

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE
BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE
STERLING RURAL FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT**

Held: Monday, November 18, 2024, at 6:00 pm at Edwards Ave Sterling, CO

Board Members Present: Stan Kaiser, Mike Mills, Darren Luft (late), Wes Pollart, Gary Nelson

Others Present: Chief Dan Wiebers, Chief Lavon Ritter (late), Robert Blake, Kathy Hradecky

Board Members/Others Excused: Jared Davis

The meeting was called to order at 6:09 pm by Stan Kaiser, Chairman, with a quorum present.

Public Meeting on Proposed 2025 Budget Draft and Public Comment

There was no public attendance/comment regarding the proposed 2025 budget draft.

Minutes from the Regular Meeting

Gary Nelson moved (2nd Wes Pollart) to approve the minutes from the regular meeting on October 21, 2024. The motion passed unanimously.

Financial Matters

Wes Pollart moved (2nd Mike Mills) to approve the unaudited financial statements for the period ended October 31, 2024, and the expenditures for November 2024. The motion passed unanimously.

Management Items

Ford 250 Engine Update

The South Platte auto mechanic reported a rod knock which will require a motor replacement. The projected cost is \$25,000 - \$30,000. Mike Mills moved (2nd Wes Pollart) to sell the truck as is on an online auction. The motion passed unanimously. Mike Mills will contact Big Iron Auction.

Website Update

The website goes live on November 19 but will not go on the Google console until after November 25 to allow for completion of pages. There will be a monthly analytics report of website traffic.

Special Meeting Date – Mill Levy Certification and 2025 Budget Resolution

In order to meet the legislative deadline of December 15, the next meeting will be Thursday, December 12 at 6:00 pm

Informational Items

Merino Volunteer Fire Department Chief's Report

Chief Wiebers reported Squad 25 went on its first call last week with no problems. He is waiting to get direct feedback from the person who drove it.

Sterling Fire Department Chief's Report

Chief Ritter reported that the Division of Fire Protection and Control has put up the new gas burn tower (shared by city and state). It should be certified the first week of December. The old building will be used for search and rescue with a new smoke machine and the wood fire is still available.

Fire on the Plains will be in Sterling April 25-27 which should draw in 150-175 firefighters. Sterling Fire Department will teach three class topics.

The city's new ambulance will be here in December, and the ambulance purchased from Yuma will be moved to Merino.

Sterling Fire Engine 12 needs transmission work (first part of 2025) and Engine 10 needs engine work (2025). A new hire started last week and is now fully staffed again.

The first committee meeting regarding the ambulance service is Monday, November 25.
The department has run 2,713 calls as of today.
Competition for paramedics is getting tight. Sidney is starting paramedics at \$70,000. Yuma and Fort Morgan are starting at \$75,000-\$80,000. This is \$12,000-\$15,000 over starting in Sterling.

Director Reports

Wes Pollart – What is the status of the Willard truck? Chief Wiebers reported that all of the parts have arrived. Work will be completed in December, and it will be ready for service in the spring.

Darren Luft – Is the county aware that the Rural Fire District owns an ambulance? Chief Ritter stated he does not believe so.

The next regular meeting is Thursday, December 12, 2024, at 6:00 pm.

Executive Session

At 7:02 pm, Mike Mills moved (2nd Wes Pollart) to convene into Executive Session pursuant to C.R.S. §24-6-402(4)(f) for the purpose of discussing a letter from a Sterling fire fighter.

With no action taken Gary Nelson moved (2nd Mike Mills) to adjourn the executive session at 7:32 pm.

There being no further discussion and no action from the executive session to report, the meeting was adjourned at 7:33 pm.

The foregoing constitutes a true and correct copy of the minutes.

Secretary

The foregoing minutes were approved on the 12th day of December 2024.