



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

Held: Wednesday, May 8, 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 5 directors in attendance.

### Roll Call

- Rene' Sintas - Present
- KaTarra Taylor - Present
- Mark Gass - Present
- Erika Gass - Present
- Paul Miller - Present

Also present were:

Fire Chief Andrew York, Division Chief Matthew Gortner, 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 May 8, 2024 Agenda.

**Upon motion by Director Miller, seconded by Director E. 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

### [April 17, 2024 Regular Board Meeting](#)

The Board reviewed the minutes from the April 17, 2024 Regular Meeting.

**Upon motion by Director Miller, seconded by Director M. Gass, the Board voted unanimously to approve the April 17, 2024 Regular Board Meeting Minutes.**

## Financial Presentations

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

Chief York presented the April 2024 Treasurer's Report and reviewed the April check report and credit card report with the Board.

Director Miller asked for clarification on the CDL licensing. Chief York advised that some states require drivers of the Type 3 Engine to have a CDL. Four members of CHFD were sent through the class to become licensed. Miller asked if the licensing changes the insurance rating for the department.

Director Sintas requested a report showing how much the ambulance is costing the department compared to how much it is bringing in for the department.

Director Miller asked how many times CHFD has had to call AMR to respond to calls for service in the jurisdiction, due to the CHFD ambulance being on a call. Chief York advised that Falcon Fire and Security Fire are primary mutual aid if another ambulance is needed, and to his knowledge AMR has been called for mutual aid twice since the ambulance service started.

**Upon motion by Director Miller, seconded by Director Taylor, the Board voted unanimously to approve the April 2024 Treasurer's Report.**

## Reports

### [Chief's Report](#)

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

Chief York and the Board discussed a current house bill targeting property tax and its impact on the district mill levy. It would reduce assessment rates and cap growth revenue specifically from property tax. Senate Bill 24-194 was also discussed. This bill passed through the Senate and House and is awaiting a signature from the Governor. This bill allows fire districts to implement impact fees on new construction as well as a voter-approved sales tax as a secondary form of department revenue. Chief York and Fire Chiefs from area departments are looking at a feasibility study that will show fees across the county.

Chief York briefed the Board on upcoming command staff absences.

Thank You letters were shared with the Board from P-TEC for a recent fire extinguisher training conducted with the students, and from the City of Las Animas for CHFD's assistance with a brush fire in March 2024.

An update was shared with the Board regarding Wildland Assignments. Crews have been sent on a few deployments recently, and we still have crews rotating in and out of San Angelo, TX. They have been deploying to Texas since the end of March.

### Fire and Life Safety Report

Chief Joyce discussed plan reviews of different locations within the district. Nine new businesses are coming to the district at this time.

Chief Joyce elaborated on the fire extinguisher trainings with P-Tec and Mill Works. He received a lot of positive feedback from not only these two establishments, but he is being asked by other schools and businesses how they can schedule drills and trainings.

Chief Joyce further advised how important these trainings are for both the community and the CHFD firefighters. Building familiarity is important for the crews, as safety is double-checked and improved.

### Unfinished Business

#### Future CHFD Facility

Chief York briefed the Board on a property owner who has reached back out, stating they will entertain a bid for their property to build a new station.

Chief York met with a representative from the City of Colorado Springs to discuss the property north of the station on Peterson. The representative was responsive to the department needs for remodeling the existing station. Acquisition of the property would triple the existing site, which is needed for adequate parking for the crews and the remodel.

Chief York discussed remodeling challenges and the length of time rezoning could take, extending completion of a remodel project out to 2 years.

Chief York advised we are preapproved for a construction loan with Farmer's State Bank for the facility rebuild/new build. Farmer's State Bank is familiar with Special Districts' rules and needs. They have worked with other agencies successfully.

### New Business

#### Allocation of Property Tax Backfill Funds

Chief York advised that backfill has been approved and will be received from the County. This money was not included in the budget, due to the unknown status of whether it would be received or not. Chief York asked for the incoming money to be moved from the General Fund to the department's Structures, Roads and Grounds capital line to be used for future building costs.

**Upon motion by Director E. Gass, seconded by Director Taylor, the Board agreed unanimously to move the allocation of property taxes backfill to Colorado Bank & Trust Capital Savings for Structures, Roads, and Grounds.**

### Public Comment

- **None**

## Board Comment

- **Director Sintas** – Advised the Board she was informed of ballot language in the upcoming Cherokee Metropolitan District recall election alleging she had sued the water department. Director Sintas stated this allegation was not true and the DEO would not remove it, advising her the voters will decide whether there is truth to the allegation or not. Note: Director Sintas is not on the Cherokee Metropolitan District Water Board nor is she a candidate for their election.
- **Director Miller** – Stated, for the record, “Director Sintas has only acted above board, with the best interest for the Board, while being a Board member for the Cimarron Hills Fire Department.”

## Next Regular Meeting

Director Miller acknowledged the next Regular Board of Directors meeting to be at 5:30 p.m. on Wednesday, June 19, 2024.

## Adjourn

**Upon motion duly made by Director Taylor, seconded by Director M. Gass, the meeting was adjourned at 7:08 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 19<sup>TH</sup> day of June, 2024.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Mark Gass, Secretary