

Delta County Fire Protection District No. 4
Minutes of May 12, 2025, Board Meeting

Call to Order at 6:35 pm by Vice President Kathy Welt

Members Present: Dan Miller, Zach Hotchkiss, Kathy Welt
Fire Chief: Doug Fritz and Assistant Fire Chief David Prosser
Secretary/Treasurer: Diane Walker/Cally Gallegos
Other: Ron Prosser

The New Board members Zach Hotchkiss and Ron Prosser were sworn in.

Election of Board Officers

Kathy Welt made a motion to elect Dan Miller as President of the Board, a second was made. Motion passed.

Ron Prosser made a motion for Kathy Welt to serve as Vice President of the Board, a second was made.

Motion passed.

Dan Miller made a motion to elect Zach Hotchkiss to serve as the Secretary/Treasurer of the Board, a second was made. Motion passed.

Appoint Financial Officer/Secretary

Kathy Welt makes a motion to appoint Cally Gallegos as the new Financial Officer/Secretary, a second was made. Motion passed.

Kathy Welt made a motion to remove all current signers from the accounts at the Bank of Colorado and add Dan Miller, Zach Hotchkiss and Cally Gallegos, a second was made. Motion carried.

MINUTES OF LAST MEETING:

The minutes of April 14, 2025, board meeting were read and approved on a motion from Zach Hotchkiss, a second was made, and the motion passed.

TREASURER REPORT:

Checking Account:	\$174231.46
Special Projects Checking Account:	\$ 5,774.26
Pension Fund:	\$817,791.73
Firemen's Fund:	\$ 4,023.61

Zach Hotchkiss made a motion to accept the treasurer's report, a second was made, and the motion passed.

Public Comment: None

The credit card bill, and the bills paid since the last meeting were reviewed and approved on a motion from Kathy Welt, seconded, and the motion passed.

Doug Fritz acknowledged Diane Walker and her many 23 years of service as the Financial Officer/Secretary. He presented her with a plaque and everyone thanked her for her service.

Kathy Welt made a motion that we get a credit card for Cally Gallegos from the Bank of Colorado. A second was made. The motion carried. When Cally Gallegos receives her card then Diane's card will be removed from all the automatic payments. Diane Walker will relinquish her card then.

CORRESPONDENCE: Doug reported that according to State Legislation the fire department will be solely responsible for building inspections. Each building in the district will need to be inspected every 3 years. Owners can be told to clean up or make changes to exterior of buildings. If owners do not comply, the fire department may impose a lien and a fine on the property. No funding will be given to the Fire Department to pay for the expenses of this new legislation. It is unknown how the fire department will be able to afford a program like this. The county is not responsible for any of the cost.

FIRE CHIEF AND OFFICERS' REPORTS:

Fires and other calls: 26 calls: 3 wrecks, 2 structure fires, 2 gas odor, 1 lift assist, oil spill, swift water rescue, furnace malfunction, wild fire.

Engine 1 Flushed transmission

Cab cylinder repaired.

Ladder 1 repairs are done.

Training: S210 class is coming up; this is a 3-day class and the cost will be \$1,800 (\$300 per person).

Personnel: Ron Wheat, a fire professional from California, will join. He is retired and will work on wildfires for the Hotchkiss Fire Department. Ron gave a very generous donation of \$1000.

Grants: FEMA grant is completed and we are waiting for final approval. The grant should be closed by the end of May.

Building Maintenance: Doug has been replacing safety devices on the boiler. Some repairs were also made to the solar system. May need to replace the control board depending on the cost of repairs.

Redlands Mesa – All is good. They are working on a plan to cover the solar panel with a tarp and a way to keep the tarp tied down. May use pavers.

Subdivisions: No report.

Other: No report.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS REPORT: The Board acknowledged that they have a vacancy on the board. Kathy Welt made a motion to appoint Diane Walker to carry out Cresta Pene remaining term (2 years). Motion was second. Motion carried. **Diane Walker will be sworn in at the June 9, 2025 meeting.**

OLD OR CONTINUED BUSINESS:

Pension Board:

5 Year Plan: Capital Improvement Plan – No report.

1 Year Plan: Mortgage interest rates have come down.

Other: Doug Fritz presented Magellan (Public Opinion Research) information regarding a mil levy increase or sales tax increase. They will do the work to help the fire department educate the public on the needs of the Fire Department. Kathy Welt made a motion that we start working on a plan to add the mill levy increase or sales tax increase to the 2026 ballot and to hire Magellan to work with us. A second was made. Motion carried.

Name Change: Still no word from our attorney Bo Nerlin. Cally will make some calls to search for a new attorney.

NEW BUSINESS:

Doug Fritz discussed the pension fund with the Board and suggested that they make the 2025 contribution of \$17000. The Board agreed. A check was written (100015) from the General Fund for 2025 contributions to the pension fund.

PURCHASE REPORT: Doug reported the need for more fire hose. Zach Hotchkiss made a motion to approve the purchase 200' of hose for Engine 1 and 10. A second was made. Motion carried.

OTHER: Pancake breakfast well attended. Cally Gallegos reported that \$2974.81 was raised. Zach Hotchkiss made a motion to deposit the money into the Fire Fighters Fund. A second was made. Motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 pm.

Future fire board meetings:

June 9

July 14

August 11