



**FLORISSANT FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT
BOARD MEETING**

Minutes

Wednesday, March 18, 2026

6:00 PM – Regular Board Meeting

2606 US Highway 24, Florissant, CO 80816

Zoom Meeting

1. Call to Order

- Meeting called to order by: Jim McGovern at 6:03pm.
- 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 2/18/2026 Minutes, motion by Paul del Toro, second by Rich Krochta, Vote approved 5-0.

3. Public Comment

- Dennis Schorn: FFPD website, said there was a contradiction of correct CORA payment values that should be updated. Concern that Chief Buchan and FFPD equipment should not be deployed away from FFPD during high fire risk; FFPD Board stated that there was adequate coverage for two Deputy Chiefs, local mutual aid, and plenty of FFPD volunteers. For currency, update website (DOLA 2026 is correct), remove DOLA 2024, 2025. Comment about FFPD acquiring a new Tender, but won't fit in fire station due to size (FFPD informed exhaust stack is being modified to allow placement into the station).
- Mike Chandler, questioning why FFPD wildland fire fighting staff is deployed when there is high Red Flag / Stage 1 Fire Ban in effect?
- Mark Kohlman, said an FFPD "Water Rescue Resources" information sheet dated 2/1/2025, is out of date. He didn't know where it came from or how to find it. FFPD is not aware of this document, or it's purpose. FFPD Board asked Mark Kohlman for a copy of it, he said he would provide it to the FFPD Board, but he hasn't done so yet.

4. Chief's Report (February 2026), by Chief Moon (Chief Buchan on fire deployment to SD).

- Chief Buchan on a 1-week fire deployment assignment at Qury Fire in SD with total of 3 FFPD crew and FFPD engine 53; demobilizing and returning to FFPD Friday 3/20.

- A second 2-person FFPD crew is deployed to the Nebraska Morill fire with Tender truck.
- FFPD had 51 calls in February: 40 EMS, 11 fire/smoke investigations
- 2x FFPD members at Paramedic School (6 months, Denver)
- Tender 52 and Rescue 51 are back from periodic maintenance
- New tactical tender build-up @ Salt Lake City, completion expected by end of March, then it goes to Tulsa, OK for equipment outfitting.
- Stair Chair lift assist equipment donated to FFPD by new firefighter Dave Susko (Indian Creek), valued at about \$500. Thank you Dave!
- Fire Corps Report (Terri Churchill): FFPD Open House on track for April 11, Spaghetti lunch, vendors, fire blankets. FFPD working with PPHS on Pancake Breakfast for big Heritage Days event (Colorado 150th birthday). Silent Auction planned in conjunction with Heritage Days and Pancake Breakfast in July. FFPD Newsletter in April, will have community advertising. Deaune Bogatay is stepping down as co-Fire Corps leader after 10 years of service due to moving out of state. Sue Davis is also stepping away from Fire Corps to focus on being a volunteer firefighter. Renee Neff is new Fire Corps co-leader.

5. Old Business

- Address Board Director appointment from the February 18, 2026 Board meeting.
 - The FFPD Board received written complaints from district resident Ms. Toni Moore (Feb 24, March 10, March 15) stating that the appointment of Mr. Rich Krochta by the FFPD Board during the February 18, 2026 Board meeting was invalid because of a “vague Agenda”, which did not specifically state that voting would occur during that Board meeting. Upon further research of the validity of this complaint, FFPD acquired guidance from the Colorado Special District Association (SDA), which governs over 3,000 Colorado special districts, like FFPD. On March 17, 2026, Chief Executive Officer (Ms. Ann Terry) had a discussion with FFPD Board Director Mark Harter, advising that FFPD did in fact have adequate Agenda description (2/18/2026) to complete old business of appointing (voting) a new Board Director. Additionally, SDA noted that FFPD had suitable written documentation in the January 21, 2026 FFPD Board Minutes which indicated that the FFPD Board would appoint a new member during the February 18, 2026 Board meeting. Based on the guidance received from SDA verifying that the FFPD Board did follow correct agenda and appointment procedures, the FFPD Board dismissed Ms. Moore’s complaint, and determined that Mr. Krochta’s appointment as FFPD Board Director followed legitimate procedures. No further action is required, and the Board determined it was not necessary to make a motion or vote for rescission of Board Director Rich Krochta.
- EMTS Grant Update: The FFPD District Administrator (DA, Ms. Vicky Collings) submitted an application for a 50-50 match grant for medical vehicle as replacement for Squad 52 which was damaged in an accident. The grant match total \$76K (\$38K FFPD+ \$38K grant) = \$76K; it successfully passed the Regional Stage 2 hearing on 3/11/2026. The current status is that it is awaiting follow-up questions in early April, with Grant award announcement by 5/1/2026, and funding available by 6/30/2026.

- FFPD ISO Classification Improvement: FFPD received good news on the annual Insurance Services Office (ISO) review, resulting in an improved reduction in 2026 ISO rating. ISO is an independent organization that evaluates fire departments based on their ability to provide fire protection. These evaluations help determine property insurance rates within the community based on ISO Public Protection Classification (PPC) scale for levels of fire protection (1 is best, 10 is worst). Effective April 1, 2026, the new ISO PPC rating for the entire district will be 5/5Y, an improvement from the previous rating of 5/5X. (Y stands for Class 8 and X represents Class 9). This improvement reflects increased fire protection and potentially lowers property insurance premiums and positively affects Indian Creek, Druid Hills, Florissant Heights, north CME.

6. New Business

- Approve repairs to Engine 51 and current Engine 53: Engine 51 pump repairs are estimated \$4,500 at NETCO. New leaf springs estimate for Engine 53 is \$4,000. 2026 FFPD budget for vehicle repairs is \$65K with, and only \$9K maintenance has been used to date, so there's adequate balance to cover both of these repairs. Motion by Paul del Toro for Engine 51 pump repairs for \$4,500, second by Rich Krochta, Board approval Vote 5-0. Paul del Toro motion for Engine 53 leaf spring repairs in Colorado Springs, second by Jim McGovern, Board approval vote 5-0.
- Discuss Air Curtain Burner: The Coalition of Upper South Platte (CUSP) is having an equipment sale of a 2004 Model S14 Air Curtain burner, burning capacity 2-5 tons/hour, weighs 30,000 lbs, asking price is \$30K. FFPD is potentially interested in this, either as a sole or partnership purchase with other FPDs. FFPD is seeking insurance estimates for this equipment and operation, which could be expensive. This will be researched, further discussed, and possibly voted on at the April 2026 FFPD Board meeting. Some questions and considerations: does FFPD want to partner with another FPD to share cost? Will this air burner be usable during extensive high fire conditions (red flag, stage 1 burns)? The FFPD will be required to provide a certified burner operator for burn operations, where is this training and certification acquired, and cost?. How will the burner be maintained? What are the maintenance, operation, and life cycle costs? Where will it be positioned? What are the slash stacking & heavy loader procedures & costs. What are the EPA approval (Title 5) regulations and restrictions for smoke burning? Note: NoFloCo (Mr. Don Moore) made a verbal statement for consideration, offering to have NoFloCo buy the burner for FFPD, if FFPD pays for the insurance and allows NoFloCo to use it. All of this will be discussed at the April 2026 FFPD Board mtg.
- Discuss Health and Benefit coverage for FFPD full time staff. FFPD 2026 budget has \$14,947 budgeted for Chief Buchan's health insurance. Several options are being explored for more comprehensive and cost effective health insurance coverage. For all the options, the minimum Employer contribution requirement is 50%. Currently, FFPD provides the Chief with \$1,200/month for insurance reimbursement (which would no

longer be paid to him with a new health insurance plan). Using the SDA Colorado Employment Benefit Trust (CEBT), if FFPD pays the minimum 50%, the cost to FFPD would be approximately \$956.50 – \$1,460.50 per month. Chief Buchan has requested a 75% employer / 25% employee split. Under that arrangement, FFPD would pay \$1,435 – \$2,190 per month and Chief would have a payroll deduction of \$478 – \$730 per month (depending on plan selected); goal is to be effective 4/1/2026. Motion: FFPD will contribute \$1,700/month towards FFPD Chief’s health insurance coverage, and will no longer provide the existing allowance, effective April 1, 2026. Motion by Jim McGovern, second by Paul del Toro, Board approval Vote 4-0 (abstention: LeAnne Spicer).

- Discussion item: Station 51 Generator Estimates. 3 estimates received ranging from \$12K - \$60K. White Rhino and Lynn’s Electric have provided estimates. This will be further discussed and voted on at the April FFPD Board meeting.

7. Board Reports

- **Florissant First!** Report

- Public Forum Work Session #2: conducted 3/16 at Florissant Grange, 16 people attended, 3 hours of in-depth 2-way discussion, good feedback and suggestions on the cards. Good informational feedback with residents on FFPD capitalization and revenue options. Next public forum work session will be in May at Florissant Library.
- FFPD (Jim McGovern) provided initial results on financial analysis of the “Hybrid Option”, consisting of part mill levy increase + municipal bond increase. The benefit of a Hybrid option is that it gets FFPD a new station and vehicles quicker; the downside of this option is significant long term interest debt. Residents were split on this concept, and seemed to reconsider as the interest debt was explained.
- Marianne Mogon suggested to get Colorado Springs TV media up to Florissant to showcase the new Chief, new Board, and proposed **Florissant First!** Project. Intent is to show the public a complete turn-around from 4 years ago where there was negative TV media coverage about the FFPD.
- FFPD has a good opportunity to receive a professional Fire Station Architecture Concept from the Colorado University Technical Assistance Program (UTAP), Denver. They came to FFPD on 3/13/2026 for an initial meeting with FFPD Board Directors Mark Harter and LeAnne Spicer, tour of existing FFPD facilities, discussion of architecture scope, phasing & staging options, flexible/scalable architecture to consider future needs. CO-UTAP has done 6 new fire station architectures in recent years with advanced degree graduate students. CO-UTAP, and has an action to provide FFPD with a scope document in next month. Cost to FFPD for this effort is approximately \$3,600 which covers the administration fees, and will provide the initial FFPD new station architectural concept (general schematics, not construction-level drawings). More information is being collected, this architecture concept will be further discussed and voted on at the April Board meeting.

- Secretary's Report: completed Feb 2026 FFPD Board Mtg Minutes, March 2026 FFPD Board Mtg Agenda. No CORA requests received in February; no current CORA requests.
 - Treasurer's Report: current bank account balance is \$619K, accounts receivable are down to \$41K from DFPC (since deployments reimbursements being received now). Received 1st 2026 property tax payment of \$209K in early March 2026. Complete Treasurer's Report and budget actuals are available from Treasurer.
 - Committee Reports
 - **Budget**: Nothing to report other than Treasurer's Report.
 - **Technology**: FFPD is acquiring IT services from Wild Blue Tech (Roy Pearsall) on an hourly basis for server, computer support. Updating website, Donations Page.
 - **Water Resources**: FFPD coordinated with FWSD on identification of 10 proposed new fire hydrants with FFPD concurrence. FFPD submitted a grant application through the Federal Community Project Funding (CPF) grant for USDA rural development infrastructure for 10 new fire hydrants in FFPD. This is a 25%-75% match grant which is a great opportunity for FFPD. We submitted the grant application on March 6 for a \$200K project (\$50K FFPD budgeted in 2026, and \$150K CPF grant match). This CPF grant is limited to rural development infrastructure, which fire hydrants are ideally suited for. These new hydrants provide coverage for fire suppression gaps in Florissant's urban expansion, plus also has positive impacts on ISO ratings in Florissant. Congresswomen Brittany Petersen and CD-7 staff confirmed receipt of our grant application, and recognize the strong community support advocating for it (4 Community Advocacy letters).
 - **Policy**: No activity during this period
8. Adjournment at 8:23pm. Motion by Mark Harter, second Paul del Toro, Board approval vote 5-0.
- ** **Next meeting topics**: Generators, Fire Station Architecture (CO-UTP scope), Chief Deployment / Out of District Policy, CUSP Air Curtain Burner, Impact Fee Study, Amend Bylaws to fix CORA disconnect, Impact Study.

