



Record of Proceedings Minutes of a Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors

Held: Wednesday, September 18, 2024, at 5:30 p.m., at the Cimarron Hills Fire Protection District Administrative Offices, 1835 Tuskegee Place, Colorado Springs, Colorado.

A regular meeting of the Board of Directors of Cimarron Hills Fire Protection District, Colorado Springs, Colorado, was called to order at 5:30 p.m. and held as shown above and in accordance with the applicable statutes of the State of Colorado with the following directors present and acting:

Call to Order

Director Miller opened the meeting at 5:30 p.m. with 3 directors in attendance.

Roll Call

- Rene' Sintas – Excused Absence
- KaTarra Taylor – Excused Absence
- Mark Gass – In Attendance
- Erika Gass – In Attendance
- Paul Miller – In Attendance

Also present were:

Fire Chief Andrew York (via zoom), Division Chief Thomas Joyce, Executive Assistant Virpi Mattson, and Administrative Assistant Dana Carneal taking minutes.

Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Approval of the Agenda – Changes, Additions and Deletions

The Board discussed the September 18, 2024 Agenda.

Upon motion by Director Miller, seconded by Director M. Gass, the Board voted unanimously to approve the Agenda.

Conflict of Interest Disclosures

- None

Public Comment for Items Appearing on the Agenda

- None

Approval of Minutes

[August 19, 2024 Work Session, the August 21, 2024 Regular Meeting and the September 4, 2024 Special Meeting](#)

The Board reviewed the minutes from the August 19, 2024 work session, the August 21, 2024 Regular Board Meeting, and the September 4, 2024 Special Meeting.

Upon motion by Director M. Gass, seconded by Director E. Gass, the Board voted unanimously to approve the August 19, 2024 Work Session Minutes, the August 21, 2024 Regular Meeting Minutes, and the September 4, 2024 Special Meeting

Financial Presentations

[Treasurer's Report presentation and approval](#)

Executive Assistant Virpi Mattson presented the August 2024 Treasurer's Report and reviewed the August check report and credit card report with the Board.

Upon motion by Director's E. Gass, seconded by Director M. Gass, the Board voted unanimously to approve the August 2024 Treasurer's Report.

Reports

[Chief's Report](#)

Chief York presented the Chief's Report to the Board, reviewed monthly statistics for August and highlighted significant events.

The final lease contract was received for the apparatus storage unit. A 3-year lease was signed for \$1875/mo + utilities. There is an existing mezzanine in the unit that needs to be removed. CHFD crews will be able to take care of this task.

The 2024 Open House was a big success, with a lot of community involvement and conversations.

Ambulance Program Update: The first Medicaid reimbursement (for 7/1/2022-7/1/2023) has been received and reflects a successful first year. Chief York commented on EMS Lt. Grissom's coordination of the ambulance billing, stating she did a great job of handling all the moving parts to make the first year a success. He clarified; the Medicaid reimbursement is not an exact amount of what to expect in the coming years. It will fluctuate, as some items submitted this year will not be part of next year's reimbursement.

Wildland Update: Crews are still deployed in California and have been active on California wildfires since the middle of June. Another crew swap was authorized yesterday and will occur on Tuesday of next week.

[Fire and Life Safety Report](#)

Chief Joyce provided an overview of Life Safety and Fire Prevention activities for August, which included 605 contacts with the public in the month.

Chief Joyce updated the Board members on the trail improvement project which is anticipated to begin in the Fall. Improvements to the Rock Island Railroad Trail (through the district) will begin at Sand Creek, head east to Constitution Avenue, and intersect midway through the project at Peterson Rd. The project will be funded by a Federal Transportation

grant and contributions from the City's capital improvement program. Chief Joyce also spoke of SOCO's (Southern Colorado Interagency Wildland Team – south group) involvement, as well as the Catamount crew, and other Wildland Teams who are clearing trees and brush-type fire hazards from the area.

DEO Report

Executive Assistant Virpi Mattson provided an overview of the upcoming election. She advised the Board Members that the IGA for the coordinated election was signed and submitted on August 22. The wording for the district sales tax ballot issue has been accepted by the county elections department and will appear on the November 5, 2024 ballot. The title of our special district ballot measure is Cimarron Hills Fire Protection District Ballot Issue 6A.

Chief York advised he answered questions from the IAFF Local 4502 about the ballot issue for the district. They have voted in favor to support the issue.

Fact-based Q & A videos will be created to address questions from the public about the sales tax initiative.

Executive Assistant Virpi Mattson clarified some information about what can and cannot be posted on the website regarding the initiative. Director Miller and Director E. Gass asked for something to be added to the front page of the website to make it easier for the public to access information about the upcoming election.

Unfinished Business

2025 Budget

Chief York and the Board discussed items to be included in the initial draft budget for the October meeting.

- Chief York suggested revenue from the wildland program be used to fund the storage facility.
- Following discussion, the Board directed the proposed draft budget include a 3.2% COLA, and they would also like to see numbers for a 4% COLA.

Chief York presented Capital items to be included in the 2025 Draft Budget. (Note: these purchases would come out of existing capital funds.)

- New stabilization kit for vehicle extrication (to replace the existing 15-year-old equipment) The approximate cost for this kit is \$10,000.
- Chief Joyce suggested including a Digital Fire Prevention Training System to provide fire extinguisher training at local events and area schools/businesses. Chief Joyce is planning to write a grant to help cover some of the cost (\$30,000) of this system.
- Replacement vehicle for the Ford Focus which is not big enough to carry multiple firefighters and their gear to trainings. Chief York advised that a Chevy Tahoe, fully equipped with the wrap, decals, lights, sirens, and radios would cost approximately \$100,000 and could double as a backup Chief Officer response vehicle.

- Mobile Data Computers (MDCs) for the 3 primary vehicles: ladder truck, squad, and ambulance, as well as one for the on duty chief officer. The approximate cost for this system is \$20,000.
- Replacement wildland pants and fire shelters (\$25,000). The money for these items would be taken out of Wildland capital.
- Power Load cot and upgraded stair chair for the EMS program. With the addition of power-loaded mechanisms, back injuries could be prevented, and more stable care of patients would be possible. A short video was presented showing the differences between our current cot versus a power-loaded cot.

Director Miller requested the items be prioritized for inclusion in the budget. He and Director M. Gass asked to see two budget proposals for next year: one including these items, and one with only a few included.

New Business

None

Public Comment

- **None**

Board Comment

- Director Miller asked for a motion to excuse the two absent Board Members. **Upon motion by Director M. Gass, seconded by Director Miller, the Board voted unanimously to excuse the absence of Directors Sintas and Taylor.**

Next Regular Meeting

Director Miller acknowledged the next Regular Board of Directors meeting to be at 5:30 p.m. on Wednesday, October 9, 2024.

Adjourn

Upon motion duly made by Director E. Gass, seconded by Director M. Gass, the meeting was adjourned at 6:55 pm.

The foregoing constitutes a true and correct copy of the minutes of the above-referenced meeting and was approved by the Board of Directors of the District on the 9TH day of October, 2024.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ KaTarra Taylor, Treasurer