

**Minutes East Grand Fire Protection District
Board of Directors Meeting
September 24th, 2025**

Board Directors Present: President Garth Hein (remote), Vice President Donald Maurais, Treasurer Rachel Hoyhtya, Secretary Richard Kramer, Director Ryan Barwick (remote), Pension Chairman Blaine Faulkner and Pension Chairman Brendan McGrath.

Staff Present: Chief Todd Holzwarth, Training Coordinator Steve Waldorf, Assistant Fire Marshal Jordan Ennis, Volunteer Coordinator Jed Henry, Office Manager Kristen Rybij, Fire Inspector Act. Lt. Ricardo Loza, Prevention Technician Eng. Christopher Cheevers and Fire Prevention Admin Asst. Andrea Jovanovski.

Vice President Donald Maurais opened the Board of Directors meeting at 18:09. There was a quorum of Directors present. There were no additions to the agenda. There was no public present.

The Board of Director's meeting was recessed at 18:10.
The Board of Director's meeting was re-opened at 18:47.

The Board reviewed the August 27th, 2025 minutes.

- ❖ Director Garth Hein moved to approve the minutes. Director Richard Kramer seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Discussion of Financials:

The LPL investment account is nearing its end, with one bond maturing in July for approximately \$84,000, another set to mature at the end of this month, one in November, three in 2026, and one in early 2027. The department anticipates receiving \$1,583 from the Colorado Special Districts Pool for PPE and hose testing reimbursements, along with an additional \$2,086 due to new legislation allowing for greater reimbursements related to heart and cancer fund premiums. The state contribution request has been submitted, and EMS has been billed \$10,000 for their portion of the Lonetree Station furniture. With three more tax disbursements remaining, the department is nearing full tax revenue collection. The preliminary budget draft will be submitted to the board by October 15th, with a budget hearing scheduled for November and final adoption planned for December.

- ❖ Director Richard Kramer moved to pay the bills. Director Garth Hein seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Chief's Report:

Ricardo Loza delivered a strong year-end 2024 presentation to the Town of Fraser, which was well received with only a few questions, primarily about how the Town can continue to support and a request for a breakdown of call types, which the new reporting system will help address. Road construction is beginning to wind down with the onset of snow, and pump testing was successful with all pumps tested in one day using eight trucks. Wildfire season appears to be slowing, helped by recent rain, and call volume is already nearly 100 calls ahead of 2024 total calls. Several structure fires have occurred, but none resulted in serious losses, and all were managed effectively with strong response. Recent community event involvement includes Fall Fest and the Suicide Prevention Hike, both of which were well received. Appreciation was expressed to the team for staying on top of operations during a busy summer.

Fire Prevention Bureau Report:

Andrea and Jordan have transitioned well into their new roles, while Ricardo and Chris have refocused on critical priorities. Ricardo revamped the website for better accessibility and led a chainsaw safety program, while Chris has taken the lead on short-term rental (STR) inspections and community compliance efforts. The team completed several projects at Lonetree, including wildfire mitigation and hazardous tree removal, and the Town of Winter Park assisted with cleanup. The phone tree has been updated for better functionality, Kristen and Andrea have nearly finished transitioning FPB duties, and onboarding is now complete for Jordan and Andrea. Significant progress has been made on short-term rental compliance, with inspection numbers rising rapidly and the team now operating at a 10-business-day compliance ratio. Current short-term rental stats include 1,439 inspection requests, fewer than 100 pending reviews, over 800 passed inspections, and approximately 40 pending follow-ups. New projects include enhanced website and social media presence and implementation of a fire risk assessment model for prioritizing inspections. The team is also updating the Knox Box system with new e-keys, preparing to swap apparatus between stations, planning October fire prevention events, and exploring another community cleanup event in Tabernash. The team also participated in community events such as the Health Fair at Fraser Elementary and the Grand Kids Fall Fest and

conducted wildfire hazard reviews and public education sessions. With full staffing in place, fire prevention operations are running strong.

Volunteer Liaison Committee:

The Committee met earlier today to discuss the new incentive plans for 2026 and reached a strong agreement, largely thanks to Mark Spiewak, who developed an effective algorithm and compiled the necessary data. The proposed changes aim to increase incentives based on participation and longevity without altering the overall budget, only the distribution method is being adjusted. A volunteer-only meeting is scheduled for October 1st to review the updated incentives and provide an opportunity for feedback, especially as it marks the midpoint of the semester. This meeting will also address current shift and call volumes and help reconnect with those who may be falling behind. Additionally, The Committee has organized a well-planned training session for the fifth Tuesday of the month at Zephyr Mountain Lodge, focused on high-rise kits and large layout scenarios, showcasing The Committee's continued strong performance.

Training Coordinator Report:

Truck maintenance remains a constant focus, and following an evaluation of the older apparatus, particularly the two tenders stationed in Tabernash, the decision was made to extend their service life beyond the 15-year replacement schedule due to their strong performance and mechanical reliability. Despite some minor issues such as oil and axle seal leaks, the mechanic confirmed that these vehicles should not be replaced, noting their solid operation and the advantage of not having the newer, more complex emission systems. Their effectiveness during the Windy Gap fire, especially in pump and roll operations and use of deck guns, demonstrated their continued value, leading to plans for potential refurbishments and upgrades rather than replacement. Annual maintenance efforts have identified several small issues ahead of winter. Implementation of the new Knox Box system is also progressing. Installing the units in large Type 1 trucks has been challenging due to their need for constant battery power and Wi-Fi connectivity for updates, but several boxes have already been installed in command vehicles and are currently in service. Approximately a dozen Knox Boxes have been deployed, with additional installations ongoing. Minor programming issues have been resolved during the setup process. Total call volume for the year currently stands at almost 400 calls.

Board Business:

Chief Todd Holzwarth presented on the Colorado Wildfire Resiliency Code. Implementation of the Colorado Wildfire Resiliency Code requires coordinated efforts among Winter Park, Fraser, and other municipalities to ensure consistent adoption. Building departments are integrating roof and wall inspections into current permitting, with Class A roof standards already aligned with local climate needs. A county-wide coordination meeting is set for early October. The TIF workshop has been moved to November 6 to allow for strategic plan and risk assessment completion ahead of negotiations. The 120-day negotiation period is expected to begin soon, pending a letter from Winter Park, with a mid-January deadline projected. Reducing TIF capture from 75 percent to near zero will require strong justification and alternative proposals. EMS's precedent in avoiding TIF obligations offers a framework for fire district negotiations, and a 25-year impact analysis is needed to support long-term financial and service planning. The November Board of Directors meeting is scheduled for November 20th, with the December meeting set for December 4th.

- ❖ Director Rachel Hoyhtya moved to adjourn the meeting. Director Ryan Barwick seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 19:43.

Garth Hein

Donald Maurais

Rachel Hoyhtya

Rick Kramer

Ryan Barwick