



**MINUTES**  
**FLORISSANT FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT**  
**BOARD MEETING**  
**Wednesday, February 18, 2026**  
**6:00 PM – Regular Board Meeting**  
**2606 US Highway 24, Florissant, CO 80816**  
Join Zoom Meeting

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1. Call to Order
  - Meeting called to order by: Jim McGovern AT 6:01pm. 24 residents present.
  - Pledge of Allegiance - completed
  - Roll Call of Board Members: All Present  
Jim McGovern, Paul del Toro, LeAnne Spicer, Mark Harter
  
2. Approval of Meeting Minutes
  - Approval of Monthly Board Minutes from 1/21/2026. Motion by Paul del Toro, second by Mark Harter, Vote 4-0 approved.
  
3. Public Comment
  - Mark Kohlman, CME. Concerned that FFPD hasn't been paid yet by CO State for 2025 deployment reimbursements, about \$150K. FFPD is not alone in this issue, all FPDs in Colorado are waiting for deployment reimbursements. Discussion deferred to Treasurer's Report. Note: since this Board meeting on 2/18/2026, FFPD has received several deployment reimbursement payments, which will be discussed at 3/16/2026 Board meeting.
  - Don Moore, Indian Creek. Suggested referencing the recently approved NETCO FPD Impact Fee Study Analysis as reference.
  
4. Chief's Report (January 2026)
  - 47 response calls, 1 mutual aid call, no calls missed in January, average 7.1 volunteers responding. EMS and fire training nights were held 4 times in January. FFPD volunteer members at Wildfire Camp; Annual Awards Banquet Jan 17.
  - Fire Corps Report: Spring Easter event scheduled for April 11.
  - Squad 51 totaled in response call accident. Insurance is issuing check to FFPD, discussion at March Board meeting on Squad 51 replacement.
  - FFPD provides smoke detector battery replacement and installation for FFPD residents.

## 5. Old Business

- FFPD Board Position Vacancy: FFPD allowed a longer application period (4 weeks) than the normal 2-week application period to receive and evaluate candidates for the open FFPD Board vacancy (formerly held by Director Debbie Blanc). FFPD received 4 self-nominated candidates, which were evaluated by the FFPD Board. Each candidate provided public introduction and remarks during the February 18 FFPD Board meeting:
  - Martha Jacobson, Florissant, FFPD Fire Corps volunteer, good listener, semi-retired.
  - Rich Krochta, former Fire Chief, 30 yrs EMS, County Constable, Township Supervisor managed budgets, equipment, materials, Navy Corpsman, Game Warden.
  - Don Moore, Indian Creek, 21 years community, organizer, co-founder NoFloCo, views controversy as healthy, a “thinker”.
  - Toni Moore, Indian Creek, 21 years community, former teacher, technology, co-founder NoFloCo, policy advocate.
  - Upon review of applicants and personal comments, the FFPD Board felt Rich Krochta stood out with exceptional knowledge and experience of EMS and fire-fighting operations. Motion to accept Rich Krochta to the FFPD Board by Mark Harter, second by LeAnne Spicer. Board voted 4-0 to select Rich Krochta as a new FFPD Board Director to replace Debbie Blanc.
  - Note: One audience member (Ms. Toni Moore) expressed confusion on the timing of the application deadline, believing it should go until 11:59pm on Feb 18. The FFPD Board reviewed the January 2026 minutes, which clearly stated, “*Applications will be accepted until Feb 18, 2026, upon which the Board will review the applicants and appoint a qualified replacement*”, meaning during the Feb 18 FFPD Board meeting a new appointment would be made. It should also be noted that the Board allowed twice the amount time for application nominations (4 weeks total application time, compared to the normal 2 weeks). The Board felt this was clear and proceeded with the schedule discussed in the January 2026 Board meeting to review candidate applications and appoint a new Board Director to fill the vacancy on Feb 18, 2026.

FWSD Fire Hydrant Status: Florissant fire hydrant combination locks have been installed and locked in partnership between FFPD and FWSD.

- 2026 Seasonal Wildfire Crew Hiring Update: in preparation for the forecasted severe wildfire season, Chief Buchan activated a 2-person (paid) wildland fire team effective 2/17/2026. Their top priority will always be the FFPD district, but they will be available nationwide starting 2/23/2026, with automatic recall back to FFPD if required.
- Clarification of SOCO Agreement: SOCO is an Interagency Wildland Team made up of actual state FDID Fire Departments located in El Paso and Teller counties. SOCO was created to focus on getting more fire department personnel and apparatus to the fire scene. All members of SOCO are attached to a fire agency and in the National IQS Database. The equipment deployed with SOCO is attached to a fire agency and listed on agency CRRF agreements. The fire agencies, not SOCO, bill DFPC through the regular fire billing process for personnel and equipment deployed on wildland assignments. SOCO has 501(c)(3) status to allow for tax free donations and fundraising.

## 6. New Business

- Approve bids for equipment and appliances for tactical tender: FFPD is building a dual-purpose tactical tender which will increase FFPD operations capability. The chassis is already paid for and in Ogden UT waiting for the rest of the components (pump, tank, hose, supporting apparatus), which was estimated and budgeted at about \$50K. Bids came in for \$112K (Outback), \$79K (Wies), \$55K (J&J). Discussion that the J&J bid was superior from a quality, history, and price perspective. Motion to approve \$55K for J&J bid by Jim McGovern, second by Paul del Toro. Board approved vote 5-0.
- Request bids for Fire Hall generator: back-up generators are needed for FFPD stations in case of power outage. Highest priority is Station 51. Chief will collect bids for this need and report back at the FFPD Board Meeting in March 2026.
- Request new bids for Impact Fee Study: Chief will collect bids for an Impact Fee Study, (study is estimated at \$15-25K, not currently budgeted). Chief will report back at the FFPD Board Meeting in April 2026.
- FFPD Auditor Selection: FFPD has budgeted \$15K in the 2026 budget for the 2025 FFPD audit. FFPD previously approved using CBIZ for the 2025 audit, however CBIZ was unable to commit to a deadline within the legally required timeline. FFPD decided to pursue other options for the required audit. FFPD received 3 estimates, two of which are qualified and can deliver by June 30, 2026, with BIGGSKOFFORD being the most experienced and recommended by FFPD Administrator Vicky Collings. Motion by Paul del Toro to proceed with BIGGSKOFFORD for \$15,000, second by Jim McGovern, Board Vote 5-0.

## 7. Board Reports

- Secretary's Report: Completed 2 sets of Meeting Agendas and Minutes for January meetings, and one CORA request.
- Treasurer's Report: FFPD receiving insurance payment of \$27K for Squad 51 vehicle accident. Current Reserve fund is at \$300K, which will increase upon receipt of Teller County property taxes (delayed due to new property tax formula calculations); biggest months of property tax receivables are usually Feb, May, July. Accounts Receivables are \$117K for deployment reimbursements (16 FFPD deployments in 2025), which cover vehicles and people.
- Technology Committee Report: Paul del Toro, possible work with Toni Moore on information technology (IT) applications to FFPD and the *Florissant First!* effort. Paul has started to build a Donation Page on the FFPD website to facilitate community donations to FFPD.
- Policy Committee Report - No Activity.

- Water Resources Committee Report: Mark Harter reported working with FWSD on the 7 new Florissant fire hydrants (2026), specific locations, and possible grant opportunities. Karen Rowe is the PPACG Grant Navigator\_(Pikes Peak Area Council of Governments). FFPD is also coordinating with PPACG for University Technical Assistance Program (UTAP) for support on fire station architecture & construction (Jeff Wood).
  - Florissant First! Committee Report - **Florissant First!** is the name of the initiative to generate revenue in 2026 for FFPD capital needs to meet the growing emergency response demands of the Florissant community. The first FFPD Public Information Sharing meeting for **Florissant First!** was held on Monday, Feb 16, with 21 people participating. FFPD provided initial presentations on FFPD capital investment needs, and associated financial perspectives related to revenue options to meet the capital investment needs. There was good open public comment, feedback, questions, ideas, and discussion on options for FFPD to consider. Jim McGovern will provide some financial analysis (pros/cons) for a Hybrid approach (Millage / Bond combination). The Board and Chief Buchan discussed the frequency of FFPD public information sharing meetings, with the next one planned for March 16, 2026 (details TBD). The Board will also leverage FFPD events to share **Florissant First!** (April Open House, July Pancake Breakfast, Fall Open House), use Roadshows to inform HOAs / POAs, and produce a short video presentation on the important aspects of this effort.
8. Adjournment at 8:14pm. Motion by Jim McGovern, second by LeAnne Spicer, Approved Vote 5-0.