

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

West Metro Fire Protection District
Board of Directors Meeting
March 17, 2026

I. CALL TO ORDER

The regular meeting of the West Metro Fire Protection District board of directors was called to order by President Bill Clayton at 6:03 p.m. This meeting was held in accordance with the applicable statutes of the state of Colorado, at West Metro Fire Protection District's Administrative Office Building, at 433 South Allison Parkway, Lakewood, Colorado, and available remotely via Teams.

II. ROLL CALL

President Bill Clayton	Present
Vice President Carolyn Wolfrum	Present
Secretary Don Sherman	Present
Treasurer Amira Watters	Present – Remote via Teams
Director Steven Haire	Present
Director Mike Williams	Present
Director Joe Zimmermann	Present – Remote via Teams

Also present were Fire Chief Jeremy Metz (remote via Teams); Deputy Chief Gary Armstrong; Deputy Chief Steve Aseltine; Deputy Chief Todd Heintz; Deputy Chief Mike Kirkpatrick; Ms. Adele Reester, Esq.; Captain Mike Mulcahy representing IAFF Local #1309; Mr. Bruk Mulaw; and, Ms. Jennifer Wheaton as recording secretary.

III. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE & MOMENT OF SILENCE

President Clayton led the Pledge of Allegiance and requested a moment of silence to honor all fallen firefighters.

IV. REVIEW OF MINUTES

A. Minutes of February 17, 2026

MOTION: It was moved by Don Sherman and seconded by Mike Williams to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of the board of directors dated February 17, 2026, as presented. The motion was voted upon and carried.

V. PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

VI. REPORTS

A. Report of the Fire Chief – Fire Chief Jeremy Metz

1. Center for Public Safety Excellence - Excellence Conference

Several West Metro staff members attended the Center for Public Safety Excellence (CPSE) annual Excellence Conference in Orlando, Florida. The team observed accreditation hearings for local Colorado agencies, including Thornton, Aurora, and Poudre Fire Departments, providing valuable insights for the District's upcoming reaccreditation next year. Current preparations are underway to transition West Metro to the 11th Edition of the Self-Assessment Manual. The staff is proactively updating policies and procedures to align with this new standard. The 11th Edition requires documented, ongoing labor-management meetings and collaboration. While labor-management meetings at West Metro already regularly occur, the new focus will be on increasing the formal documentation of these collaborative meetings. Division Chief Mike Parker, who previously managed the process two cycles ago, attended the conference and is effectively re-engaging in his role as accreditation manager.

2. Community Advisory Group (CAG) Meetings Update

Two of the four planned CAG meetings have been held, comprised of a diverse group of citizens from across the District. The group received presentations from Fire Chief Jeremy Metz, Deputy Chief Gary Armstrong, Deputy Chief Todd Heintz, Division Chief Jay Jackson, and Division Chief Jasen McConaghy, covering the organization's history, governance, legislative impacts on fire districts, and the history of District elections. Furthermore, they reviewed financial trends (revenue/expenses), increasing apparatus costs, and EMS funding challenges. The next meeting of the CAG will occur on April 1, 2026. The topic of this meeting will focus on the results of a recent field poll of likely voters in the community. A condensed version of these presentations, including a recommendation for revenue stabilization from the CAG, will be provided to the board at a study session on April 25, 2026.

3. HB25-1182 Risk Model Use in Property Insurance

House Bill 25-1182 which was signed into law in May 2025, regarding risk model use in property insurance policies, aims to increase transparency in how insurance companies use risk models to set premiums and determine insurability for Colorado homeowners. The law addresses the potential for premium stabilization and possible prevention of insurance cancellations for mitigation efforts (like clearing space around a home). Division Chief Sean Jewell and the Life Safety Division are collaborating with the Insurance Institute for Business and Home Safety (IBHS) to introduce science-based wildfire mitigation and construction standards to Colorado, aimed at stabilizing insurance premiums. The Mountain Villages development in Jefferson County, in the Station 11

response area is set to become the first IBHS pilot community in the state, expanding a successful regional program that is already in place in other western states such as Nevada and California. Chief Jewell will provide a presentation to the board on this topic at a future board meeting.

4. SB26-116 Elimination of Business Personal Property Tax

Senate Bill 26-116 is a proposed legislation in Colorado that aims to eliminate the personal property tax for businesses. If passed, the legislation will result in substantial funding cuts for local governments, special districts, and fire departments, with an estimated annual revenue reduction in the amount of \$1.5 million annually for the District. Ann Terry, the Executive Director of the Special District Association of Colorado (SDA), is actively bringing this topic to the attention of local entities, as this, along with other recent legislative changes, significantly impacts the funding of public services.

5. Retirement of Jeffcom 911 Executive Director

The executive director at Jeffcom 911, Jeff Streeter, has announced his retirement. An interim director will be appointed in the near future, followed by a search for a new executive director of Jeffcom 911.

B. Finance – Finance Director Bruk Mulaw

1. January 2026 Financial Statements

Mr. Mulaw reviewed the January 2026 financial statements which will be brought to the board for approval at the April 21, 2026 meeting.

C. Chief of Staff – Deputy Chief Mike Kirkpatrick

1. Chief of Staff Update

The annual administrative procedure review is currently underway. Planning is ongoing for the Colorado Fallen Firefighter Memorial event scheduled for May 16, 2026. Close watch is being kept on rising tensions in Iran due to the potential impact on District operations, including fuel costs, physical threats, and cyber threats.

D. Administration – Deputy Chief Todd Heintz

1. Administration Update

Chief Heintz acknowledged the quality of the IT Division's work, led by IT Director Eric Bates. Mr. Bates consistently prepares the organization for potential cyber threats, including educating the entire organization on prevention as a key component of West Metro's cybersecurity plan.

E. Operations – Deputy Chief Gary Armstrong

1. Operations Update

Chief Armstrong discussed significant calls in recent weeks. With warm weather and windy conditions, wildfire remains a concern in parts of the District. One notable event was a joint training session with Denver Fire at the old Sears building on Colfax Boulevard, which is scheduled for demolition in the near future. The vacant structure provided an opportunity for a unique real-world environment for drills. Because the Denver Fire Department's tactics often differ from neighboring fire districts, these sessions are critical for mutual aid efficiency and recognizing different workflows before a high-stakes emergency occurs.

F. Life Safety – Deputy Chief Steve Aseltine

1. Comprehensive Project Report – Electronic Report

Chief Aseltine updated the board on the progress with the reporting process as the Life Safety Division works through the transition to the National Emergency Response Information System (NERIS).

G. Other Matters

None.

H. Report of Legal Counsel – Adele Reester, Esq.

Ms. Reester and associates have been supporting the District during the CAG meetings.

I. Report of the President – President Bill Clayton

None.

J. Treasurer's Report – Treasurer Amira Watters

1. December 2025 Preliminary Financial Statements

MOTION: It was moved by Amira Watters and seconded by Carolyn Wolfrum to approve the December 2025 preliminary financial statements as presented. The motion was voted upon and carried.

K. Report of the Union – Captain Mike Mulcahy

West Metro Union Executive Board members recently visited Washington, D.C., to lobby for federal support on key firefighter safety initiatives, including funding for PFAS-free gear research and improved wildfire preparedness. The advocacy emphasized reducing cancer risks from toxic gear, increasing funding for

wildland firefighter mental health resources, and establishing national standards for equipment and training.

- L. Report of Civil Service Committee – Secretary Don Sherman

Mr. Sherman reported on the March 10, 2026 Civil Service Committee meetings. The next meeting of the CSC is scheduled for April 14, 2026.

VII. OLD BUSINESS

- A. Resolution 2026-03 - Adoption of the State of Colorado Wildfire Resiliency Code – Fire Chief Jeremy Metz

MOTION: It was moved by Mike Williams and seconded by Carolyn Wolfrum to approve Resolution 2026-03, a resolution of the Board of Directors of the West Metro Fire Protection District to adopt the Wildfire Resiliency Code and deferring enforcement to DFPC. The motion was voted upon and carried.

- B. Resolution 2026-04 - Adoption of the Jefferson County Wildfire Resiliency Code – Fire Chief Jeremy Metz

MOTION: It was moved by Mike Williams and seconded by Steven Haire to approve Resolution 2026-04, a resolution of the Board of Directors of the West Metro Fire Protection District to adopt the Jefferson County Wildfire Resiliency Code as a local amendment within the District. The motion was voted upon and carried.

The board discussed concerns related to unknown costs and impacts to residents and the District, noting that adoption is necessary to comply with state deadlines and to ensure enforcement resources remain with the county rather than with the District.

- C. Statewide Internet Portal Authority (SIPA) Grant Drone System Update – Deputy Chief Mike Kirkpatrick

The grant application is delayed for further legal review, with the hope of presenting it at the next board meeting. The training site for the Drone as a First Responder (DFR) program is being relocated from the Training Center to Station 4, based on data and key performance indicators from the City of Lakewood.

- D. Stevinson Automotive Subdivision Filing Update – Fire Chief Jeremy Metz

Chief Metz updated the board on a subdivision filing in the area of 6th Avenue and Indiana. Legal is handling the matter, which will likely require an amendment to the previously approved inclusion related to this property. The goal is to have this finalized in April, with a follow-up update to be provided if it is not ready by then.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Request for the Top Three Names from the Eligibility Register for the Rank of Captain, and the Top Four Names from the Eligibility Register for the Rank of Lieutenant from the Civil Service Committee – Fire Chief Jeremy Metz

Chief Metz requested and received consensus from the board to request the top three names from the eligibility register for the rank of captain, and the top four names from the eligibility register for the rank of lieutenant from the Civil Service Committee.

IX. BOARD BRIEFS

- A. Organizational Chart Change – Fire Chief Jeremy Metz

X. OTHER MATTERS

None.

XI. EXECUTIVE SESSION (If needed)

None.

XII. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: There being no further business to be presented it was moved Carolyn Wolfrum and seconded by Don Sherman to adjourn the regular meeting of the West Metro Fire Protection District board of directors. The motion was voted upon and carried.

The meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Recording Secretary: /s/s/ Jennifer Wheaton
/s/ Don Sherman