

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Regular Meeting

August 25, 2026

Chairman Brown called the regular meeting of the Board of Directors of the Lake City Area Fire Protection District to order at 6:00 p.m. in the fire station. Those Directors present were: Greg Levine (via video conference), Evan Milski (via video conference), Gene Polenske, and Jim Rowe.

Also present were: Justin Thompson, Fire Chief/Fire Marshal; R. E. Hall, Chief Engineer/Facilities Manager; and Michelle Pierce, Secretary.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Director Rowe moved, Director Polenske seconded to approve the minutes of the July 28, 2026 regular meeting as circulated. The motion passed with all voting yes in a general vote.

BILLS PAYABLE

Secretary Pierce noted that there is an outstanding invoice from MES Service Company in the amount of \$24,297.09 for the purchase of turnout gear funded by a recent FEMA grant. She stated that the coat that was sent for Chief Engineer Hall was the wrong size, had the wrong name at the bottom, and had to be returned. She asked that the Directors consider approving payment of this invoice contingent on the receipt of a corrected invoice that deducts the amount of the coat on back order or the receipt of the correct coat.

Director Polenske moved, Director Milski seconded to approve payment of the bills as circulated. Also to approve payment of the above-mentioned invoice from MES Service Company contingent on the receipt of a corrected invoice or on the receipt of the correct coat. The motion passed with all voting yes in a general vote.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Director Milski moved, Director Polenske seconded to approve the Treasurer's Report for the month ending July 31, 2026 as circulated. The motion passed with all voting yes in a general vote.

FIRE CHIEF/FIRE MARSHAL REPORT

The Directors read the report submitted by Fire Chief/Fire Marshal Thompson (see file).

CHIEF ENGINEER & FACILITIES MANAGER REPORT

The Directors read the report submitted by Chief Engineer/Facilities Manager Hall (see file).

SECRETARY REPORT

The Directors read the report submitted by Secretary Pierce (see file).

Secretary Pierce stated that a draft of the proposed budget for 2027 will be presented at the September regular meeting.

PERSONNEL – Fire Inspector I Certification for Justin Thompson

The Directors congratulated Fire Chief/Fire Marshal Thompson for recently achieving his Fire Inspector I certification. Chairman Brown presented him with his fire marshal's badge.

The Directors acknowledged that, as noted in the April 28, 2026 meeting minutes, this achievement entitled Fire Chief/Fire Marshal Thompson to a \$5,000 per year increase in salary effective August 1, 2026.

WILDLAND FIRE RESPONSE – Discussion Regarding Process & Order of Events

There was discussion regarding the fact that the Elk Fire involved many acres in the Valley View Ranch property which was initially thought to be included in the Fire Protection District's boundaries. Since the area was not accessible by the District's apparatus, Chief Thompson assigned responsibility for the fire to the Hinsdale County Sheriff upon the advice of Luke Odom, Deputy District Chief of the Southwest District of the Colorado Division of Fire Prevention & Control (DFPC).

Chief Thompson noted that it was later determined that the Valley View Ranch property is not included in the Fire Protection District’s boundaries and that the assignment of responsibility to the Hinsdale County Sheriff was rescinded.

WILDLAND FIRE RESPONSE – Discussion Regarding Process & Order of Events (cont.)

The Directors reviewed an email from Vaughn T. Jones, Chief of the Wildland Fire Management Section of the DFPC citing several state statutes related to the progression of wildfire responsibilities from the Fire Protection District to the County Sheriff, and then to the State and DFPC. The email also contained a flow chart illustrating this progression (see file).

After further discussion, the Directors agreed that Chief Thompson and the soon-to-be newly elected Hinsdale County Sheriff should meet in the spring of 2027 to review each agency’s wildfire duties and the conditions under which responsibility would be assigned to the Sheriff for an in-district wildfire.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS – Email Voting Policy

Secretary Pierce noted that Chief Thompson had emailed a draft of his communication to the Hinsdale County Sheriff that assigned responsibility to the Sheriff’s office for the wildfire to the Board of Directors for review and approval.

She stated that Director Levine had questioned whether the District had an email voting policy which it does not.

After some discussion, the Directors agreed that, under emergency conditions and without a vote of the Board, Chief Thompson has the authority to assign responsibility to the Hinsdale County Sheriff for an in-district wildfire upon determination that the fire exceeds the capability of the Fire Protection District. The Directors further agreed that they did not want to adopt an email voting policy at this time.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS – Review Final Draft of Personnel Policy

Director Rowe moved, Director Rowe seconded to adopt Resolution No. 2, Series 2026 adopting a personnel policy for the Lake City Area Fire Protection District. The motion passed with all voting yes in a general vote.

FINANCE – Sales Tax, Proposed Election Update

Secretary Pierce stated that the Colorado Department of Revenue (CDOR) notified her that special districts are not allowed to exclude any of the optional sales tax exemptions outlined in state statutes. She stated that this was further confirmed by the CDOR after it reviewed a legal memo prepared by the District’s attorney, David Reed, that challenged the CDOR’s determination.

After some discussion, the Directors agreed not to pursue the matter further and that the District will not put the question on the November 2026 ballot.

CITIZENS COMMENTS

There were no citizen comments.

BILLS PAYABLE TO AND FOR:	AMOUNT	FUND
Gunnison County Electric Association – Electricity	\$ 116.72	Gen.
Hinsdale County – Unleaded & Diesel Fuel	627.97	Gen.
Mastercard – Tanker 91 Parts, Travel Expenses to Return Truck to Creede, Cell Phone Service, Propane Prebuy Agreement, Active 911 Subscription	3,730.13	Gen.
MES Service Company, LLC – Rescue Tool Repair, 12/10/2025	1,135.00	Gen.
MES Service Company, LLC – SCBA Flow Testing	1,553.30	Gen.
MES Service Company, LLC – SCBA Flow Testing & Parts	521.08	Gen.
Mountain West Insurance & Financial Services, LLC – Public Officials Bond	100.00	Gen.
Silver World Publishing Co. – Happy 4 th of July Ad	20.00	Gen.
Utah’s Inc. – Dumpster Yardage	70.00	Gen.
Visionary Broadband – Broadband Internet	149.09	Gen.
Advanced Painting – 2 nd Down Payment on Station Painting	1,702.50	Cap.
Advanced Painting – Final Payment on Station Painting	3,405.00	Cap.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Board, Director Polenske moved, Director Rowe seconded to adjourn the regular meeting at 7:02 p.m., but to meet again at the regular meeting on September 29, 2026. The motion passed with all voting yes in a general vote.

Chairman

ATTEST:

Secretary