allegiance – completed
 - Roll Call of Board Members: All Present
Jim McGovern, Paul del Toro, LeAnne Spicer, Mark Harter, Rich Krochta

2. Approval of Meeting Minutes
 - Approval of Meeting Minutes: Monthly Board 3/18/2026 Minutes, Motion for approval by Rick Krochta Second LeAnne Spicer, Board Vote approved 5-0.

3. Public Comment: None

4. Chief's Report (March 2026)
 - Teller County has been in Stage 2 Burn Ban for all of April; most of TC is drought conditions.
 - Operations: 70 total FFPD calls in March 2026. 429 Volunteer hours in March 2026.
 - Training: 96 training hours, 4 training sessions.
 - Mitigation Risk Reduction: Jan Franke applied for and FFPD was awarded the International Association of Fire Chiefs Mitigation Grant (\$12K) project for Hwy 24 mitigation (tree clearing, CUSP wood chipping, USFS partnership). This will start in the May-June time-frame.
 - Fire Corps Report: Successful FFPD First Friday night (March 6). Spring Open House (April 11) was a big success, net proceeds about \$1,500 (after expenses) with about 100 community people attending during the event. FFPD will be participating in Cripple Creek Donkey Derby Days, June 26-28.
 - FFPD conducting residential wildfire assessments, call FFPD to schedule an appointment.
 - Annual Teller County Pine Needle & Pine Cone collection at FFPD is May 20-23. There will be 4 TC dumpsters for FFPD residents to deposit Pine needles & pine cones (must be bagged).

- FFPD wood chipping spaces are still available for August and October (June is filled up).
- TC Wildland Fire Council was cancelled again today (3rd consecutive cancellation)
- In March, FFPD deployed to South Dakota, Nebraska, and Colorado wildfires.
- Engine 53 leaf springs are fixed, but now has a leak being repaired from SD deployment; repair cost will be covered by South Dakota fire reimbursement contract.
- Improved ISO 5/5Y rating effective 4/1/2026, which improves FFPD property owners insurability and potentially lower premiums.

5. Old Business

- EMTS Grant Update: the FFPD EMTS Grant successfully moved into round 2 (of 3) and looks promising for award (announce in May, funding in June). This is a 50%-50% matching grant of \$38K from FFPD, and \$38K from State of Colorado.
- Update on Air Curtain Burner options from CUSP: FFPD has been in discussion with CUSP (Adrian Knight) for leasing their Air Curtain Burner (S-217) for 1 year. The proposed Lease agreement is for one calendar year starting May 1st, 2026, for a lease cost of \$5,000. FFPD would pay for and provide transportation for the unit from its current location in Divide to 2606 US Hwy 24 in Florissant. FFPD would be responsible for all maintenance and costs for the unit during the lease period, FFPD would fully insure the unit during the lease period.

If the lease is approved, FFPD plans to operate the Burner at Station 51. Burning policy is still being developed. But would likely focus on using the Burner in winter season with snow present, and would not use the burner during Red Flag or Stage 2 Fire Ban conditions. FFPD would be required to acquire a new EPA permit, typically valid for 3 years. Operating costs discussed include: Diesel Fuel (1 gal/hour), Maintenance: replace batteries and filters. Ash disposal: often community gardeners need ash for composting so that will be made available.

CUSP would train FFPD on operating and maintaining the unit; provide information on local and state rules, regulations, and requirements for operating the unit; be on site to assist FFPD on the first day it is put into operation; help FFPD develop a policy for the operations and maintenance of the unit. CUSP charges customers \$20/truckload to drop off slash; FFPD would need to determine the slash drop-off charge as part of policy.

FFPD Board comments: The Board generally supports the Air Burner lease. District desperately needs another means for slash removal (other than chipping). This would be a great service for FFPD to provide to the community. There are remaining policy questions to resolve, and will be addressed at a near-term Special Board meeting (date TBD). How do we control slash dump-off during non-business hours? Will the burning conflict with heli-pad operations? Need to determine process for FFPD taking reservations/appointments to pick up slash for "suggested donations". What is the EPA process and cost for certification. Would slash be limited to FFPD residents? Estimated

first year costs to FFPD are about \$8K (lease, insurance, maintenance, transport, EPA certification). Board elects to continue research the air curtain burner policy and possibly discuss at a possible special meeting (date TBD).

- Station 51 Generator Estimate update: 3 quotes, all for Generac models.
 1. D&M Electric, generator just for Station 51 Fire Hall, Generac 24kW, cost \$12.3K.
 2. Lenz Electric, generator for Station 51 for 3 buildings, 22kW liquid cooled. \$59K.
 3. White Rhino Electric, Option 1 – Fire House, 26 kW generator, \$18K; Option 2 – Firehouse + Bays, 26kW generator, \$22K. Check to see if this can be purchased through COSTCO membership.
Motion by LeAnne Spicer to accept White Rhino Option 2 bid, up to \$22K. Second by Mark Harter. Board vote 5-0.
- FFPD Newsletter: Board discussed sending out the Newsletter earlier than Pancake Breakfast month (July) in order to build momentum for *Florissant First!* initiative and publicize next public Work Session. Earlier mailing provides opportunity to send second newsletter out in fall to emphasize ballot initiative. Board settled on a plan is to keep the main newsletter on schedule for July, but also send out a two 1-pg (double-sided) flyers (one in the Spring and one in the Fall) informing the public regarding the *Florissant First!* Initiative. The May FFPD Flyer should include a brief description of the *Florissant First!* initiative, description of the highest priority FFPD needs (i.e. replace aging equipment and build a new firehouse to house that equipment); estimate of overall cost; benefits to be gained; and dates for public meetings over the next couple of months. Ideally the flyer can address the What? Why? How? and How Much? Motion by Jim McGovern to authorize the Florissant First Committee to prepare a 1-pg double-sided flyer in May, second by Paul del Toro, Board vote 5-0. Mark Harter requested Board inputs for newsletter content by April 22, 2026, to be published and mailed by May 10.

6. New Business

- CO-UTAP Fire Station Architecture Scope & MOU: Board concurred with CO-UTAP Scope (v5), and views this as a good opportunity to partner with professional Colorado organizations to show serious intent of a new fire station. This is a 9-12 month architecture concept effort conducted by UTAP and sponsored by DOLA, with cost to FFPD of \$3,600. Architecture schematics, products, community townhalls, and coordination will continue through June 2027. Motion to proceed with signing the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU: CO-UTAP, DOLA, FFPD) by Mark Harter, second by Paul del Toro, Board vote 5-0.
- Impact Fee Study: Florissant is currently the fastest growing zip code in Teller County, and FFPD is considering implementing an impact fee on new construction in order to help fund the added cost of providing services to more structures. The law requires an impact fee study be completed prior to implementation of any impact fees. . This Impact Fee Study covers FFPD facility capitalization expansion for new development during a 5-

10 year future period. FFPD received a quote from BBC Research Consultant to conduct an Impact Fee Study, for up to 6 month effort (not to exceed \$12,000), similar to the NETCO Impact Fee process. If started in May, it will be completed by Aug 2026. Motion to approve by Jim McGovern proposal for Impact Fee Study, second by Rich Krochta, Board vote 5-0.

- FFPD Wildland Deployments – Out of District Policy: Given the increasing operational tempo for FFPD Wildland deployments, Chief Buchan drafted and proposed a new FFPD Wildland Deployment policy. This covers safety, incident response, pre-positioning of resources, and interagency coordination. The policy also describes the circumstances under which FFPD personnel will not be deployed. The Fire Chief retains the authority to recall apparatus and personnel at any time due to apparatus mechanical issues, personnel limitations or reduced staffing, changes in wildfire danger conditions within the district, and incidents requiring reassignment within or near the district. Motion to approve this policy by Jim McGovern second by Rich Krochta, Board vote 5-0.
- Additional Seasonal Wildfire Position Staffing: early deployments this year are driving the need for an additional FFPD Engine Boss. There are 2 options: 1) hire a new engine boss solely for this purpose (difficult this time of year, about \$32K); or 2) bring on 2 more firefighter type 2's (easier to obtain, \$42K). FFPD will be reimbursed for either option when personnel are deployed. Motion by Jim McGovern to authorize Chief Buchan to look for and hire a suitable engine boss, second by Rich Krochta, Board vote 5-0.
- Amending FFPD Bylaws to correct CORA fee disconnect: There is a need to update and change the FFPD Bylaws to state, "Copies of records shall be furnished at the rate specified in the District's Colorado Open Records Act Policy. Fees for research and retrieval will also be charged in accordance with the District's Colorado Open Records Act Policy. In no instance will fees for copies, research or retrieval exceed the rates allowed by law." Motion to approve by Jim McGovern, second by Rich Krochta, Board vote 5-0.
- Implementing a Capital Campaign: This topic has been deferred to the May FFPD Board meeting.
- Establishing an FFPD Capital Reserve Account: Treasurer LeAnne Spicer presented the benefits of transferring a portion of the FFPD's bank account to a capital reserve account which accumulates more interest and is still readily accessible if needed. The Board agrees with this approach. Motion by Mark Harter to designate a capital reserve account and transfer \$148,853.46 from the COLO Trust Prime account, second by Paul del Toro, Board vote 5-0.

7. Board Reports

- ***Florissant First!*** Report

5 poster signs printed & framed illustrating *Florissant First!* priorities and goals. Successful FFPD Board Public Work Session conducted on April 8 (Zoom). Plan is for another FFPD public work session in early June (date TBD) at the Florissant Library.

- Secretary's Report: Completed 3/18 Minutes. One CORA completed in March, one completed to date in April.

- Treasurer's Report: Total FFPD balance is \$693K, with only \$1,700 in accounts receivable (deployment reimbursements almost all fully paid to FFPD).

- Committee Reports

- Budget: no additional information from Treasurer's Report.
- Technology: Paul applied for a \$10K administrative grant, waiting for results.
- Water Resources: FFPD applied for two Fire Hydrant grants they're both a \$50K-\$200K grant match. The FY27 CPF grant was not awarded to FFPD status. The FY27 CDS grant is still being determined by Senators Bennet and Hickenlooper.
- Policy – FFPD Wildland Deployments was approved at the 4/15 FFPD Board meeting.

8. Next FFPD Board Meeting is May 20, 2026.

9. Adjournment at 9:58pm. Motion by Paul del Toro, second by Mark Harter, Board Vote 5-0.