

Meeting Minutes: Flaming Gorge Fire and EMS District Board

Date: May 27, 2026, 6:00 PM

Location: Manila Fire Station

1. Welcome / Introductions

Meeting called to order by Stephanie Rose (Board Chair).

- **In attendance:** Stephanie Rose (Board Chair), Steve Forbes (District Manager), Woody Bair (Board Member), Gale Lamb (Board Member), Patrick Miller (Interim Fire Chief), and Joseph Harrison.
- **Virtual attendance:** Bret Reynolds (Board Member), Corey Auger (Fire Warden), and JayDee Guymon (Dutch John Fire).
- **Excused:** Leonard Isaacson.

Note: The agenda sequence was adjusted to accommodate Corey Auger's schedule, addressing Item 3 immediately following the Fire Warden update.

2. Updates

- **a. Dutch John Fire (JayDee Guymon):** Expressed gratitude for being involved and highlighted a successful kickoff meeting for FF1 training held in Manila yesterday.
- **b. Fire Warden (Corey Auger):**
 - Reported red flag warnings across Uintah and Daggett counties through tomorrow; open burning is restricted.
 - Announced the official closed fire season begins June 1st under State Statute 65A-8-211, requiring burn permits for private lands.
 - Set a strict June 1st priority deadline for Red Card recertifications.
 - Noted a Type 1 helicopter is stationed at Vernal Airport for regional suppression.
 - Shared a long-range forecast showing robust monsoonal rains starting late June.
 - Out of office starting tomorrow through June 9th; Chad Huffaker is the point of contact.
- **c. Daggett County Emergency Manager (Leonard Isaacson):** Not present.
- **d. General Manager (Steve Forbes):**
 - **Operations/EMS:** Introduced Interim Chief Patrick Miller to Woody Bair. Reported a quiet Memorial Day weekend. Steve will virtually attend the State Rural EMS Directors Association meeting tomorrow on behalf of Casey regarding ongoing EMS grants.
 - **Administrative:** Re-enrolled the District's employee healthcare plan with PEHP under identical terms. Confirmed the District's AUP audit deadline is the end of June. Payroll and vendor W-9 records from the past year are being compiled for a URS audit submission by Friday.
- **e. Board Member Updates:** Confirmed Patrick Miller's new District email is active, and emails to former Chief Jeff Gosar are auto-forwarding to Patrick.

3. Discussion and Consideration of MOU with State of Utah FFSL

Corey Auger presented the updated cooperative agreement MOU, which was reviewed and

approved without concern by District Attorney Eric Johnson. Key additions emphasize prioritizing local jurisdiction safety over outward wildland dispatches, ensuring equipment chassis weights comply with DOT specifications, requesting performance evaluations for out-of-district assignments over 5 days, and reporting accidents via the state's online tracking system.

- **Motion:** Approve the MOU with the State of Utah FFSL.
- *Bret MOTIONS; Gale SECONDS. Motion **PASSES** unanimously.*

4. Discussion and Consideration of Resolution Regarding Elected Board Member Eligibility for URS Benefits

Steve presented Resolution 2026.01, required by the URS audit, which explicitly establishes that Tier 2 elected or appointed board members who receive compensation are ineligible for Utah Retirement System benefits.

- **Motion:** Approve Resolution 2026.01 declaring Tier 2 board members ineligible for URS benefits.
- *Stephanie MOTIONS; Woody SECONDS.*
- **Roll Call Vote:** Stephanie Rose (Aye), Woody Bair (Aye), Gale Lamb (Aye), Bret Reynolds (Aye). Motion **PASSES**.

5. Turnout Gear PPE Procurement & Operations Updates

- **Turnout Gear:** Steve reported that District Attorney Eric Johnson approved funding the new turnout gear from the capital projects fund because the PPE carries a 10-year certified lifespan. The board maintains the authority to open and reallocate the budget for this purpose. Interim Chief Patrick Miller reported the final sizing and gear package for 12 sets from Curtis totaled \$52,155.50 (under budget). Steve and Patrick will submit a vendor credit application and standard Utah tax exemption form to initiate the order.
- **Training & Equipment:** Dutch John Fire has included 3 members in the District's upcoming Firefighter 1 training course, aiming for UFRS testing on August 29th. Patrick is actively auditing the SCBA inventory, noting that maintenance and bottle-filling station certifications are required; an action plan will be brought to the next meeting.
- **Operations & Inspections:** Fire crews handled two recent calls: a residential garage wall fire and a lightning-strike tree fire off Washam Road. The latter highlighted a need for better cross-jurisdiction routing; Patrick is coordinating with Sweetwater County and Green River fire officials. Corey Auger will conduct county short-term rental fire inspections on June 12th, with plans to transition these inspections to Patrick once certifications allow.

6. Correspondence

Steve reported receiving two \$1,000 general operations donation checks: one from Williams and one via the Tulsa Community Foundation. The District also received federal Treasury documentation regarding EFTPS PIN details, which Steve will cross-check with Halos to confirm automated employer tax deposits.

7. Review and Approve May 13, 2026 Board Meeting Minutes

The Board reviewed the previous minutes incorporating minor edits submitted by Bret.

- **Motion:** Approve the meeting minutes from May 13, 2026.
- *Bret MOTIONS; Stephanie SECONDS. Motion **PASSES** with one abstention.*

8. Expenses

The transaction list was reviewed, totaling approximately \$25,000 (including an \$18,000 payroll run). Notable expenses included Rocky wildland boots and forestry PPE, which are fully reimbursable through a state grant. Multiple Maverick gas charges on May 17th were clarified as two separate medical transports to Vernal on the same night. The general checking account balance sits at roughly \$35,000, which is sufficient to float operations.

- **Motion:** Approve the expenditures report as presented.
- *Stephanie MOTIONS; Woody SECONDS. Motion **PASSES** unanimously.*

9. Additional Discussion & Business

- The Board confirmed the Fire Chief position will remain structured as an interim assignment under Patrick Miller for now; advertisements to reopen the role will be held until long-term direction is chosen.
- Concurred that Patrick Miller will not be issued an individual District credit card at this time; he will utilize existing fleet vehicle cards or process purchases through administrative staff.

10. Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 6:55 PM.