



Board Meeting Agenda

Meeting Title: Volunteer Pension Board

Date: July 9, 2026

Time: 7:00 p.m.

Location: 168 N Mesa Street; Fruita, CO 81521

Agenda:

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. Citizen Comments/Requests

This section is set aside for the Board of Directors to listen to comments by the public regarding items that do not otherwise appear on the agenda. Generally, the Board of Directors will not discuss the issue and will not take official action under this section of the agenda. Please limit comments to a five-minute period.

4. Disclosure of Conflict of Interest

5. Approval of:

- Approval of pension board meeting minutes from 6/11/2026

6. New Business

- None

7. Adjourn

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CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Board Meeting of the Board of Directors with the Lower Valley Fire Protection District was called to order by Board President Mark Bonella at 7:45pm. Advance notice of the meeting was provided. The following board of directors were present: Mark Bonella, Jesse Mease, Cullen Purser, Jeff Phillips, and Cliff Gray. Others in attendance: Fire Chief Matt Katzenberger, Deputy Fire Chief Gary Mulkey, Fire Marshal Travis Holder, Mahea Rodriguez, Diana Manzanares, Captain Beau Schmalz, Captain Thomas Creel, Becky Van Bramer, Jesse Stocking, and Max Meyers.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Cliff Gray led the Pledge of Allegiance at the commencement of the Regular Board Meeting of the Board of Directors.

CITIZEN COMMENTS/REQUESTS

None.

DISCLOSURE OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

None.

PURPOSE OF THE MEETING

The purpose of this meeting is to review and obtain approval of a Domestic Relations Order ("DRO"). This Volunteer Pension Board Meeting was convened immediately following the Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors.

NEW BUSINESS

Chief Katzenberger begins by explaining that this item appears on the agenda because each jurisdiction is responsible for governing its own FPPA volunteer pension plan. While the pension funds are held within the state-managed system, each individual entity retains authority over how its plan is administered and how the funds are managed. Because the District's Board of Directors serves as the Pension Board under District policy, any action that falls outside established policy or standard procedures must be reviewed and approved by the Pension Board. Written documentation for that approval must then be submitted to FPPA, which administers the plan.

Chief Katzenberger further explained that decisions such as cost-of-living adjustments and other plan modifications are the responsibility of the Pension Board. FPPA administers the plan but does not have the authority to make these changes independently. Such actions must be reviewed and approved by the governing Pension Board before they can be implemented.

The District received a DRO regarding a former volunteer firefighter's pension benefit. As the pension was determined to be a marital asset during divorce proceedings, the court ordered that the pension benefit be divided equally between the member and the former spouse. The DRO specifies that the member's monthly pension payment is to be split 50/50 between the two parties. **Chief Katzenberger** advised that the Pension Board must formally acknowledge and approve compliance with the DRO through a motion recorded in the meeting minutes. Upon receipt of the Board's approval, the documentation will be forwarded to FPPA for implementation.

Board President Mark Bonella sought clarification regarding the administration of the pension benefit, asking whether the order required liquidation of any pension assets or whether it simply directed that future monthly pension payments be divided. He further inquired about the duration of the benefit split and what would occur upon the death of either the member or former spouse.

Chief Katzenberger stated that if the former member were to pass away, the spouse would continue to receive their entitled share of the pension benefit through the plan's survivor benefit provisions. He further explained that any applicable funeral benefits would be payable to the member's designated beneficiary, while the former spouse would continue to

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receive their awarded portion of the pension benefit. He noted that FPPA administers all benefit payments, and the District would only see the impact reflected in its quarterly pension statements.

Chief Katzenberger states that, due to the state statutes governing volunteer pension plans, the document presented to the Board was a draft court order. He noted that the court requires approval from the Pension Board before the order can be finalized and submitted to FPPA for implementation. This process is intended to preserve the authority and autonomy granted to each individual district to govern and administer its own volunteer pension plan.

Cliff Gray made a motion to approve and comply with the Domestic Relations Order as presented to the LVFD and to provide documentation of the Board's action to FPPA for administration of the pension benefit distribution in accordance with the court order. Motion was seconded by **Jeff Phillips**; motion was passed unanimously with five votes.

ADJOURNMENT

Mark Bonella made a **motion** to adjourn. All in favor with five votes.










