



# Durango Fire Protection District

## Minutes of the DFPD Board of Directors Regular Meeting

Tuesday, January 28, 2025, 8:10 a.m. | 103 Sheppard Dr, Durango, CO 81303

### Call to Order

President Karen Barger called to order the meeting of the Durango Fire Protection District Board of Directors at 8:08 a.m. Board members present for the Call to Order were Steve List (via Teams), Rob Farino, Lyle McKnight, Samantha Gallagher, and Tina McCallum (via Teams). John Dezendorf was excused from the meeting. Staff members included Fire Chief Randy Black, Deputy Chief Michael Krupa, EMS Chief Scott Sholes, Finance Director Eric Baker, Human Resources Director Megan Kunch, Fleet and Facilities Director Howard Smith, Fire Marshal Stephen Rinaldi, FF/Paramedic Mike Irwin, and Administrative Assistant Katie Pounds. Also in attendance were Legal Counsel Bud Smith, and Pension Board Member Bill Luthy.

### Agenda

Legal Counsel Bud Smith suggested a possible second Executive Session after the first Executive Session, for purposes of receiving legal advice. *A motion was made by Samantha Gallagher to approve the agenda as amended, seconded by Rob Farino. Motion carried unanimously.*

### Approval of Minutes

- **December 3, 2024 Special Meeting Minutes**
- **January 7, 2025 Special Meeting Minutes**

*A motion was made by Samantha Gallagher to approve the December 3, 2024 and January 7, 2025 Special Meeting Minutes, seconded by Rob Farino. Motion carried unanimously.*

### Public Comment

No public comment.

## Reports

### Chief Report:

Fire Chief Randy Black reported on the following:

- **Station 2:** The crew should be moving into the new building by June 20. Chief Black would like to take the Board members for a tour of the new station immediately following the Regular February Board Meeting. The Board will go into a Study Session once arrived at Station 2.
- **Personnel Changes:** Jordan Ashby is the new Battalion Chief for A Shift. Ian Allison and Kevin Dzeckorius have promoted to fire captains. Grant Allen is the new training captain on B Shift. There is an interim position for the Administrative Battalion Chief.
- **All-Officer Training:** All supervisors attended a training with DFPD's labor law lawyer, Michael Santo, for an updated HR training. Trainings such as these will continue on a monthly basis with supervisors.
- **Call to Action Letter:** There are currently 50-60 mitigation assessments waiting to be accomplished since the letter went out. The letter was sent to the City Council, County Commissioners, Colorado state representatives and senators, Board members, DFPD members, etc. Chief Black will speak at the City Council meeting in March.
- **Weather/Wildfire:** WWPF is looking at weather/climate conditions. Above 10,000' is looking good but below 10,000' is not. Current conditions are worse than they were before the Missionary Ridge and 416 fires.
- **Pierce Fire Truck:** Chief Black, former engineer Kevin Dzeckorius, and Fleet and Facilities Director Howard Smith Traveled to the Pierce Plant in Florida to check on a fire truck that is currently being built for DFPD. The truck should be finished near the end of February. This truck will replace a 25-year-old truck that is the most expensive cost per mile. There was discussion as to the reason three people travel to the Pierce Plants to check on new fire trucks.
- **Letter from GSA:** GSA oversees the leases on the first floor of DFPD's Administration Building. GSA stated they overpaid the previous owners in 2019 and are now wanting that money back from DFPD. There are two conflicting documents—one states DFPD assumes all liabilities of the building, another states there are no outstanding financial obligations. A letter has been sent to GSA who is taking things into consideration.
- **Contract with the City:** The City hired a company to do an organizational assessment to help guide the City as to what their future could look like at the end of their contract with DFPD. This company will be interviewing people and collecting

data (station/truck reviews). Chief Black met with City Manager Jose Madrigal and Assistant City Manager Bob Brammer. The decision will be made by City Council but both Brammer and Madrigal agreed that that opting back into the District looks to be the best option for the City. Chief Black stated the finances need to be looked at first before looking at the inclusion of the City into the District. This would be done by a City election. The assessment should be completed approximately July of 2025.

- **Three Springs Station:** Based on the number of calls DFPD responds to, the Three Springs Station is already needed, especially with the new interchange to get onto 550 South. The funding and timing for the station will depend on the assessment the City is conducting. In order for that station to function, it will cost approximately \$4 million per year which places a mill levy increase at 2.8. DFPD will look to be on the November 2025 ballot for this increase. There was discussion about the length of time to build up enough staff for this station.

#### Financial Report

- Finance Direct Eric Baker presented the November and December 2024 Financial Reports. *A motion was made by Samantha Gallagher to approve the November and December 2024 financial reports as presented, seconded by Lyle McKnight. Motion carried unanimously.*

#### New Business

- **Updated Personnel Policy:** Chief Black stated the new software DFPD is using—UKG—cannot adhere to the current vacation accrual policy. The new policy will state: No employee may accrue Vacation Leave in excess of the maximum accrual cap—two times the annual accrual rate for that employee. Members who have accrued beyond their maximum in the new software will have a 90-day period to use the extra vacation leave accrued. *A motion was made by Lyle McKnight to approve the updated personnel policy change for Vacation Leave, seconded by Rob Farino. Motion carried unanimously.*
- **Consideration and Possible Action on Resolution 2025-2: Amend Resolution 2025-1 to Amend Contribution to FPPA Statewide Retirement Plan:** Finance Director Eric Baker explained the date on Resolution 2025-1 needed to be amended as the date needs to be in the future, not backdated, in order for FPPA to accept. *A motion was made by Rob Farino to approve Resolution 2025-2: Amend Resolution 2025-1 to Amend Contribution to FPPA Statewide Retirement Plan, seconded by Lyle McKnight. Motion carried unanimously.*
- **Consideration and Possible Action on Resolution 2025-3: Establishing a Time and Place for Regular Meetings:** *A motion was made by Rob Farino to approve*

*Resolution 2025-3: Establishing a Time and Place for Regular Meetings, seconded by Samantha Gallagher. Motion carried unanimously.*

- **Consideration and Possible Action on Resolution 2025-4: Election of Directors:**  
*A motion was made by Samantha Gallagher to approve Resolution 2025-4: Election of Directors, seconded by Rob Farino. Motion carried unanimously.*

## Executive Session

- Possible Executive Session under C.R.S. Section 24-6-402(4)(f) For purposes of personnel matters except if the employee who is the subject of the Executive Session has requested an open meeting, or if the personnel matter involves more than one employee, all the employees must request an open meeting. *A motion was made by Samantha Gallagher to adjourn into Executive Session under C.R.S. Section 24-6-402(4)(f), seconded by Lyle McKnight. Motion carried unanimously.* The Board adjourned into Executive Session at 8:46 a.m. Fire Chief Randy Black, Deputy Chief Michael Krupa, and Human Resources Director Megan Kunch were invited into the Executive Session.

The Board came out of Executive Session at 9:55 a.m.

## Adjournment

President Karen Barger adjourned the meeting at 9:57 a.m.

By:         /s/ Karen Barger

President

Date: 02.25.25

Attest:         /s/ Katie Pounds