



PUBLIC NOTICE
MINUTES

**FLORISSANT FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT
BOARD MEETING**

Wednesday, December 17, 2025

6:00 PM – Regular Board Meeting

2606 US Highway 24, Florissant, CO 80816

1. Call to Order

- Meeting called to order by Jim McGovern at 6:00pm.
- Pledge of Allegiance – completed.
- Roll Call of Board Members: All members present except Debbie Blanc (excused)
 - Jim McGovern, Paul del Toro, LeAnne Spicer, Mark Harter

2. Approval of Meeting Minutes

- Approval of minutes for meeting 11/19/2025. Motion by Paul del Toro, Second by Mark Harter, Vote 4-0.

3. Public Comment

- Mark Kohlman, CME. Stated he was disappointed that Ballot 6A didn't pass which would have provided FFPD with need emergency response equipment, and he hopes FFPD will be successful in 2026 for increased revenue options.
- Adam Blackwell, Indian Creek. Supports continuing live-streaming of Board meetings as it is a means of FFPD communications with the community. Technology issues can be addressed.
- Don Moore, Indian Creek. Wants to know status of numerous topics: FFPD Public Policy, FFPD Meeting Decorum policy; revisions for 10-4-30 plan; FFPD Fire Recovery Policy. Additionally, he wants to understand roles and responsibilities for responding to specific questions on fire-related issues regarding the Indian Creek Fire Call and online posting.
- Victor Poston, CME. Request for consideration of technology opportunity with Mayday.ai for beta testing of a Flood Detection app using satellites ("FloodSense"). Spoke previously with Chief Buchan and Mark Harter about this. Although Flood response is not a primary FFPD mission, this may also be an opportunity to field test the Guardian Pro Wildfire Detection app in FFPD activities. FFPD and Chief Buchan support wildfire detection and monitoring. During discussion, FFPD

concluded this could be considered as long as there isn't any cost, risk, or liability to FFPD or community, or take away time from current FFPD activities. Mr. Poston stated there would be a "\$50K donation to FFPD" for beta testing the FloodSense app as an independent 3rd party to provide feedback to NASA. The FFPD Board Treasurer noted that if there is a material commitment of FFPD resources (personnel and/or money), then FFPD Board needs to be consulted. FFPD Board member Mark Harter will work with Victor Poston on the necessary documents to coordinate this effort.

- Patty Franke. Commended FFPD and Chief Buchan's ability to build volunteers to accomplish the FFPD mission, creativity, sacrifice, emergency response, community engagement. Advocated for Chief Buchan's increased salary and contract benefits.

4. Old Business: None

5. New Business

- Discussion regarding remote viewing of future FFPD meetings.
 - FFPD is the only FPD in Teller County that has on-line streaming for meetings.
 - There have been technology issues with both YouTube and Zoom (bandwidth, video not showing, audio not audible, hacking, etc).
 - All FFPD Board Directors agreed that it is valuable to have virtual on-line streaming of Board meetings. FFPD will continue the on-line streaming (transmit only) when technically available, and continue addressing the audio-video issues.
- Discussion regarding voter rejection of FFPD mill levy proposal
 - The Board discussed observations from the Nov 2025 Ballot 6A initiative.
 - Ballot 6A did not pass public vote by 57% (No, 995 votes) to 43% (Yes, 763 votes). This means FFPD will remain the lowest millage rate (5.85) of any FPD in Teller County. It was noted that Lake George (Park County) residents approved a 5-point millage rate increase in the Nov 2025 election, putting them at 12.98.
 - The need still exists for FFPD capital modernization (equipment & infrastructure). The Board will analyze the financial revenues and expenses to identify alternatives for another millage rate increase proposal. Some options include increases of 4 millage points all at once, vs a 2-year increase (eg, 2pts +2 pts in consecutive years).
 - The FFPD Board agrees on an earlier start for the Ballot initiative, more and earlier community engagement, improved messaging, adjustments to 10-4-30 modernization structure. A new Ballot Committee will begin work on this in January 2026, chaired by Mark Harter. FFPD is looking for community involvement in this process.



- Update Regarding Legal Matter
 - The FFPD Board received a certified letter with Legal Claim initiated by Don & Toni Moore against the Teller County Board of Commissioners (BOCC), Teller County Sheriff (TSCO), and FFPD. FFPD has legal counsel engaged in reviewing this claim and will respond accordingly through legal channels.

- Special District Association (SDA) – Highlights of 2025 SDA Conference
 - Special Districts (SD) are the most basic form of local government; there are 3,755 Special Districts in Colorado (2,722 are SDA members including FFPD).
 - SDA formed in 1975 to assist building SD's into effective, efficient organizations to accomplish community infrastructure missions. SDA provides education, training, legislative advocacy, resources, information, publications, seminars, legal guidance (Colorado Special District Act of 1981, Title 31 Article 1).
 - SDA is a key organization with many resources for FFPD to leverage including the SDA Board Member Manual, Reference Manuals, Survey of Special District Board Successes and Failures.
 - FFPD is in strong alignment with SDA policies and practices.
 - FFPD will attend the annual Colorado SDA Membership Meeting on Jan 9, 2026.

- FFPD Post Fire Recovery Policy for Approval
 - This topic was deferred until the January 2026 Board meeting since Debbie Blanc and the Policy Committee were not present for discussion.
 - Treasurer noted the 2026 Budget has \$zero budgeted for post-fire recovery.

- Evergreen Fire Rescue:
 - FFPD expresses sincere appreciation to Evergreen Fire Rescue, as they donated a full set of extrication tools (about \$30,000 value). The tools will be housed on FFPD fire engines at Station 51.

- Chief Buchan's salary/insurance compensation review

- The FFPD Chief's current 2025 salary is \$99,840, medical insurance reimbursement \$14,400. With exceptional performance and mission accomplishment, the FFPD Chief is the lowest paid Fire Chief in Teller County.
 - The FFPD 2026 budget (approved during the Nov 2025 FFPD Board meeting) includes 3.8% increase in medical insurance (NTE actual cost) for the FFPD Chief, but zero increase in salary.
 - Board made a motion to approve adjusting Chief Buchan's medical insurance by 3.8% (NTE actual costs). Motion by Jim McGovern, second by Paul del Toro, Vote 3-0 (LeAnne Spicer abstention).
- Audit engagement for 2025 fiscal year
 - While FFPD finances and budget are on track with respect to 2025 revenue and expenditures, it is always beneficial to have an external audit to verify accuracy and provide transparency. The FFPD Budget Committee recommends an external audit of FFPD finances, the Board discussed this and concurs. Motion: FFPD engage an external audit of FFPD 2025 records to occur in 2026, using CBIZ, for up to \$15,000. Motion made by Paul del Toro, second by LeAnne Spicer, Vote 4-0.

6. Board Reports

- Secretary's Report: Deferred to January 2026 (Secretary not present).
- Treasurer's Report: current FFPD bank balance is \$490,851. FFPD is waiting for approximately \$150k reimbursements from Division of Fire Prevention & Control (DFPC). Estimated 2025-year end bank balance is approximately \$550,000. Awaiting invoicing of new Crystal Peak fire hydrant by FWSD (\$6,500). 2025 Legal expenses are higher than expected, but still within budget.
- Chief's Report: As of today (12/17/2025), FFPD has a record 490 calls for the year. November: 27 FFPD calls (13 EMS, 6 fire, 4 MVA). FFPD has significant community outreach with HOA/POA meetings at FFPD, Gold Belt tour. Wildfire on Dec 14 in Divide, FFPD assumed command, limited to 4 acres burned, no structures. FFPD also assisted with several other wildfires outside the FFPD district (Douglas County). 15 total deployments for 2025 (FFPD has billed for \$145,000 reimbursement), and FFPD has access to 75 firefighters in the wildfire division due to partnership with SOCO. Starlink now operational at Station 52. A huge thank you to Mr. Cody Odom for outfitting Utility 51 which is now fully operational. Total FFPD staffing is 71 (36 volunteers, 27 Fire Corps, 8 wildfire crew). Volunteer response rate was 6.6 responders per incident in November, significantly above the U.S. average of 2.2 volunteers. Chief



Buchan is aware of and sensitive to operational risk management of the FFPD volunteer staff.

- Fire Corps: was very active with FFPD Toy Drive Nov 28-29, Festival of Lights Parade (Woodland Park), engagement with Teller County seniors, sponsoring Emergency Preparedness Readiness Workshop on Jan 31, 2026 at FFPD.
- FFPD Board opened sealed bids for Vehicle 51, with the winning bid going to \$12,000 from Mr. Bongiovanni. Motion to sell vehicle 51 for \$12,000 to Mr Bongiovanni by Jim McGovern, second by Mark Harter, Vote 4-0. Motion to allow Chief Buchan to donate “Reggie” fire engine parade truck by Jim McGovern, second by Paul del Toro, Vote 4-0.
- Committee Reports:
 - Budget Committee: Treasurer has filed required filings with DOLA and TC.
 - Policy Committee: Deferred to January 2026.
 - Technology Committee: IT coordination starting.
 - Water Resources Committee: new Crystal Peak fire hydrant being installed this week, ready for FFPD operations check last week of December. FFPD working with FWSD on possible grants for 7 more new fire hydrants in 2026. New combination locks are being installed by FWSD on all Florissant fire hydrants.

7. Adjournment at 8:45pm. Motion by Mark Harter, Second by Paul del Toro. Vote 4-0.