FOUR MILE FIRE DISTRICT

REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

1. Call to Order: 7 p.m. Date: September 16, 2026
   A. Roll call for quorum: Board Members: (P) Randy Bruggink, President; (P) Gail Vetter, Secretary; (P) Paul Jackson, Treasurer; (P) Bob Reiss, Member At Large; (P) Stephen Witcher, Member At Large
   Non-Voting Board Members: (P) Chris Hawkins, Fire Chief; (P) Linda LaShier
   (P) Present (EA) Excused Absence (A) Absence

2. Previous Minutes: Stephen Witcher moved to accept August 19, 2026 minutes, seconded by Bob Reiss, all approved.

3. Treasurer's Report: Paul Jackson went over financials for June and July 2028.
   a. Since the financial statements are not current, due to the prior accountant leaving in June, the Board did not accept the financial report as presented.
   b. Preliminary 2027 Budget distributed to Board Members for review at next meeting. Any changes should be sent to Paul Jackson by September 30th.
   c. Paul Jackson made a motion to remove Jeffrey Carnahan as a signer on our two checking accounts with Bank of San Juans and Park State Bank & Trust. Further move that the signers on those banks be our current Board. Board Members are Randy Bruggink, Paul Jackson, Gail Vetter, Bob Reiss and Stephen Witcher. Also made motion to have our new accounting firm, Darcy Accounting, have online access to our three banks: Bank of the San Juans, Park State Bank & Trust and ColoTrust, therefore allowing them to have current information. Motion was seconded by Gail Vetter; all approved.
   d. Labor Day weekend Garage Sale received approximately $11,815.
   e. The funds received from Garage Sale will be applied to purchase of a new Tender.

4. Old Business: None

5. New Business:
   a. Discuss Deputy Chief position, previously held by Anthony Benvidedez, who resigned in June. Chief would like to hire Cade McKee for this position. Cade McKee told those present about his years of experience as a Fire Fighter/Trainer; owner of a profitable construction company and has always valued 4 Mile Fire District personnel and would welcome the opportunity to join the team. Bob Reiss made motion to accept Cade McKee as Deputy Chief, Paul Jackson seconded, all approved.
   b. Discussion to purchase BME type 3 versus getting a new type 6 priced at $784,000 – but this truck may not be available until May 2027. Have a contract but currently no deposit.
   c. Another option is to purchase a 2019 International Tender for $180,000; or a 2019 Kenworth Pumper Tanker which has a 3,000 gallon tank for $199,000.
   d. Paul Jackson made a motion to cancel contract on Type 3 and buy either the Kenworth Tender. Discussion. Stephen Witcher suggested we not cancel the Type 3 until we are asked to make a payment; therefore remaining on list of potential buyers. Motion was amended to purchase a Type 6 Brush Truck and a Tender. The contract for the Type 3 Engine was to only be canceled at the time funds were requested to hold the contract. Bob Reiss seconded the motion, all approved.
   e. Stephen Witcher suggested that Secretary, Gail Vetter prepare the Board Agenda; sending a reminder for agenda items to Board/Chief a week prior to the meeting. Agenda would be posted on 4 Mile District bulletin board the Tuesday prior to the meeting and also sent to Board members.
   f. Stephen Witcher made motion that we hire a housekeeper/crew to weekly clean station and rest rooms; Gail Vetter seconded the motion. All approved.

6. Jolly Volly Report:
   a. Garage Sales on Labor Day weekend raised $11,815.
   b. Only sell hot dogs for next years Garage Sale for $5 and change date to weekend before Labor Day.
   c. Change open times to 7:30-4:30 on Saturday; 9-2 on Sunday.
   d. Put up a canopy to cover furniture area and for those volunteers working in that area.

e. There should be a fee for delivery of items to buyer.
f. Myra will coordinate the pancake breakfast on September 26th.
g. Discussion about Trunk or Treat event. Chief proposed we just have candy available for the few children that come to the Fire Department.
h. Funds received from fundraisers will go toward new tender or pump tanker.

7. Chief's Report:
   a. August went to Texas an ICT4 for a fire assignment. Ran 5 successful burn operations; totaling over 4,000 acres during night ops on Ross Fire; able to get my FIRB signed off by Texas State Burn Boss. After 29-hour first shift on the fire I made night ops Division Group Supervisor and oversaw 3 divisions stretching almost 42 miles to head off fire.
   b. It has recently been brought to Chief's attention that 4 Mile Fire District has not been making monthly payments to FPPA for retirement, disability, life insurance, since May. Payment, which will include compound interest, is required no later than October 1, 2026. Stephen Witcher made a motion that payment to FPPA will be by Wednesday the 23rd September but no later than September 25th. Bob Reiss seconded the motion. All approved. Stephen Witcheer made a motion regarding Chief Hawkins FPPA that was not collected in 2025, that when the total amount due on Chief Hawkins account is paid, he has to be charged for his portion and the department has to pay the station's portion, plus accrued interest.
   c. Chief advised that he does not have time to oversee the new building for next year. He will write the DOLA grant in January to see if it can match the $400k donation. Advise if you know anyone qualified to oversee this project.
   d. So far this year we are close to 4,000 piles chipped and contributions do not support the manpower and fuel used. Chief suggested that next year a minimum donation of $100 per address.
   e. 9 properties in the district are signed up for burn piles – weather permitting. This is more efficient than chipping.
   f. Pikes National Forest have invited us to "go burn" this fall/winter. 18,000 plus piles, around 7,000 acres as we continue to build good relationships.
   g. Sheriff and Commissioner's will be at our December 8th Training to award us for all of our great accomplishments this year. Keep up the great work 4 Mile Fire District!
   h. Jr Firefighters Program will officially start on October 1st. Students will come to our station twice a month to train and run calls with us. They will graduate with FF1, Hazmat OPS, EMT-B, and S130/190 and will receive certification for hiring upon graduation. Cripple Creek High School principal and Mayor, along with Pat Hill from the Gazette will be here on October 1st for pictures and quotes.

8. Board Member Comments: Randy Bruggink advised that there is a 2013 Ford Truck with 98,000 miles for sale. Also Cade McKee advised he has a 2018 ¾ ton truck, 90,000 miles with light bar, tool chest, etc. for $30,000. Gail Vetter made a motion to purchase the ¾ ton truck, Bob Reiss seconded the motion, all approved.

9. Next regular board meeting will be held on Wednesday, October 21, 2026 at 7 pm.

10. Bob Reiss made motion to adjourn at 9:07 p.m., seconded by Stephen Witcher; all approved.

Respectfully submitted,
Gail Vetter, Secretary

Board of Directors:
President, Randy Bruggink RBruggink@4milefire.com
Treasurer, Paul Jackson pjackson@4milefire.com
Secretary, Gail Vetter gvetter@4milefire.com
Member at Large, Bob Reiss RReiss@4milefire.com
Member at Large, Stephen Witcher witcher76@gmail.com
Officers:
Fire Chief, Chris Hawkins Chief@4milefire.com