

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

West Metro Fire Protection District
Board of Directors Meeting
February 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 6:00 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; Deputy Chief Todd Heint; 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 THE 2025 BUDGET – CO-TF1 SUPPLEMENTING THE BUDGET FOR 2025 DEPLOYMENT

Mr. Clayton opened the public hearing on supplementing the 2025 CO-TF1 budget for the 2025 deployments. As no one from the public was present to speak at the public hearing, Mr. Clayton closed the public hearing on supplementing the 2025 CO-TF1 budget for the 2025 deployments.

V. REVIEW OF MINUTES

A. Minutes of January 20, 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 January 20, 2026, as presented. The motion was voted upon and carried.

VI. PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

VII. REPORTS

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

1. West Metro is mourning the loss of Engineer Kyle Bartlett. Chief Metz thanked the board for their support and acknowledged the work of the deputy chiefs to coordinate memorial services with the Bartlett family. The celebration of life is scheduled for Friday, February 27, 2026, at 11:00 a.m. in Lone Tree. The board and staff discussed the District's approach to mental health services and the steps the District has taken in recent years to support the District's first responders, including the addition of a mental health coordinator who connects employees with appropriate resources during times of need.

2. CO-TF1 Update

Chief Metz commented on the public hearing for supplementing the 2025 budget, which is a result of the CO-TF1's response to the 2025 deployments. This supplementation is separate from the budgeted funding provided by FEMA for day-to-day operations. Costs associated with disaster responses are paid by the Disaster Relief Fund and are not budgeted annually at the local agency. Reimbursement for the 2025 deployments was recently approved by the federal government, and the District anticipates receiving those funds very soon; however, the timing for the arrival of the funds is somewhat uncertain due to the latest government shutdown. In preparation for the arrival of these funds, a resolution to supplement the CO-TF1's budget is required. The board will address Resolution 2026-01 – A Resolution to Supplement the 2025 Budget at a later point in the meeting, during Old Business.

Division Chief John Grothe will be retiring in June 2026. Chief Metz is evaluating options for Chief Grothe's replacement as program manager of CO-TF1 and will bring his recommendations to the board for consideration at the April 21, 2026 board meeting.

3. Community Advisory Group (CAG) Meetings

The first of four CAG meetings will be held tomorrow. Mr. Clayton and Mr. Zimmermann will be present at these meetings to represent the board. The full board is scheduled to receive a report from the CAG, complete with revenue stabilization recommendations, during the Special Meeting/Study Session of the Board of Directors on April 25, 2026.

4. Stevinson Automotive Subdivision Filing

Chief Metz anticipates a petition for inclusion for the Stevinson Automotive Property (approximately 6th and Indiana) to be received by the board as soon as the March 2026 board meeting.

5. Executive Fire Officer Program

Chief Metz proudly announced the acceptance of Deputy Chief Todd Heinl and Assistant Chief Mike Binney into the next Executive Fire Officer Program at the National Fire Academy. The process to be considered for this program is quite selective, and it is a great honor for West Metro to have two chief-level officers attend this prestigious program. Unfortunately, the government shutdown also affects this program, creating uncertainty surrounding the scheduling of this program.

6. Congressional Fire Service Institute (CFSI) Conference, March 2026

Chief Metz will be attending the CFSI Conference in Washington D.C. in March 2026. The timing of this conference coincides with the March 17, 2026, board meeting. Chief Metz will plan to attend the board meeting remotely. President Clayton requested and received consensus from the board for Chief Metz to remotely attend the board meeting on March 17, 2026.

B. Finance – Finance Director Bruk Mulaw

1. December 2025 Preliminary Financial Statements

Mr. Mulaw reviewed the December 2025 Preliminary financial statements which will be brought to the board for approval at the March 17, 2026, meeting.

C. Chief of Staff – Deputy Chief Mike Kirkpatrick

1. Chief of Staff Update

The Preliminary Impact Fees Study is complete. The District has received an initial draft of the study, which will be finalized in the coming weeks and presented to the board at the Special Meeting/Study Session of the Board of Directors on April 25, 2026.

D. Administration – Deputy Chief Todd Heinl

1. Administration Update

Chief Heinl discussed the progress made up to this point on the future Station 18. The addition of Fire Station 18 adds capacity to the District in anticipation of increased demand as density in the community increases.

The design plans are progressing in coordination with the city of Lakewood to ensure everything needed from a plans review perspective is complete.

E. Operations – Deputy Chief Gary Armstrong

1. Operations Update

Chief Armstrong noted that the District currently has three wildland resources responding out-of-District to Elbert County to provide support to a fast-moving grass fire. Chief Armstrong reviewed other notable calls within the District in recent weeks.

F. Life Safety – Deputy Chief Steve Aseltine

1. Comprehensive Project Report – Electronic Report

Chief Aseltine discussed the compatibility issues that continue to present challenges in reporting with the new National Emergency Response Information System (NERIS) program. With just six weeks into the new reporting platform, Chief Aseltine and his staff are still working on a solution to create a crosswalk for full reporting capabilities.

G. Other Matters

None.

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

The legal report will occur in executive session.

I. Report of the President – President Bill Clayton

None.

J. Treasurer’s Report – Treasurer Amira Watters

1. October and November 2025 Financial Statements

MOTION: It was moved by Amira Watters and seconded by Steven Haire to approve the October and November 2025 financial statements as presented. The motion was voted upon and carried.

K. Report of the Union – Captain Mike Mulcahy

Captain Mulcahy thanked the Executive Team and the Board for their support of the Bartlett Family and West Metro employees as a whole since Engineer Bartlett’s passing. He also mentioned that Adams County Firefighter Mike Eason,

who is the Colorado Professional Firefighters Funeral Liaison, has provided a tremendous service to West Metro and the family of Engineer Bartlett.

L. Report of Civil Service Committee – Secretary Don Sherman

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

VIII. OLD BUSINESS

A. Resolution 2026-01 – A Resolution for Supplementing the CO-TF1 Budget and Appropriation – Finance Director Bruk Mulaw

MOTION: It was moved by Steven Haire and seconded by Joe Zimmermann to adopt Resolution 2026-01 - A Resolution for Supplemental Budget and Appropriation to the 2025 CO-TF1 budget. A roll call vote was taken and the motion carried unanimously.

B. Resolution 2026-02 – Wheat Ridge Pension Board of Trustees – Fire Chief Jeremy Metz

MOTION: It was moved by Steven Haire and seconded by Amira Watters to adopt Resolution 2026-02 - A Resolution to Call for a Vote of Retirees to Eliminate the Requirement for Two Trustees to Serve on the Wheat Ridge Fire Protection District Firefighter’s Pension Fund Board. The motion was voted upon and carried unanimously.

C. Wheat Ridge Urban Renewal Authority – Lutheran Legacy Campus – Deputy Chief Mike Kirkpatrick

MOTION: It was moved by Carolyn Wolfrum and seconded by Don Sherman to approve the first amendment to the tax increment revenue agreement between the Wheat Ridge Urban Renewal District and the West Metro Fire Protection District pertaining to tax increment revenue sharing pertaining to the Lutheran Legacy Campus urban renewal plan as presented. The motion was voted upon and carried.

IX. NEW BUSINESS

None.

X. BOARD BRIEFS

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

B. Wildfire Resiliency Code – Fire Chief Jeremy Metz

Captain Dan Wenger provided a presentation to the board on the Wildfire Resiliency Code. The Colorado State Legislature created a Wildfire Resiliency Code Board in 2023. That Board was charged with adopting a Wildfire Resiliency Code (WRC) for the State, which was adopted in June 2025. Under this new law, the District is required to adopt a WRC by April 1, 2026. The District has been working proactively on this issue since the original legislation was approved in 2023. The intent of the WRC is to formalize expectations on home hardening and defensible space for properties within the Wildland Urban Interface. While this complements much of the work the District has been doing with the wildfire considerations within the District, the level of enforcement the WRC requires is much more consistent with the scope of building code officials. The District does not currently have the rules and regulations or resources to actively enforce a new set of code that is primarily focused on building materials and site vegetation requirements. As a result, the District has been engaged in discussions with Jefferson County on adopting a common code for all properties within the District and Jefferson County, in which the County will handle the bulk of enforcement. The District will still lend assistance where appropriate, primarily within the confines of the Fire Code. Similar discussions and consideration are being given to the City of Lakewood and other overlapping jurisdictions. Jefferson County is set to adopt its version of the WRC on March 10, and the District is considering adopting the State WRC broadly, by resolution, followed by the Jefferson County Code, by resolution, for application within those portions of the District within unincorporated Jefferson County at the March 17, 2026 board meeting.

XI. OTHER MATTERS

A. Discuss moving the Executive Session for Personnel Matter with the Fire Chief from the March to the April Board Meeting

President Clayton requested and received consensus to move the executive session for a personnel matter with the fire chief from the March 17, 2026 board meeting to the April 21, 2026 board meeting.

B. September Board Meeting – Discuss date change from September 15, 2026 to September 22, 2026 to accommodate SDA Conference

President Clayton requested and received consensus to move the September 15, 2026 board meeting to September 22, 2026.

XII. EXECUTIVE SESSION

A. Legal advice pursuant to Section 24-6-204(4)(b), C.R.S. for legal advice regarding a litigation update for the Braning matter.

MOTION: At approximately 8:37 p.m. it was moved by Don Sherman and seconded by Joe Zimmermann to enter into an executive session pursuant to

§ 24-6-204(4)(b), C.R.S. for purposes of a litigation update for the Braning matter. The motion was voted upon and carried.

MOTION: At approximately 9:06 p.m. it was moved by Carolyn Wolfrum and seconded by Amira Watters 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.

B. Executive Session (if needed)

None.

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: There being no further business to be presented it was moved by Joe Zimmermann 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 9:08 p.m.

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

CERTIFICATION OF EXECUTIVE SESSION

On February 17, 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 8:43 p.m. until 9:06 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