South Arkansas Fire Protection District

MEETING MINUTES

Date: October 26, 2026

Time: 0900 Hours

Location: 611 Oak Street, Salida, CO 81201

Board Members Present

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

Board Members Excused

- Phillip Gamache

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by President Harold Starbuck at 0905 hours.

2. Approval of the Agenda

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

3. Approval of July Board Meeting Minutes

- Motion to accept the September Board Meeting Minutes.
- Motion by: Sheldon Morgan
- Second by: Rich Edgington
- Vote: Passed unanimously

4. Open Session

No public was present.

5. Reports

Financial Report

Marilyn Marchand, South Arkansas Fire Protection District Financial Coordinator, gave the following report:

- Progress in processing and submitting wildland fire billings through the state reimbursement system.
- Current cash flow trends and expectations for reimbursement payments.
- Review of expenses compared to budgeted amounts.
- Updates to financial reporting and account organization intended to improve transparency and operational tracking.

- Preliminary discussion of the proposed 2027 budget and projected revenues and expenditures.
- Budget planning considerations related to staffing, operations, grants, technology, and equipment replacement.
- Discussion regarding statutory budget timelines and publication requirements.

Fire Chief's Report

Chief Aaron Jonke provided updates on:

- 2027 planning efforts.
- District ADA compliance initiatives and document accessibility improvements.
- Upcoming election requirements and administrative preparations.
- Status of the Wildland Officer position and future program planning.

Discussion focused on maintaining operational readiness while continuing to improve administrative processes and compliance requirements.

Wildland Officer - Lt. DePetro

Lieutenant Dave DePetro provided the following report:

Deployments

- District deployment activity has begun to slow as the wildfire season winds down.
- Engine 112 was expected to remain assigned to California but will be demobilized on 10/28.
- Additional deployment resources remain available should late-season assignments occur.
- Planned maintenance and repairs will be completed on apparatus returning from assignment.

Equipment

- Maintenance work continued on deployment apparatus.
- Windshield repairs and other fleet maintenance items were completed to maintain readiness.
- Additional electrical and operational repairs were identified for returning resources.

Mitigation

- Mitigation efforts continued throughout the district, including pile burning, vegetation treatment, chipping, and fuels reduction.
- Significant progress was reported within the Pinon Hills area, with increased participation from property owners interested in mitigation work.
- SAFPD personnel continued partnering with local agencies and landowners on wildfire risk reduction projects.

Grants

- Grant-funded mitigation work remains active.
- Cooperative projects with local partners continue to move forward.
- Updates were provided regarding future opportunities for additional mitigation work and external funding.

6. Unfinished Business

No unfinished business was brought before the board.

7. New Business

Motion for board consideration

- Motion to appoint Marilyn Marchand as the Designated Election Official (DEO) for the 2027 South Arkansas Fire Protection District election cycle.
- Motion by: Sheldon Morgan
- Second: Art Hutchinson
- Vote: Unanimous

Motion for board consideration

- Motion to reschedule the November 2026 board meeting from November 23rd to November 16th and to reschedule the December 2026 board meeting from December 21st to December 14th.
- Motion by: Rich Edgington
- Second: Sheldon Morgan
- Vote: Unanimous

8. Adjournment

- Motion to adjourn the meeting at 09:43.
- Motion to adjourn: Rich Edgington
- Second: Sheldon Morgan
- Vote: Passed unanimously

Submitted by: Art Hutchinson, Secretary Treasurer

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