

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

West Metro Fire Protection District
Board of Directors Meeting
September 22, 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 6:02 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
Director Steven Haire	Present
Director Mike Williams	Present
Director Joe Zimmermann	Present

Also present were Fire Chief Jeremy Metz; Deputy Chief Gary Armstrong; Deputy Chief Steve Aseltine; Division Chief Mike Parker; 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. PUBLIC HEARING ON PETITION FOR INCLUSION

A. Petition/Board Order of Inclusion for the Brown Property

Mr. Clayton opened the public hearing on the petition for inclusion of the Brown Property. Mr. Mark Brown of 9650 S. Cougar Road was present to speak at the public hearing. Mr. Brown noted the recent steps he has taken to request exclusion from Conifer Fire and thanked the board for their consideration of his petition for inclusion into the District. Chief Metz expressed his support for the petition for inclusion, noting that if approved by the board, the District would assume responsibility for this territory immediately. As no one else was present from the public to speak at the public hearing, Mr. Clayton closed the public hearing on the property inclusion.

MOTION: It was moved by Don Sherman and seconded by Amira Watters to approve the board order of inclusion for the Brown Property as presented. The motion was voted upon and carried.

V. REVIEW OF MINUTES

- A. Minutes of August 18, 2026

MOTION: It was moved by Carolyn Wolfrum and seconded by Steven Haire to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of the board of directors dated August 18, 2026, as presented. The motion was voted upon and carried.

VI. PROMOTIONS

- A. Promote Matthew Anderson to the Rank of Engineer, Effective September 2, 2026 – Fire Chief Jeremy Metz

MOTION: It was moved by Don Sherman and seconded by Joe Zimmermann to promote Matthew Anderson to the rank of engineer, effective September 2, 2026. The motion was voted upon and carried.

VII. OATH OF OFFICE FOR ENGINEER MATTHEW ANDERSON WILL OCCUR AT THE OCTOBER 20, 2026 BOARD MEETING

VIII. PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

IX. REPORTS

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

1. CO-TF1 Update

The CO-TF1 staff provided a tour of the facility to U.S. Representative Brittany Pettersen, highlighting some of the task force's response capabilities and deployments assigned to CO-TF1 in recent years.

2. Special Districts Association (SDA) Conference

Chief Metz thanked those board members who were in attendance at the 2026 SDA Conference, and those who attended the sessions remotely. Chief Metz reported that the sessions addressed critical special district matters, ranging from elections to emerging legislative topics like impact fees and revenue caps. Additionally, he highlighted a presentation by a fiduciary group outlining ladder structures for reserve funding strategies. Mr. Sherman, Mr. Clayton, and Ms. Wolfrum commented on notable sessions that each attended, acknowledging the value this conference brings to board members of special districts.

3. 2027 Budget Update

Work continues on the preparations for the 2027 budget. Reviews of capital projects and apparatus needs are nearly complete. The preliminary budget will be assembled and provided to the board for review by October 15. Chief Metz will present the 2027 budget to the board at the October 20, 2026 board meeting. Chief Metz added that while the supplemental Medicaid reimbursement from the year 2025 has been approved and will result in a \$7.5 million reimbursement in 2026, there is uncertainty about the future availability of these funds, making budgeting in 2027 challenging in terms of projected EMS revenue.

4. 2026 Election Update

Designated Election Official, Ms. Kara Urland, has been working toward meeting the required election deadlines and legal requirements in preparation for the November 3, 2026 coordinated election. The county TABOR booklets are currently in development. The District received one "for" and one "against" statement regarding Ballot Issue 7C, both of which will appear in the Jefferson and Douglas County TABOR booklets.

5. Sleep Study Shift Time Change Report – Assistant Chief Mike Binney

Assistant Chief Mike Binney updated the board on the District's pilot program, which shifted firefighter start times from 7:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. in January 2026. Utilizing WHOOP biometric devices, 911 call records, staffing data, and surveys, the ongoing sleep study revealed that the 9:00 a.m. start time allowed the 80 firefighters participating in the study to gain an additional 2.3 hours of sleep over a 48-hour shift cycle. Furthermore, the new schedule improved physical recovery, reducing the time needed to return to baseline sleep performance from three days to just one night. By tracking these biometrics and implementing data-driven policies, the District directly improves health, wellness, and operational efficiency while mitigating fatigue-related risks like on-duty injuries and vehicle accidents. While a follow-up survey showed overwhelming satisfaction with only 7% of participants wanting to return to the original schedule (7:00 a.m. start time), self-reported fatigue remains a consistent challenge, prompting Chief Binney to emphasize the necessity of pursuing further policy interventions.

6. Whole Blood Program

Full implementation of the Whole Blood Program has been temporarily delayed while final legal details are being resolved.

7. Insurance Institute Business and Home Safety (IBHS) Wildfire Prepared Community Demonstration Event – Division Chief Sean Jewell

Division Chief Sean Jewell reported on the IBHS Wildfire Prepared Home Community Demonstration Event, hosted by West Metro at the Training Center on Thursday, September 17, 2026. Nearly 80 attendees, ranging from public officials and insurance providers to the news media, witnessed a live-fire demonstration contrasting two structures: one with proper fire mitigation, clearing all combustible materials within a five-foot buffer, and one without. The drastic difference in fire behavior vividly illustrated the resilience of mitigated properties versus the vulnerability of untreated ones. Highlighting the real-world impact of these standards, major insurers like State Farm are already integrating IBHS discount details into renewal notices. While widespread implementation will take years, community-level initiatives, such as the new Mountain Villages community development in Willow Springs, will be the first IBHS Wildfire Prepared Neighborhood in Colorado.

8. Front Range Wildfire Initiated Community Conflagration (WICC)

Chief Metz attended an executive briefing, coordinated by the Front Range emergency managers, on the work in recent months to plan and prepare for a large-scale fire incident like the 2021 Marshall fire. The WICC group has been working together for approximately one year, bringing together decision makers such as city managers, sheriffs, fire chiefs, and public information officers to prepare for a large-scale wildfire emergency response. The current focus of this group involves aligning procedures, communications, notification systems, command and control, and curriculum and training development.

9. Jeffcom Executive Director Update

Andrew Dameron, the current Denver 911 dispatch director, has been selected as the new Jeffcom Executive Director, bringing years of experienced leadership to the role.

B. Finance – Finance Director Bruk Mulaw

1. July 2026 Financial Statements

Mr. Mulaw reviewed the July 2026 financial statements which will be brought to the board for approval at the October 20, 2026 meeting.

C. Chief of Staff – Deputy Chief Mike Kirkpatrick

1. Chief of Staff Update

Chief Kirkpatrick reported on a recent meeting with Chief Metz and the Lakewood Economic Development Director to discuss a new urban renewal project off the Sheridan corridor. During the meeting, they expressed concerns regarding how the renewal area could impact the

District, particularly as parcels are transitioned from vacant property and single-family homes into high-density developments. The proposed project spans 23 acres and 20 parcels, with plans to introduce up to 1,000 multifamily units and 8,000 square feet of retail space. The Economic Development team expects to submit a letter to initiate interim negotiations within the next couple of weeks. Once those negotiations begin, the District will typically have a 120-day window to finalize the details.

The drone program operating out of Station 4 is experiencing strong initial success, logging 169 flights for a total of 33 hours of actual flying time, which averages out to about three flights per day. Notably, during combined law enforcement and fire emergency responses to auto accidents, the drone was able to arrive on scene within three minutes of dispatch for 85 of those 169 flights.

D. Administration – Division Chief Mike Parker

1. Administration Update

Chief Parker updated the board on the 2027 re-accreditation process, noting that momentum has steadily built since last month's kickoff. He emphasized that every employee present at the board meeting directly drives this initiative by authoring performance indicators for the self-assessment manual. Ultimately, he framed the accreditation process not just as a milestone, but as a collective commitment to continual organizational self-improvement that he is proud to oversee.

Human Resources Generalist Morgan Hinton-Moreno provided a brief update on the firefighter hiring process, noting that the District recently concluded two weeks of oral board interviews. From September 8 - 18, the panel assessed 98 candidates.

The new Engine 10 went in service today, and the new Engine 4 will be ready for front line service in the coming days.

The reserve storage facility is nearing completion with final completion scheduled for November 2026.

Chief Heintz will be meeting with Directors Williams and Zimmermann next week to review the construction projects proposed in the 2027 capital budget plan.

E. Operations – Deputy Chief Gary Armstrong

1. Operations Update

Chief Armstrong reviewed recent notable calls, including a medical incident involving a drone as a first responder. By rapidly identifying

scene hazards, the drone helped law enforcement secure the area, enabling EMS personnel to reach and assess the patient more quickly.

F. Life Safety – Deputy Chief Steve Aseltine

1. Comprehensive Project Report – Electronic Report
2. 31st Annual Family Fire Muster

Chief Aseltine encouraged board members to attend the Muster on Saturday, September 26, 2026. A full report on this year's Muster will be presented during the November 17, 2026 board meeting.

G. Other Matters

None.

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

Ms. Reester followed up on some questions from the board members that came out of the SDA Conference on the topic of executive sessions, clarifying the rules and grounds for entering into executive session.

I. Report of the President – President Bill Clayton

None.

J. Treasurer's Report – Treasurer Amira Watters

1. June 2026 Financial Statements

MOTION: It was moved by Amira Watters and seconded by Joe Zimmermann to approve the June 2026 financial statements as presented. The motion was voted upon and carried.

K. Report of the Union – President Mike Mulcahy

The Local 1309 is excited to be kicking off the 7C campaign.

L. Report of Civil Service Committee – Secretary Don Sherman

Mr. Sherman reported on the September 8, 2026 Civil Service Committee meetings. The next meeting of the CSC is scheduled for October 13, 2026.

Mr. Sherman also highlighted other notable West Metro events. Nearly 100 community members participated in the Physical Agility Test (PAT) during the Firefighter Obstacle Course on August 29. Additionally, the 9/11 Memorial Stair Climb drew an impressive turnout of more than 4,000 participants for the 25th commemoration.

X. OLD BUSINESS

- A. Gear Wash Lease Agreement – Division Chief Jay Jackson

MOTION: It was moved by Amira Watters and seconded by Joe Zimmermann to approve the amended lease agreement with Gear Wash and authorize Chief Metz or a designee to execute all documents associated with this lease agreement. The motion was voted upon and carried.

XI. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Resolution 2026-07 – A Resolution Supporting Sales Tax

MOTION: It was moved by Don Sherman and seconded by Carolyn Wolfrum to adopt Resolution 2026-07 – A Resolution to Support the Election on a referred measure appearing on the November 3, 2026 ballot. A roll call vote was taken and the motion carried unanimously.

XII. BOARD BRIEFS

- A. Red Rocks Community College Affiliation Agreement – Deputy Chief Gary Armstrong

XIII. OTHER MATTERS

None.

XIV. EXECUTIVE SESSION

MOTION: At approximately 7:51 p.m., it was moved by Joe Zimmermann and seconded by Steven Haire to enter into executive session pursuant to Section 24-6-402(4)(f)(I) C.R.S. for purposes of discussing a personnel matter regarding Fire Chief Jeremy Metz, and pursuant to Section 24-6-402(4)(b) C.R.S. for purposes of consulting with the District’s attorney on the issue of a litigation update on the Braning matter. The motion was voted upon and carried.

- A. Personnel Matter with the Fire Chief

The board was in executive session on this matter from 7:55 p.m. until 8:21 p.m.

- B. Braning Matter

The board was in executive session on this matter from 8:23 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

- C. Executive Session (if needed)

MOTION: At approximately 8:30 p.m. it was moved by Amira Watters and seconded by Mike Williams to resume the regular board meeting of the

West Metro Fire Protection District. The motion was voted upon and carried.

President Clayton announced that no motions were made nor were any votes taken during executive session.

XV. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: There being no further business to be presented it was moved Don Sherman and seconded by Carolyn Wolfrum 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 8:32 p.m.

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

CERTIFICATION OF EXECUTIVE SESSION

On September 22, 2026, it was duly moved and seconded that the West Metro Fire Protection District Board of Directors enter into an executive session pursuant to § 24-6-402(4)(b) C.R.S. for legal advice regarding a litigation update for the Braning matter from the Board's legal counsel, Adele L. Reester and Catherine A. Tallerico, such advice constituting privileged attorney-client communications in the opinion of Ms. Reester and Ms. Tallerico. The motion carried unanimously, and the Board entered into an executive session from 8:23 p.m. until 8:30 p.m.

Ms. Tallerico and Ms. Reester specifically advised the Board with respect to questions and concerns raised by the Board members regarding the Braning litigation, all such advice constituting privileged attorney-client communications in the opinion of Ms. Reester and Ms. Tallerico.

CERTIFICATION BY REGISTERED ATTORNEYS

I, Adele L. Reester, Reg. No. 28549, hereby certify that the executive session was devoted to providing specific legal advice to the Board of Directors regarding the Braning litigation, and that all such communications for that portion were privileged under applicable Colorado law and Supreme Court rules.



Adele L. Reester

I, Catherine A. Tallerico, Reg. No. 19995, hereby certify that the executive session was devoted to providing specific legal advice to the Board of Directors regarding the Braning litigation and that all such communications were confidential under applicable Colorado law and Supreme Court rules.



Catherine A. Tallerico