

**Minutes East Grand Fire Protection District
Board of Directors Meeting
March 25th, 2026**

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

Staff Present: Chief Todd Holzwarth, Training Coordinator Steve Waldorf, Assistant Fire Marshal Jordan Ennis (remote), Fire Inspector Lieutenant Ricardo Loza, Office Manager & DOF Kristen Rybij, Volunteer Coordinator Jed Henry and Fire Prevention Technician Engineer Christopher Cheevers.

Pension Board Present: Lieutenant Brendan McGrath.

Public Present: Firefighter Jesse Sfetsas.

Director Garth Hein opened the Board of Directors meeting at 18:09. There was a quorum of Directors present. The second executive session in the agenda was removed.

The Board of Director's meeting was recessed at 18:13.
The Board of Director's meeting was re-opened at 18:20.

The Board reviewed the February 25th, 2026 minutes.

- ❖ Director Richard Kramer moved to approve the February 25th, 2026 minutes as written. Director Rachel Hoyhtya seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Discussion of Financials:

Kristen reported a strong month for impact fee collections, with no additional updates or discussion items. A question was raised regarding payroll taxes, as approximately half of the annual budget has already been expended. The increased early spend was attributed to severance payouts and incentive checks. Kristen will provide a more detailed analysis offline to validate the figures.

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

Chief's Report:

Chief reported the new Lone Tree station signage has been completed and was well received. There was discussion regarding the duration of EMS presence at the Lone Tree station, with the intent for one ambulance to remain stationed there. An EMS lease review is scheduled for the next board meeting. Wildfire slash operations in East Grand this season reported a total of 3,574 piles burned, equating to approximately 1.5 million cubic feet of material. With that, slash season has concluded and wildfire season is now underway.

Fire Prevention Bureau Report:

Jordan recognized recent promotions within the Fire Prevention Bureau, including Ryan Mowrey to Captain, Ricardo Loza to Lieutenant, and Chris Cheevers working to Engineer. The team has been heavily engaged in construction inspections, as well as alarm and sprinkler system reviews. Workload has increased with multiple new properties and developments coming online. Wildfire resiliency initiatives continue to progress through code adoption and coordination with local building departments. The team successfully met with town and county partners to integrate wildfire resiliency measures into landscaping and construction plans.

Training Coordinator Report:

Steve reported strong success with last year's probationary class, who are soon to earn their black hats. The current academy class of seven is underway and showing promising early performance. The training curriculum has been updated to better align with essential skills and task books, and academy chapters have been reorganized to reflect operational needs. A drone program policy is in development to support future UAV use in fire and rescue operations. The department has procured advanced flammable gas detectors, enhancing leak detection by providing quantifiable gas readings for more precise identification and safer response. Coordination with Xcel Energy has improved operational efficiency, with the new detectors successfully used to identify leaks in complex multi-unit buildings with challenging ventilation. Vehicle maintenance and acquisition efforts remain focused on reliability and operational needs. Tender trucks are being refurbished sequentially to avoid simultaneous downtime during high-risk periods. New Chevrolet 4WD pickups have been ordered for fire prevention and operations, selected for their cost effectiveness, outfitting advantages, and improved performance in rugged terrain compared to older models.

Board Business:

The Board reviewed Resolution 2026-3-25 – “Resolution of the East Grand Fire District Adopting the 2025 Wildfire Resiliency Code.”

- ❖ Director Donald Maurais moved to approve Resolution 2026-3-25 – “Resolution of the East Grand Fire District Adopting the 2025 Wildfire Resiliency Code.” Director Richard Kramer seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

The Board discussed potential future funding options, including a possible mill levy increase through a coordinated election in February or November, as well as the consideration of a modest sales tax of approximately 0.5%. Concerns were raised regarding a sales tax given the already high rates in Winter Park, while noting that a mill levy increase has not occurred in approximately 20 years and may be more feasible. It was acknowledged that determining a preferred direction is challenging while URA negotiations remain ongoing, and options will remain under consideration as the District moves into the summer and evaluates whether to pursue a coordinated election.

The Red Dirt meeting is tentatively scheduled for May 12th. Director Rachel Hoyhtya and Director Donald Maurais will be in attendance.

For the April Board of Directors Meeting, Director Ryan Barwick and Director Garth Hein will attend remotely.

- ❖ Director Richard Kramer moved to go into Executive Session #1 at 19:17. Director Donald Maurais seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
- ❖ Director Donald Maurais moved to come out of Executive Session #1 at 19:51. Director Richard Kramer seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Upon returning from Executive Session, the Board reported that discussions were held in preparation for the upcoming TIF negotiations. No formal decisions or actions were taken.

- ❖ Director Richard Kramer moved to go into Executive Session #2 at 19:51. Director Donald Maurais seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
- ❖ Director Richard Kramer moved to come out of Executive Session at 20:07. Director Rachel Hoyhtya seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Upon returning from Executive Session, the Board reported that employment matters involving Chief Holzwarth were discussed. No formal decisions or actions were taken.

- ❖ Director Donald Maurais moved to adjourn the meeting. Director Richard Kramer seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 20:08.

Garth Hein

Donald Maurais

Rachel Hoyhtya

Rick Kramer

Ryan Barwick