<u>PUBLIC NOTICE</u>
MINUTES
FLORISSANT FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT
SPECIAL BOARD MEETING

Monday, August 10, 2026
6:30 PM – Special Board Meeting
2606 US Highway 24, Florissant, CO 80816

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1. Call to Order at 6:30pm
   - Pledge of Allegiance - completed
   - Roll Call of Board Directors: 4 Board members present, Jim McGovern, LeAnne Spicer, Mark Harter, Rich Krochta.

2. Public Comment
   - Mark Kohlman, CME. Question on Courier article, (July 1, Pat Hill), asked question about 4 Mile FPD deployment reimbursements compared to FFPD deployment reimbursement costs. Both FPDs have successful deployment reimbursement programs. Chief Buchan reiterated that the Florissant District coverage and protection is the top priority, deployments are secondary priority. There are several key differences between FPDs. FFPD is one of the busiest FPDs in Teller County, 4 Mile FPD is not; 4 Mile FPD has a higher millage rate which offers them more options than FFPD for revenue income and budgeting. The Board took an action to discuss this further at the August 19 Monthly Board Meeting.
   - Kathleen Moriorty, CME. Noted that Pikes Peak Courier has had several misstatements and errors in their articles about Teller C fire districts.
   - Rich Graham, CME. Comments on the training and required experience to become an engine boss (3 years). Chief Buchan is currently the only full-time employee at FFPD, and the only Engine Boss. FFPD hired a new part-time volunteer Engine Boss earlier this year.

3. New Business

- Discussion regarding filling vacant Board seat
  - The FFPD community experienced the unfortunate passing of Board Director, Vice President Paul del Toro on July 17. Paul was an exceptional community leader, mentor, resident, friend, and a cornerstone of recent FFPD Boards. Paul is greatly missed.
  - The existing FFPD Board intends to appoint a new Board Director to replace Paul de Toro for the remaining duration of his term (through May 2027) at the September 16 FFPD Board Meeting based on applications received by September 9, 5:00pm MT.
  - Motion to release a public submission for Board Director replacement by LeAnne Spicer, second by Rich Krachta, Board vote 4-0. The motion states: "Applications for replacement of FFPD Board Director, Paul del Toro, are due to be received at FFPD no later than Sept 9, 5:00pm MT. Interested candidates please provide a letter of interest to FFPD stating interest, background, experience and qualifications for consideration for an FFPD Board position." Send application letter of interest electronically to Board@florissantfire.com.
  - Chief Buchan will post on the FFPD Facebook page.

- Discussion and vote on November 2026 Ballot Resolution language for potential Mill Levy increase to support the *Florissant First!* initiative.

  - Chief Buchan: FFPD has stretched all revenue sources to the maximum level. FFPD received significant monetary donations over past 2 years ($600,000+ from the Prospect Foundation); that source is now closed, so it's doubtful FFPD will receive as many substantial donations in the future. Deployments are in progress and immediately accepted when offered, which offer deployment reimbursements (but takes up to 6 months for reimbursements). Grants, although hard to acquire, have been sought and some approved, but grant opportunities are not as prevalent as previous years due to state and federal sources being reduced.
  - FFPD millage rate is currently 5.85 mills, the lowest in Teller County, and has not been increased in 22 years. Previous FFPD Chiefs and Boards did not adequately plan or implement revenue increases to keep pace with the increasing need and cost of facilities, vehicles, and equipment. This lack of revenue adjustment has prevented necessary capital improvements in FFPD facilities, vehicles, and equipment.

- Chief Buchan analysis indicates the minimum millage to proceed with capital improvements is 8.5 mills, but that does not include any margin for construction risk or unanticipated needs, and probably needs to be at 9.0 mills to address current and future capital improvement needs.
- The longer we defer capital improvements, the more FFPD maintenance costs increase to maintain an aging fleet. With improved facilities, equipment, and vehicles the District ISO ratings will improve (lower), which improves home insurability and potentially lowers insurance premiums.
- In the *Florissant First!* initiative, the Board considered both options of a property tax millage increase, and an alternative of municipal bonds to fund the District's needs. The Board listened to public comments and suggestions during 4 FFPD Public Work Sessions and 10 Board Meetings. FFPD researched current bond rates that showed municipal bonds carry significant interest that burden the future FFPD taxpayer generations for 20-20 years. Additionally, in order to pay for the bond interest, a millage rate increase would be required to pay for the large interest payments. The municipal bond option creates excessive and unnecessary interest debt for 20-30 years. Following a thorough Cost-Benefit Analysis, the FFPD Board does not believe that municipal bonds are in the best interest of FFPD taxpayer residents. Rather, the FFPD Board unanimously agrees that a modest property tax millage rate increase (for the first time in 22 years) is the most effective, lowest risk, and highest cost-benefit method for revenue increase
- The Board discussed a range of proposed property tax millage rates between 3.0 – 3.5 above the current 5.85 property millage rate in FFPD, settling on a proposed 3.2 mills increase. Using the Property Tax Millage Spreadsheet Calculator: a 3.20 mill increase for an average $500K property results approximately $94.12/year increase to taxpayer ($8/month); brings in approximately $320K annual revenue to FFPD. A 3.2 mill increase would place the new FFPD property tax millage rate at 9.05 mills, which is still relatively low compared to the other Teller County FPDs.
- Board President Jim McGovern provided a draft resolution (Appendix A) for the ballot, and edited it during the meeting. The Board agreed that a 3.2 mill levy increase (which equates to approximately $320K in FFPD revenue annually) provides the necessary increase to accomplish capital needs for current and projected FFPD growth. This verbiage was put into the resolution Appendix A.
- A motion was made by LeAnne Spicer to approve the Appendix A, second by Rich Krochta, Board vote 4-0. DEO Vick Collings will provide Exhibit A to the Teller County Clerk & Recorder. Appendix A states:

SHALL FLORISSANT FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT TAXES BE INCREASED BY $ 320,000 IN TAX COLLECTION YEAR 2027, AND BY WHATEVER AMOUNTS ARE RECEIVED ANNUALLY THEREAFTER AS MAY BE RAISED BY THE IMPOSITION OF AN ADDITIONAL MILL LEVY OF_3.2_ MILLS TO FUND CRITICAL CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS TO DISTRCIT FACILITIES, INFRASTRUCTUTRE AND EQUIPMENT, WHILE SUPPORTING THE CONTINUED DELIVERY OF FIRE PROTECTION, EMERGENCY MEDICAL, AND EMERGENCY RESPONSE SERVICES; AND SHALL THE PROCEEDS OF SUCH TAXES AND INVESTMENT INCOME THEREON CONSTITUTE A PERMANENT VOTER-APPROVED REVENUE CHANGE FOR TAX YEAR 2026 AND IN EACH YEAR THEREAFTER, WITHOUT REGARD TO ANY SPENDING, REVENUE-RAISING, OR OTHER LIMITATION WITHIN ARTICLE X, SECTION 20 OF THE COLORADO CONSTITUTION, SECTIONS 29-1-301, OR 29-1-1702, COLORADO REVISED STATUTES, OR ANY OTHER LAW WHICH PURPORTS TO LIMIT THE DISTRICT'S REVENUES OR EXPENDITURES CURRENTLY IN EXISTENCE OR WHICH MAY BE ENACTED OR AMENDED IN THE FUTURE, AND WITHOUT LIMITING IN ANY YEAR THE AMOUNT OF OTHER REVENUES THAT MAY BE COLLECTED AND SPENT BY THE DISTRICT?

4. Adjournment: motion by Mark Harter to adjourn at 8:43pm; second by Rich Krochta, Board vote 4-0.