

**Minutes East Grand Fire Protection District
Board of Directors Meeting
June 24th, 2026**

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

Staff Present: Chief Todd Holzwarth, Training Coordinator Steve Waldorf, Assistant Fire Marshal Ryan Mowrey, Fire Inspector Lieutenant Ricardo Loza, Office Manager & DOF Kristen Rybij and Administrative Assistant Andrea Jovanovski.

Director Richard Kramer opened the Board of Directors meeting at 18:06. There was a quorum of Directors present. There were no additions to the agenda. No members of the public were present.

The Board of Director's meeting was recessed at 18:10.

The Board of Director's meeting was re-opened at 18:16.

The Board reviewed the minutes from May 27th, 2026.

- ❖ Director Rachel Hoyhtya moved to approve the May 27th, 2026 minutes as written. Director Ryan Barwick seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Discussion of Financials:

Kristen reported that the annual audit is substantially complete, with final document review pending, noting that this was the first year she independently managed the audit process, including year-end adjustments and asset depreciation. No issues were identified during the audit, and the District remains on track to submit the completed audit to the state by the end of July. Kristen also highlighted the successful processing of the District's first impact fee rebate in the amount of \$6,998, explaining that the experience led to updates to the rebate application to better address documentation requirements. During her budget-to-actual review, Kristen discussed several notable variances, including volunteer incentive expenditures at 89% of budget due to the timing of scheduled payments and higher-than-anticipated legal expenses related to Tax Increment Financing (TIF) meetings. She also reported that the District made a \$226,000 lease payment directly from impact fee revenues without drawing from reserves or the general fund.

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

Chief's Report:

Chief reported that Stage 2 fire restrictions will take effect at 12:01 a.m. on Friday. Under the restrictions, all commercial and non-commercial fireworks are prohibited throughout Grand County, with enforcement to be handled by the Sheriff's Office. Residents and event organizers are to consider alternative Independence Day celebrations, such as drone or laser light shows, to reduce wildfire risk. Chief also provided an update on maintenance completed at the Tabernash station, where sewer system work led to the discovery of long-lost cleanouts. He noted that the use of a sewer camera allowed staff to accurately locate the infrastructure, which will support more efficient planning for future excavation and maintenance. Chief highlighted recent community engagement efforts, including participation in local Fourth of July celebrations, attendance at the Fire Muster, and presentations of the District's annual report to local governments. He shared that commissioners and council members provided positive feedback, recognizing the District's strong communication, transparency, and continued engagement with the community.

Fire Prevention Bureau Report:

Ryan reported that staff continue to experience a high volume of field inspections and wildfire mitigation activities, with increasing demand for parcel-level Home Ignition Zone (HIZ) inspections being coordinated through the Wildfire Council. He noted that our District remains the busiest District responding to HIZ inspection requests and explained that a shared employee arrangement with the Wildfire Council has been implemented to expand inspection capacity within the District. Ryan also provided an update on training and certification efforts, reporting that five members recently completed EMT training. He highlighted the addition of new training opportunities including the S-112 Wildland Chainsaws course and shared that coordination with the Department of Homeland Security continues on credentialing and rapid response systems. Ryan discussed several equipment and facility improvements, including outfitting Lonetree station with computers and communications equipment to better support volunteer personnel and field operations. He also noted that new public safety flyers and informational rack cards are being printed to enhance community outreach and inspection efforts.

Training Coordinator Report:

Steve reported that the District's recruit academy concluded with four recruits after three participants withdrew due to personal commitments or health-related reasons. He noted that the remaining recruits are performing well, with two recently completing the Pack Test with strong results. Steve also reported that scheduled maintenance on the District's extrication equipment was completed without any major issues. Staff are now focused on smaller follow-up projects, including resolving minor radio issues, replacing outdated equipment, and improving communications with area hospitals. He added that he and Fire Marshal Ryan are coordinating communications planning for the Wildland Fire Program at the ski area while staff continue routine apparatus maintenance and support operational needs related to Stage 2 fire restrictions.

Board Business:

The Board engaged in an extensive discussion regarding long-term funding strategies and potential ballot measures to address the District's future financial needs. Members reviewed the advantages and challenges of pursuing a mill levy increase versus a sales tax measure, considering projected revenue, community impacts, and the current political climate. Following discussion, a straw poll indicated consensus to move forward with developing a 0.25% sales tax ballot initiative, accompanied by a TABOR de-Brucing measure, for the upcoming coordinated election. Board members generally agreed that a sales tax would provide a more stable revenue source while distributing a portion of the tax burden to visitors and reducing the likelihood of voter fatigue compared to more frequent property tax increases. The Board also discussed the possibility of a 1.0-mill levy increase, with members expressing differing views on the timing of such a measure. Some felt additional revenue should not be sought until staffing demands increase, while others emphasized that rising equipment costs, staffing needs, and inflation support taking a proactive approach. It was noted that the District has not pursued a mill levy increase in more than 20 years. Financial projections presented during the discussion showed that maintaining the current mill levy could result in operating deficits by approximately 2030 to 2032, while implementation of a 0.25% sales tax could extend the District's long-term financial stability. Members also discussed the significant increase in apparatus replacement costs and growing operational demands. The Board emphasized the importance of providing clear and transparent public education as the ballot measure moves forward, focusing on the community safety and service benefits while using relatable examples to explain the financial impact to voters. Staff will continue coordinating with legal counsel and the County Clerk on ballot language and election requirements, with a final ballot question expected to be presented at a future Board meeting.

The Board received a notice regarding the upcoming Board of Directors election cycle. Directors Ryan Barwick and Donald Maurais are scheduled for re-election in 2027. Directors Garth Hein, Rachel Hoyhtya and Richard Kramer will be up for re-election during the subsequent election cycle.

- ❖ Director Ryan Barwick moved to go into Executive Session at 20:49. Director Garth Hein seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
- ❖ Director Ryan Barwick moved to come out of Executive Session at 21:03. Director Rachel Hoyhtya seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Upon returning from Executive Session, the Board reported that discussions were held regarding the URA TIF negotiations. No formal decisions or actions were taken.

- ❖ Director Rachel Hoyhtya moved to adjourn the meeting. Director Ryan Barwick seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 21:04.

Garth Hein

Donald Maurais

Rachel Hoyhtya

Rick Kramer

Ryan Barwick