South Arkansas Fire Protection District

MEETING MINUTES

Date: 12/15/2025

Time: 0900 Hours

Location: 611 Oak Street, Salida, CO 81201

Board Members Present

- Harold Starbuck
- Rich Edgington
- Art Hutchinson
- Sheldon Morgan

Board Members Excused

- Phillip Gamache

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by President Harold Starbuck at 0900 hours.

2. Approval of the Agenda

- Motion to accept the agenda as presented:
  - **Motion by:** Sheldon Morgan
  - **Second by:** Rich Edgington
  - **Vote:** Passed unanimously

3. Approval of October Board Meeting Minutes

- Motion to accept the October Board Meeting Minutes
  - **Motion By:** Sheldon Morgan
  - **Second By:** Rich Edgington
  - **Vote:** Passed unanimously

Open Session: No public comments were received.

Reports:

Rich Edgington inquired about the $100 line item for directors' insurance in the 2026 budget. Assistant Fire Chief Kathy Rohrich assured the board that directors are covered with $1 million in insurance.

Sarah Marques of Walke and Associates communicated that Common Ground Grant funds have been broken out into separate line items to track expenses.

Laurie Todesco of South Arkansas Fire Protection District confirmed receipt of prior funds and stated that current bills are queued for payment.

Financial Report

- **Motion to accept the monthly financials:**
- **Motion:** Rich Edgington
- **Second:** Art Hutchinson

- **Vote:** Passed unanimously

Fire Chief's Report

Chief Aaron Jonke discussed several critical issues:

- **loss of Jacob Brollier:**
  - The department acknowledged the passing of Jacob Brollier, an Idaho resident and smokejumper, due to a heart attack. Support resources for crew members, a family liaison, available insurance coverage, and potential departmental financial responsibilities were discussed.
- **Modernization Plan:**
  - Modernization topics covered billing support, electronic workflows, enhanced administrative functions, standardized deployments and records, and an annual in-person refresher.
- **DFPC Audit:**
  - The department is in ongoing communication with DFPC and will provide

updates as they are received.

- **DFPC Annual Business:**
  - 1QS and CRFF agreements were all submitted accordingly.
- **County Ordinances:**

© Meeting regarding burn permitting will be held on December 16th to discuss responsibilities and roles within the community, including coordination with local stakeholders such as ranchers.

- **Federal:**
  - Orange County Fire Authority Chief Brian Fennessy will lead the wildfire service, consolidating efforts under one agency.
- **Accessibility Program:**
  - Chief Jonke advised against pursuing the accessibility program due to significant outstanding liability risks.
- **Business Update:**
  - SAFPD's attorney has resigned, and the department is currently seeking a replacement through SDA recommendations.

Assistant Fire Chief Report

Chief Rohrich reported on a few administrative items:

- **2025 SAFPD Christmas Party:**
  - **Wednesday, December 17th:** Gift exchange, food, and beverages will be provided.
- 2026 SAFPD Board Meeting Schedule Posted
  - Dani posted the schedule for all 2026 Board Meetings to the SAFPD website and will send a formal email to all board members regarding these dates.

Division Chief of Wildfire

Division Chief Bainbridge reported the following:

- **Grants:**
  - The department did not receive the CYCA GOCO Grant and is awaiting the FRWRM decision in February. A response on the COSWAP grant is also pending.
- **Mitigation / Controlled Burn:**
  - Treated 60 acres with support from grants and the SCC crew and

distributed 60 cords of firewood to the community.

- **Community Outreach:**
  - Attended (3) HOA meetings

6. Unfinished Business

Sheldon Morgan discussed service packages for administrative capabilities and requested a meeting with administrative staff to review options, aiming to streamline all administrative functions.

7. New Business

- Resolution No. 2025-11 - A resolution summarizing expenditures and revenues for each fund and adopting a budget for the South Arkansas Fire Protection District, Colorado for the calendar year beginning on the first day of January 2026 and ending on the last day of December 2026.
  - **Motion By:** Sheldon Morgan
  - **Second:** Rich Edgington
  - **Vote:** Unanimous
- Resolution No. 2025-12 - A resolution appropriating sums of money to the various funds and spending agencies, in the amount and for the purpose as set forth below, for the South Arkansas Fire Protection District, Colorado for the 2026 budget year.
  - **Motion By:** Rich Edgington
  - **Second:** Art Hutchinson
  - **Vote:** Unanimous
- Resolution No. 2025-13 - A resolution levying property taxes for the year 2026 to help defray the cost of government for the South Arkansas Fire Protection District, Colorado, for the 2026 budget year.
  - **Motion By:** Sheldon Morgan
  - **Second:** Art Hutchinson
  - **Vote:** Unanimous
- **Motion:** Motion by the South Arkansas Fire Protection District Board of Directors to approve the 2026 board meeting schedule as follows:

®* January 26th, 2026

  - February 23rd, 2026
  - March 30th, 2026
  - April 27th, 2026
  - May 18th, 2026 (moved in observance of holiday) ®= June 22nd, 2026
  - July 27th, 2026
  - August 31st, 2026
  - September 28th, 2026
  - October 26th, 2026
  - November 23rd, 2026 (subject to change)
  - December 21st, 2026 (subject to change)
  - **Motion By:** Sheldon Morgan
  - **Second:** Art Hutchinson
  - **Vote:** Unanimous

8. Adjournment

s Motion to adjourn the meeting at 0958

- **Motion to Adjourn:**
- **Second:**
- **Vote:** Passed Unanimously

Submitted wl 3

Art Hutchinson, Secretary Treasurer