

HOTCHKISS FIRE DISTRICT

Meeting Minutes for August 11, 2025, Board Meeting

Board Members: Kathy Welt, Dan Miller, Zach Hotchkiss, Ron Prosser, Diane Walker

Fire Chief: Doug Fritz

Secretary/Treasurer: Cally Gallegos

Call to Order By Kathy Welt, 6:39 PM

Review Minutes of Last Meeting Motion made by Diane Walker to approve the minutes, seconded. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report:

Checking account balance \$113810.89

Special Projects checking \$5822.51

Pension Fund \$824868.15

Fireman's Fund \$6161.92

Review Financial Report Doug questioned the 2024 Grant chart of accounts.

Cally will make a new account for the SAFER Grant and make changes to the accounting.

Bills Presented

Public Comment- None

Correspondence:

Fire Chief and Officers' Reports:

Doug Fritz is looking for an auditor for the Pension fund.

The new State mandated wildfire code is unfunded. Montrose has opted out and Doug thinks that Delta County will do the same.

Doug is hoping that Delta County code enforcement will get the burned house in Lazear torn down. Fire prevention has a \$250K trailer fully equipped with fire prevention education equipment that they would like to take to the Hotchkiss K-8 and possible other schools.

Zack Hotchkiss reports that the house that burned in Hotchkiss is locked up due to the asbestos, and the family can not even go in and get their belongings.

Fires and other calls; 5 lift assists, 1 assisted water rescue., 1 fire alarm malfunction, 2 wildfires, Leroux Creek and South Leroux Creek. Hotchkiss was the support for the those fires.

Fire management aircraft had an emergency landing in Grand Junction. The BLM boxed the fire in well on Monday, and the BLM treated us well. We have a great working relationship. The State was in charge of the fire and the type 3 command center.

Niki Carpenter presented certificates to Doug for the great help that he and his firefighters were to the command center. Niki and Bryant were both on the fire and it was great training for them.

Other responsibilities for the Fire Department was the public safety at the fair rodeo and crowd control.

Equipment: Some of the equipment overheated and Doug would like to get a power washer for the station.

Zack Hotchkiss stated that he will send Doug a link for the radiator cleaner that he purchased. I works good.

Training: No training this month because the crews were tired from all the fires.

Personnel

Grants- Doug missed the Safer Grant meeting due to the fires. He will attend the next one.

SCBA Grant still has not closed.

Building Maintenance: Doug still needs to get the furnace repaired.

Subdivisions: Change in use for the event center on Hwy 133, needs a turning lane.

Other, Sheriff Taylor is now on board with the stage 2 restrictions. No outdoor fires of any kind.

Old or Continued Business:

Pension Board

5 Year Plan – Looking at new truck our trucks are 35, 25, 15, and 13 years old.

1 Year Plan – Mortgage rate increased.

Other – Doug is watching cost of new equipment, Niki added that it is a million plus for a new ladder truck. The possibility of a sales tax increase or property tax increase was discussed. We are working with Magellan to decide what would be best for the district and the people within that district.

New Business:

Purchase Requests – Doug asked to purchase a new drone. Current drone is old and needs to be updated. Diane Walker makes a motion for Doug to purchase a drone for the station and he can spend up to \$10K and also find a pressure washer, motion was seconded and passed.

Other

Adjournment – Zack makes a motion to adjourn, Kathy Welt seconds the motion. Motion carried. 8:40