

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors of the Elizabeth Fire Protection District

Held: Tuesday, November 12, 2024, 6:00 p.m.

Attendance

The regular meeting of the Board of Directors of the Elizabeth Fire Protection District ("District") was called and held in accordance with the laws of the State of Colorado.

The following Directors were in attendance:

- Rick Young, Board President
- Scott Christensen, Board Vice President
- Wayne Austgen, Board Secretary
- Don Means, Board Treasurer
- Stacey Collis, Board Director

Also present were:

- T.J. Steck, Fire Chief
- Kara Gerczynski, Division Chief Fire Prevention and Administration
- Sean Mackall, Battalion Chief of EMS
- Sarah Fischer, Director of Finance and HR
- Taylor Clark, HR Generalist – Executive Assistant
- Michelle Ferguson, District Legal Counsel

Call To Order

Director Young called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance

Director Young led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Comment

Director Young opened the meeting for public comment. There was no public comment.

Additions/Deletions to Agenda

Director Young asked if there were any changes to the Agenda. There were no changes to the Agenda.

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Approval of Minutes

The Board reviewed the draft minutes from the October 8, 2024, regular Board meeting.

Director Young called for a motion to approve the October 8, 2024, minutes as presented.

Director Austgen made the motion. Director Christensen seconded the motion. All in favor.

Financial Matters

Ratify the bills

Director Young stated that the Board has been provided with the financial report for the month of October and asked if there were any questions.

Director of Finance and HR Fischer stated that open enrollment for full-time employees of the District was open until November 18, 2024. She stated that, due to changes in the District's benefit offerings, all full-time employees would be required to participate in open enrollment this year. She stated that, due to changes in medical plans, the District would be dissolving the current health reimbursement plan for employees beginning in 2025. She stated that, to offset this change, medical premium payments by the District had increased from 80 to 83 percent.

Director of Finance and HR Fischer stated that part-time employees and reserve volunteers were now eligible to be included into the cancer portion of the Colorado Firefighter Heart Cancer Behavioral Health Benefits Trust.

Director of Finance and HR Fischer provided the Board with an update on the District's insurance accounts and interest rates. She stated that she would have the 2025 Budget ready for the public hearing and Board review and possible approval at the December regular Board meeting.

Director Young called for a motion to ratify the payment of the October bills. Director Austgen made the motion. Director Christensen seconded the motion. All in favor.

Staff Report

Chief Steck presented an overview of the staff report.

Chief Steck stated that retired volunteer George Berry had passed away on October 26, 2024. He stated that he had been working with Mr. Berry's family to assist with the Celebration of Life.

The Board and Chief and Admin Staff discussed the Delbert road connection at County Road 166 and the upcoming filings for the Independence subdivision. The Board provided direction for Chief Staff to write a letter, subject to review by Legal Counsel, to the Elbert County Commissioners and County Manager expressing the District's concerns over the road not having been completed at 379 homes as was previously agreed upon and the resulting negative effect to response times, health and safety to the current population of the subdivision, and ISO ratings for the District.

Discussion followed.

Director Young asked if there were any questions. There were no questions.

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Legal Report

Director Young stated that the next order of business was the legal report.

Attorney Ferguson reminded the Board that there would be an Executive Session later that evening regarding Fire Chief succession planning. She stated that Legal Counsel was continuing to put together an analysis on successful implementation of a sales tax. Based on information from the Department of Revenue, who must approve the ballot language, it appears that a fire district could pose this question to its voters at the May 2025 election; however, it could not go into effect until July 1, 2025 per the statute. Chief Steck stated that Staff would research options for putting a sales tax question on the May 2025 ballot.

Chief Steck informed the Board that the Excursion was up for a sealed bid to sell. He stated that the bid would be up in the next couple of weeks.

Director Young asked if there were any questions. There were no questions.

Executive Session pursuant to C.R.S. 24-6-402(4)(b) and (f) to receive advice of Legal Counsel on Fire Chief Succession Planning and Process

Director Young stated that the next order of business was Executive Session pursuant to C.R.S. 24-6-402(4)(b) and (f) to receive advice of Legal Counsel on Fire Chief Succession Planning and Process.

Director Young called for a motion to enter into Executive Session. Director Christensen made the motion. Director Collis seconded the motion. All in favor. Director Young stated that the Board wished Chief Steck to be present for the Executive Session. The Board entered Executive Session at 7:00 p.m.

Director Young called for a motion to leave Executive Session. Director Austgen made the motion. Director Christensen seconded the motion. All in favor. The Board came out of Executive Session at 8:15 p.m.

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Board, Director Means moved to adjourn, Director Collis seconded, and the vote was unanimously carried. The meeting was adjourned at 8:16 p.m.

Meeting Schedule

The next regular Board meeting is scheduled for December 10, 2024, at 6:00 p.m. at 155 West Kiowa Ave, Elizabeth, Colorado.

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Rick Young

Board President

Wayne Austgen

Board Secretary