

**Gunnison County Fire Protection District**  
**Minutes**  
**Regular Meeting**  
**October 17, 2024**

**I. Call to Order:**

The meeting was called to order at 6:44 p.m. by Dennis Spritzer. Meeting was held upstairs in the meeting room at the Fire House.

The following board members were present: Dennis Spritzer, Heath Smith, Walt Cranor and Paul Morgan.

Board Accountant present: Tom Stoeber

Board Secretary present: Deborah Ferchau

Fire Marshal/Chief present: Hugo Ferchau

Fleet Maintenance Manager present: Tom McDonough

Maintenance Technician present: Tyler Brown

The following firemen were present: Spencer Nicholl, Chief – Ohio City Volunteer Fire Department

Others: Ben Cowan, Finance Director - City of Gunnison

**II. Minutes:**

The minutes from the September 19, 2024 regular meeting were reviewed. A motion was made by Cranor and seconded by Smith to approve the September 19, 2024 regular meeting minutes. Motion passed unanimously.

**III. Financial Report:**

Stoeber handed out the financial report through September, 2024. A motion was made by Cranor and seconded by Smith to approve the financial report. Motion passed unanimously.

**IV. Bills:**

Stoeber handed out the bills packet. The bills were reviewed and approved. Spritzer asked if the bill for bunker gear would be the last expenditure this year for this line item. H. Ferchau stated the it should be. A motion was made by Cranor and seconded by Smith to approve payment of the bills. Motion passed unanimously. No transfer needed.

**V. Correspondence:**

- A. Ohio City Volunteer Fire Department (OCVFD) Funding Request: The submittal included the request, proof of insurance, roster and training schedule. The request was read out loud by D. Ferchau. Spencer attended the meeting. OCVFD was requesting \$5,000 for operating expenses (propane, electric, fuel and insurance); \$8,000 for updated bunker and wildland gear; \$1,000 for a low-level strainer; \$1,000 for a laptop computer and \$500 for a battery powered chain saw. Morgan thanked Spencer for attending. Spencer was advised that the District would like to see receipt for the purchases of the items on the list. A motion was made by Cranor and seconded by Morgan to fund the request in the amount of \$15,500. Motion passed unanimously. H. Ferchau advised the Board that he would like to purchase Sense It gas detectors for all outlying departments and provide training to them for use of the detector. Currently the outlying departments do not have this equipment and it would be a big benefit to Gunnison Volunteer Fire Department for the outlying departments to have this equipment. H. Ferchau commented that a 2 gas detector costs \$1,650 each and a 4 gas detector costs \$2,489 each. They have a donation from Atmos Energy in the amount of \$2,500 to help with these purchases. H. Ferchau recommends purchasing the 4 gas detectors. Morgan stated that he would like to see this request come from the outlying departments. H. Ferchau stated that it wasn't something that they have thought of until several recent calls where the equipment was needed. Smith stated that these departments having detectors only helps the Gunnison Volunteer Fire Department. Morgan wants to make sure that the outlying departments will train and the detectors will be used. H. Ferchau has talked to Don Sobrowski, Taylor Canyon Volunteer Fire Department and they are on board with training on and using the detectors. These detectors have to be calibrated once a month and Atmos has been doing that. A motion was made by Cranor and seconded by Smith to purchase three 4 gas detectors. Motion passed unanimously.

## VI. Executive Session

Spritzer stated "The Gunnison County Fire Protection District would like to go into an executive session. There is no intention to take any formal action during this executive session. This executive session is to gather information only. A motion was made by Cranor and seconded by Smith to enter into an executive session to discuss personnel compensation pursuant to C.R.S. §24-6-402(4)(f)(I) at 7:04p.m. Motion passed unanimously.

Spritzer stated "The time is now 8:10pm and the secretary has returned. The participants in the executive session were myself, Chairman Dennis Spritzer, Board members Smith, Cranor and Morgan, Fire Chief Hugo Ferchau, Tom Stoeber and Ben Cowan. For the record, if any person who participated in the executive session believes that any substantial discussion of any matters not included in the motion to go into executive sessions occurred during the executive session, or that any improper action occurred during the executive session in violation of The Open Meetings Law, I would ask that you state your concerns for the record. Seeing none, the next agenda item is Old Business.

## VII. Old Business:

- A. **2025 Budget:** H. Ferchau handed out the budget for Board review. Cranor commented that it looks reasonable. H. Ferchau stated that this format shows the entire City and District budgets in one line. Morgan stated that it is easier to read in this format. The Board does not need to move on the budget until next meeting
- B. **Fire Services Committee:**
1. **Sub-Grant Agreement:** This agreement is regarding the grant that was awarded by DOLA and states that the City will reimburse \$50,000 to the

District next year. Will comply with grant agreement and keep records. A motion was made by Cranor and seconded by Smith to authorize Spritzer to sign the agreement. Motion passed unanimously.

2. **Request for Qualifications:** H. Ferchau advised the Board that he forwarded them the letters of interest received from several companies interested in building a new fire department. Morgan asked where this was advertised. Ben Cowan stated that the RFQ was published at BizNit, posted on the City website and ran in the newspaper. H. Ferchau stated that he is looking for permission from the Board to move forward with the request for qualifications. This is asking for actual qualifications of those companies that submitted letters of interest. Smith commented that they should continue forward in the process. Morgan asked about deadlines. H. Ferchau stated RFQ's due in by 11/22/24, review those in December then chose three companies. Proposal from those companies due in December/January. Contract with company 1/11/24. A motion was made by Cranor and seconded by Smith to send out to RFQ's. Motion passed unanimously.

C. **Building Committee:** Nothing new to report.

D. **Truck Committee:** McDonough reported and one Tender is completed at SVU and one rescue is almost completed. McDonough is trying to schedule an inspection trip to do both at once. A motion was made by Cranor and seconded by Smith to pay the bill for these two apparatus. Motion passed unanimously. McDonough further reported that the F250's are at Ford being built. The chassis should be completed in a couple weeks and approximately one month out from being in Gunnison. Chevy Chase is gone and the other three officer vehicles will remain in the fleet in other positions.

#### VIII. Fire Marshal's/Chief's Report:

A. H. Ferchau thanked the Board for looking at the budget and for all their work looking at compensation and everything else.

#### IX. Fleet Maintenance Manager's Report:

A. McDonough reported that the Taylor Canyon Type 6 truck had a failure that has been repaired. Don Sobrowski offered that Taylor Canyon can pay for the repairs that were made to the Type 6. McDonough stated that it is a district truck and there is funding available to make those repairs so there is no need at this point to have Taylor Canyon pay for those repairs. The pump on Engine 24 is being repaired.

#### X. New Business:

A. District Board Bylaws: H. Ferchau sent this draft document to Board members for review. H. Ferchau advised the Board that he looked around at other District bylaws and the template from the SDA when putting together this document. The template most used was from West Metro. The yellow highlights are things that the District has not done before and not stipulated by law and things the Board may want to change. The City/District IGA depends on the District having good bylaws in place. Kendall will also be reviewing this document.

#### XI. Unscheduled Business:

A. Spritzer advised the Board that he is moving and his last board meeting will be April, 2025. They are going to the front range to be closer to family and support system.

#### XII. Adjourn:

A motion was made by Cranor and seconded to adjourn the meeting at 8:32 p.m.  
Motion passed unanimously.