Durango Fire Protection District

Minutes of the DFPD Board of Directors Regular Meeting

Tuesday, September 22, 2026, 8: 00 a.m. | 103 Sheppard Dr, Durango, CO. 81301

Call to Order

Rob Farino called to order the meeting of the Durango Fire Protection District Board of Directors at 8:01 a.m.

Roll Call

Board members present: Rob Farino, Samantha Gallagher, Lyle McKnight, John Dezendorf

Board members joining virtually with notification: Tina McCallum

Board member absent with notification: David Stokes

DFR Staff members present include Chief Randy Black, Legal Bud Smith, HR Director Megan Kunch, Finance Director Eric Baker, Battalion Chief Drew Duvall, Fire Marshal Rinaldi, Accountant Stephanie Dressen, EMS Chief Scott Sholes, BC Jim Anderson, HR Generalist/Executive Assistant Taylor Arnold, Ray Benton,

Public Members include Karen Barger, TJ Hermesman

Agenda

No other additions, deletions or revisions.

Samantha Gallagher motions to approve the agenda, then seconded by Lyle McKnight. Motion carried unanimously.

New Business

Board Members Update

The Board accepts Karen Barger's resignation.

Samantha Gallagher motioned to align with Karen Barger's suggestion to appoint a new director who was the next place finisher in the last election, then seconded by Lyle McKnight. Motion carried unanimously

Election of board officers

Tina McCallum nomintates Samantha Gallagher for President and Rob Farino as Vice President.

Samantha Gallagher nominates Tina McCallum as Secretary Treasurer.

Samantha Gallagher accepts nomination.

Rob Farino accepts nomination.

Tina McCallum accepts nomination.

All in favor of board officers elected.

Review of Minutes

- August 25th, 2026 Regular Meeting Minutes

Lyle McKnight motions to approve the minutes, then seconded by John Dezendorf.

Motion carried unanimously.

Presentation

Scheduled presenter did not show up for their presentation.

Public Comment

No public comment.

Reports

Oral Report: Chief Black

- Station 4 update
- Station 1 remodel

- Congressional spending hearing budget approval date change
- Vehicle update
- Budget planning update
- Staffing update
- ISO Evaluation
- Wildfire Resiliency Code
- Karen Barger plaque award, appreciation for time and commitment

Written Report: Finance Director, Eric Baker

Written Report: Fire Marshal, Stephen Rinaldi

Executive Session

Samantha Gallagher opened for a motion to enter into executive motion to discuss Chief Black's review under C.R.S. Section 24-6-402(4)(f) and invite members of the board and Karen Barger

Lyle McKnight motioned to enter the executive session and TJ Hermesman seconded.

All in favor.

Entered into executive session at 8:24 am.

Lyle McKnight motioned to exit the executive session and John Dezendorf seconded.

All in favor.

Exit executive session at 8:55 am.

Board highlighted apprecitation of money saved by Chief Black regarding the solar project, the new apparatus, and overbilling of fees.

Board discussed the average rate increases of DFPD staff and administrative team.

Lyle McKnight motions to recommend Chief Black will receive a 7$ increase and a $2,000 bonus, then seconded by Rob Farino.

Motion carried unanimously.

Adjournment

Samantha Gallagher adjourned at 9:01 a.m.

Signed: _____
Samantha Gallagher, President

Date: 10/27/26

Attest: _____
Taylor Arnold, Executive Assistant & HR Generalist