

# MESA COUNTY FIRE AUTHORITY BOARD MEETING MINUTES

**March 24, 2026**

At 7:11PM Wayne DeGesualdo called the meeting to order. Wayne DeGesualdo, Eric Talley, Murray Thiessen and Dave Upchurch Chad Wallace were present for the board.

Also present were public member Rich Phillip, Brian Lurvey, Frank Rupp (showed up late) Chief Balke and Administrative Assistant Stacy Cox, along with volunteer members of Mesa County Fire Authority.

Wayne DeGesualdo said an opening prayer.

## ***Approval of Minutes***

Wayne DeGesualdo asked if everyone had a chance to read the minutes from last Board Meeting, all agreed they did. Eric Talley made a motion to accept the minutes as presented. Murray Thiessen seconded the motion. All were in favor, no opposed. Motion carried.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

***Bank Signatures-*** Missed a couple of signatures on two different pages for updated bank information. Board members signed the pages need.

***Wildfire Resiliency Code Resolution-*** MCFA attorney Evan Ela returned the resolution, and it was presented to each board member. Will be added to webpage once it adopted and goes into effect July 1<sup>st</sup>, Chief Balke explained that in 2025 Stare of Colorado stated that all entities no matter what size or shape has to adopt a wildfire resiliency code in 2026 and be implemented by July 1<sup>st</sup>. Several entities in Mesa County are working on this. Mesa County will do building code and fire departments will do fire code. If falls in fire area must have a fire resistant landscape and defendable area for new constructions and any renovations of 500 sq feet or more will need to meet this code. It was noted that it can be changed and adopted as needed. Murray Thiessen made a motion to approve the resolution as written by Evan Ela, Eric Talley seconded the motion. All were in favor, no opposed. Motion carried.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### ***Application for Exemption from Audit***

Application for exemption from audit was prepare by independent CPA, Brain Blair, of Blair and Associates, PC. Wayne DeGesualdo read the resolution to apply for exemption from audit. After reviewing it, David Upchurch made a motion to accept and submit the exemption of audit along with the resolution. Eric Talley seconded the motion at the same time. All were in favor, no opposed. Motion carried. Application and resolution were signed.

### **Treasurers Report**

Murray Thiessen presented the treasurer's report. We are at 25% through the year and income from tax revenue is at 0% from Lands Ends and 0% from Central Orchard Mesa but COM Income shows 71.55% due to the repayment of the lone of \$161,661.50 for the tender. Income is 33.52% for the year between the sale of vehicles, loan repayment and bank interest. Total expenses for the year are sitting at 12.25% for the year. Stacy Cox advised that office 309 should not be that high as most of that is our website expense and should be in 314, this will be corrected. Only other category of concern is 216 and we are over on where we hoped to be. Brian Lurvey asked about ambulance income budget being so low. Explained budget low due to not running our own calls but believe that will greatly increase once our we can run our own calls again. Eric Talley made a motion to approve the treasurer's report with the correction noted to 309/314, Chad Wallace seconded the motion. All in favor, no opposed, motion carried.

## **Chiefs Report**

Prepared By: Charles K. Balke, Fire Chief & Courtney Griffith

### Comments from the Fire Chief

2026 is shaping up to be a legislative intensive year. There are currently 19 bills between the House and Senate that the Colorado State Fire Chiefs are tracking. Of these, 12 will directly impact the fire service. This is in addition to the Colorado State Wildfire Resiliency Code that was adopted in 2025 and all entities with a responsibility for fire protection must adopt by April. I am working with Mesa County Building and Planning for an updated MOU that will include a partnership to meet the demands of the building code portion of the mandate.

### Administrative Update

- As part of the Colorado State Incident Management Teams, I deployed to another Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) incident in Weld County. This was the 18<sup>th</sup> incident in Colorado over the past four years.
- I served as the Incident Commander for the Colorado Emergency Managers Conference in Loveland.
- Submitting a grant application for the Volunteer Firefighter Assistance Grant for new personal protective equipment (PPE). Much of what we have is either already outdated, some as much as 20 years, or will be outdated within a year.
- With the recent transition to the NERIS system all Image Trend reports need to be rebuilt.
- I am still working with CMU on implantation of an Internship Program.

### Personnel Update

- We have brought on eight (8) new volunteers. Two are certified EMT, one is an EMT student, and one has volunteer experience within Mesa County. One has completed the Firefighter 1 program through CMU.

- Frank Cavaliere is stepping away from being our Fire Marshal. Cory Schreiner will be filling this role.
- Two Palisade Fire Department Paramedics will start covering a couple of shifts when they can.
- Still working to get our current EMTs on Mesa County Protocol. This remains a difficult process due to the fact these people also have full-time jobs or other personal responsibilities that limit their ability to give up time to do protocol rides. One volunteer has been pulled from the protocol process and will no longer be allowed to protocol in Mesa County. Three are currently going through the protocol process
- Notification will be going out to those members that have been on the roster but have not participated in training/meetings for more than two months without prior communication and/or approval.
- Working on the FEMA Safer grant to help off set the cost of great and such.
- Paramedics are starting to pick up some extra shifts for MCFA

#### Training Update

- The Fire Academy will start on March 16<sup>th</sup>. We currently have 10 people that will be attending. Classes will be Monday and Thursday nights from 6pm – 10pm and Sundays from 9am – 5pm. This is a blended program combining online learning with in-person skills training. Seeing great attendance and scoring many with CDL and EMT or mechanical backgrounds.
- For February training consisted of
  - Fire Training – Water Supply
  - EMS Training – Respiratory Emergencies and Treatments

#### Apparatus/Equipment Update

- The sewer drain issue at Station 51 is still a concern
- Members are coordinating their time to get the new extractor installed and in service.
- We are working to try and find suitable personal protective equipment for the new hires.
- We continue to have mechanical issues with the Class A pumpers around leaking valves. Some of these will need to be replaced versus rebuilt.
- Looking into options for pump testing of the larger apparatus, i.e., engines and tenders.
- I am trying to have SCBA Flow testing scheduled sometime in March or April.

- Looking at creating a plan to replace apparatus. Lease purchase options- which can include up to 20 year terms that could be paid monthly, quarterly, biannually or annually. Stock trucks are 18 months out and custom builds or 4-5 years out. Brian Lurvey asked he has looked at used trucks, yes and there are some good options. The board asked chief to explore all the options and present them with information. Frank Rupp, said many times if you find a "Cream Puff" used truck and don't have a deposit they are gone before you can get financing so new might be a better bet.

### Miscellaneous

- We are still waiting on quotes for repairing the mezzanine and apparatus apron at Station 53. This is a safety concern as it continues to deteriorate.
- Courtney remains in contact with Ute Water about repairing the pothole in front of Station 51. Information has been sent to an asphalt company. We are waiting for information to determine how to proceed
- The Golden Gate opening has been pushed back for an uncertain time. They still need a final inspection for the Certificate of Occupancy to be issued.
- Working on updating computers

### Operations

- We will be implementing new daily/weekly duties and check sheets.
- For the month of February there were 32 incidents. This is an increase of 8 calls compared to the same time last year. For 2026 there have been 63 incidents, an increase of 8 calls for the same time last year.

### Reports

- Agencies are still working on rebuilding the Report Writer components
- 32 calls for February

Incident Number	Date	Time 24 Hr.	Call Type Description	Call Count
2026-00000032	2026-02-01	16	SMOKE	1
2026-00000033	2026-02-02	12	CODE5	1

2026-00000034	2026-02-03	4	STROKE-C3	1
2026-00000035	2026-02-07	6	SICK PERSON-MINOR	1
2026-00000036	2026-02-07	16	TRAUMA-C2	1
2026-00000037	2026-02-07	16	CODE5	1
2026-00000038	2026-02-07	17	BREATH DIFF- MAJOR	1
2026-00000039	2026-02-07	18	CRASH-CLOSEST C3	1
2026-00000040	2026-02-07	20	ASSTF	1
2026-00000041	2026-02-08	2	BACK PAIN-C2	1
2026-00000042	2026-02-09	3	SEIZURE-C2	1
2026-00000043	2026-02-10	17	SICK PERSON-MINOR	1
2026-00000044	2026-02-11	15	FALLS-C3	1
2026-00000045	2026-02-12	7	ASSTM	1
2026-00000046	2026-02-12	12	BREATH DIFF-C2	1
2026-00000047	2026-02-12	15	SICK PERSON-MINOR	1
2026-00000048	2026-02-15	19	EMS	1
2026-00000049	2026-02-17	17	OTHER	1
2026-00000050	2026-02-18	12	EMS	1
2026-00000051	2026-02-19	18	FALLS-C2	1
2026-00000052	2026-02-20	6	CRASH, RESCUE-C3	1
2026-00000053	2026-02-20	7	CRASH	1
2026-00000054	2026-02-21	3	FALLS-C2	1
2026-00000055	2026-02-21	14	FALLS-C3	1
2026-00000056	2026-02-21	17	EMS	1
2026-00000057	2026-02-22	2	FALLS-MINOR	1

2026-00000058	2026-02-22	13	STROKE-C3	1
2026-00000059	2026-02-25	0	CRASH-CLOSEST C3	1
2026-00000060	2026-02-25	23	CRASH-MAJOR	1
2026-00000061	2026-02-26	9	HEART PROBS-C3	1
2026-00000062	2026-02-28	18	UNCON/FAINT-C3	1
2026-00000063	2026-02-28	21	UNCON/FAINT-C3	1

**Community Events/Meetings:**

March 28<sup>th</sup> Community Ditch Meeting- Wayne will be here to cover it

March 29<sup>th</sup> CMU Bike Race through the District (**covered by GJFP**)

April 4 Cemetery 1pm

Safety Fair June 14<sup>th</sup>

Lands End Hill Climb in August 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup>

**Other Matters before the Board:**

Frank Rupp introduced himself and advised that he would like to join Lands End Fire Protection District board and provided some of his background and interest.

MCFA Members introduce themselves and some of their background.

**Public Comment:**

Rich Phillips asked two questions- one when are they going to test draw on the two tanks and if he can still use the station for the Whitewater Cemetery meeting April 4<sup>th</sup> at 1pm. Chief advised will draw on April 12<sup>th</sup>. Yes, on the books for April 4<sup>th</sup>.

Brian Lurvey said that he is a citizen in this district and is more worried about fire readiness than ambulance service. Asked about hoses and pumps and if the department can work a fire as he would rather have new hoses than money in a CD drawing interest. Chief advised that he flowing testing at Palisade on hoses and some hose will need to be replaced And is working on that. Had pumps all worked on and Cody is coming to do minor adjustments. Wayne DeGesualdo advised that Chief has put a lot of work into getting MCFA ready.

***Adjournment of meeting***

David Upchurch made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Murray Thiessen seconded the motion. All in favor, no opposed, motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:14

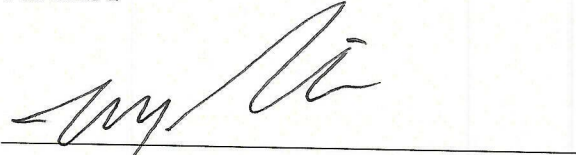
Next Board Meeting is April 28, 2026, about 7:15 pm following the LEFPD Special meeting at 7:00.

Respectfully Submitted,

Stacy Cox  
Administrative Assistant  
Mesa County Fire Authority

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Stacy Cox", written over a horizontal line.

ATTEST

A handwritten signature in black ink, written over a horizontal line. The signature is stylized and difficult to decipher.

ATTEST