



Hotchkiss Fire District
By-Laws



Hotchkiss Fire District Bylaws

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SECTION 1. AUTHORITY.

The Hotchkiss Fire District (the "District") is a governmental subdivision of the State of Colorado and a body corporate with those powers of a public or quasi municipal corporation which are specifically authorized by, and in compliance with, Section §32-1-101 et seq., C.R.S.

SECTION 2. PURPOSE.

The Bylaws hereinafter set forth serve the public purpose for the District by providing activities or services for the benefit of the public in connection with, but not limited to, public health, safety or welfare.

SECTION 3. POLICIES OF THE BOARD.

It shall be the policy of the Board of Directors (the "Board") of the District, consistent with the availability of revenues, personnel and equipment, to use its best efforts to provide quality services as authorized by law.

SECTION 4. BOARD OF DIRECTORS.

All powers, privileges and duties vested in, or imposed upon, the District by law shall be exercised and performed by and through the Board, whether set forth specifically or implied in these Bylaws. The Board may delegate to officers, employees, and agents of the District any or all administrative and ministerial powers.

Without restricting the general powers conferred by these Bylaws, it is hereby expressly declared that the Board shall have the following powers and duties:

- a. To confer upon any appointed officer or employee of the District the power to choose, remove or suspend employees or agents upon such terms and conditions as may seem fair and just, and in the best interests of the District.
- b. To determine and designate, except as otherwise provided by law or these Bylaws, who shall be authorized to make purchases, negotiate



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leases for office space, and sign receipts, endorsements, checks, releases and other documents. The Board may, on a limited basis and by resolution, give a District Fire Chief or other appointed signatory the power to sign contracts and other official documents on behalf of District.

- c. To create standing or special committees and to delegate such power and authority thereto as the Board deems necessary and proper for the performance of such a committee's functions and obligations.
- d. To prepare or cause to be prepared financial reports, other than the statutory audit, covering each year's fiscal activities; and such reports shall be available for inspection by the public, as requested.

SECTION 5. OFFICE.

- A. Business Office. The principal business office of the District shall be at 193 W. Hotchkiss Avenue, Hotchkiss, Colorado, until otherwise designated by the Board.
- B. Establishing Other Offices and Relocation. The Board, by resolution, may from time to time designate, locate and relocate its executive and business office and such other offices as, in its judgment, are necessary to conduct the business of the District.

SECTION 6. MEETINGS.

- A. Regular Meetings. Regular meetings of the Board shall be conducted on the second Monday of each month at 6:30 p.m. and held at the business office, unless otherwise noticed and posted.
- B. All meetings of the Board, other than executive sessions and social gatherings, shall be open to the public. Meetings include any and all sessions of the Board at which a quorum of the Board, i.e. three or more



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of the five Directors, are in attendance. Directors are expected to attend in person for discussions and conducting other District business.

- C. Notice of Meetings. Section 6.A shall constitute formal notice of regular meetings to Board members, and no other notice shall be required to be given to the Board, other than the permanent posting. The agenda shall be posted for twenty-four (24) hours in advance of meetings on the window next to the front door of the business office.
- D. Special Meetings. Special meetings of the Board may be called by any one member of the Board upon twenty-four (24) hours written notice, which shall be posted in three (3) places within the District boundaries and at the Delta County Clerk and Recorder's office, with a copy provided to each Director.
- E. Executive Sessions. All official business of the Board shall be conducted at regular or special meetings. Executive sessions may be called at regular or special meetings, and conducted according to the following guidelines:
 - 1. Calling the Executive Session. The topic for discussion in the executive session shall be announced in a motion, and the specific statute (provided in Addendum 1) that authorizes the executive session shall be cited. The matter to be discussed shall be described in as much detail as possible without compromising the purpose of being in executive session. An affirmative vote of two-thirds (2/3rd) of the quorum in attendance shall be required to go into executive session.
 - 2. Conducting the Executive Session. No adoption of any proposed policy, position, resolution, rule, regulation, or formal action shall take place in an executive session. The discussion in the executive session shall be limited to the reasons for which the executive session was called. An electronic record (such as an audio tape) of the actual contents of the discussion in the executive session shall be kept. No electronic or other record is



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necessary to be kept for any portions of the discussion which the Delta County District attorney reasonably believes constitute attorney-client privileged communication. The attorney shall state on the electronic record when any portion of the executive session is not recorded as an attorney-client privileged communication or sign a statement to the same effect.

3. Records of Executive Sessions. The electronic record of any executive session shall be retained by the District for ninety (90) days from the date of the executive session and then destroyed. Electronic recordings of the executive session, or transcripts or other reproduction of the same, shall not be released to the general public for review under any circumstances, except as required by law.

F. Continuance of Meetings.

When a regular or special meeting is for any reason continued to another time and place, notice need not be given of the continued meeting if the time and place of such meeting is announced at the meeting at which the continuance is taken, except as required by law. At the continued meeting, any business may be transacted which could have been transacted at the original meeting.

G.. Emergency Meetings.

Notwithstanding any other provisions in Section 6, emergency meetings may be called by the District President or any two (2) Board members in the event of an emergency that requires the immediate action of the Board in order to protect the public health, safety and welfare of the property owners and electors of the District, without notice if notice is not practicable. If possible, notice of such an emergency meeting may be given to the Board by telephone or whatever other means are reasonable to meet the circumstances of the emergency. At such emergency meeting, any action within the power of the Board that is necessary for the immediate protection of the public health, safety and welfare may be taken; provided,



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however, that any action taken at an emergency meeting shall be effective only until the first to occur of

(a) the next regular meeting, or

(b) the next special meeting of the Board at which the emergency issue is on the public notice of the meeting. At such a subsequent meeting, the Board may ratify any emergency action taken. If any emergency action taken is not ratified, then it shall be deemed rescinded as of the date of such subsequent meeting.

H. Email Meetings.

Section §24-6-402, C.R.S., requires that certain e-mails between three (3) or more of the five Directors, constituting a quorum, that discusses pending resolutions or other District business shall be considered a public meeting subject to the requirement of the Colorado Open Meetings Law. Meeting materials shall be provided at least 24 hours in advance of the e-mail meeting.

I. Telephonic or Electronic Attendance at Meetings.

Section §24-6-402(1)(b), C.R.S., defines a meeting as "Any kind of gathering to discuss public business, in person, by telephone, electronically, or by other means of communication." As with email meetings in section H. above, certain telephonic or electronic meetings between three (3) or more of the five Directors, constituting a quorum, that discusses pending resolutions or other District business shall be considered a public meeting subject to the requirement of the Colorado Open Meetings Law. Meeting materials shall be provided at least 24 hours in advance of the telephonic or electronic meeting.

J. On-Line Electronic Meetings.

Online meetings (video/audio) and phone conferences may be used by the Hotchkiss Fire District. Compliance with State Laws outlining such meetings must be followed. (See Colorado Open Meetings Law, §24-6-401, et seq., C.R.S., and the case law interpreting it, as well as the Colorado Administrative Procedures Act ("CAPA"), §24-4-101, et seq., C.R.S.)



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In Colorado, online public meetings must provide the public with real-time access via live video or audio, and meeting materials must be posted at least 24 hours in advance.

Due to regulations regarding online meetings, the Board of Directors will only use Online Meetings in case of an emergency, i.e. where immediate action must be taken, within the Hotchkiss Fire District.

SECTION 7. CONDUCT OF BUSINESS.

A. Quorum.

A quorum of the Board (more than one-half of the number of Directors serving on the Board) must be present before the Hotchkiss Fire District may take any official act or vote. A majority of the quorum in attendance is required to pass a measure. *§32-1-103(16) and §32-1-903(2), C.R.S.*

Consequences of Failing to Achieve Quorum:

- No Formal Action: If a quorum is not present, no votes or elections can be taken, and no formal action can be approved.
- Limited Actions: The meeting can be adjourned and rescheduled.
- Adjournment and Rescheduling: The meeting can be adjourned and rescheduled for a later date, with proper notice to the members.

All official business of the Board shall be transacted at a regular or special meeting at which a quorum (majority) of the Directors shall be in attendance in person, except as provided in Section 6.h. above and Section 7.b.

B. Vote Requirements.

Any action of the Board shall require a quorum and the affirmative vote of a majority of the Directors in attendance and voting.

When special or emergency circumstances affecting the affairs of the District and the health and safety of District residents so dictate, then those



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Directors available at the time may undertake whatever action is considered necessary and may so instruct the District's employees, agents and contractors. Such actions shall later be ratified by a vote of the Board at a regular or special meeting.

C. Electronic Signatures,

In the event the signature(s) of one or more members of the Board or appointed signatories are required to execute a written document, contract, note, bond, deed, and/or other official papers of the District, and the appropriate individual(s) is unable to be physically present to sign said documentation, such individual or individuals are authorized to execute the documentation electronically via facsimile or email signature, unless said documentation provides otherwise. Any electronic signature so affixed to a document shall carry the full legal force and effect of any original, handwritten signature. Except as approved herein, this provision of these Bylaws shall not be interpreted as establishing District's consent or authorization to bind District to any transaction by the use of electronic records or electronic means. This provision is made pursuant to Article 71.3 of Title 24, C.R.S., also known as the Uniform Electronic Transactions Act.

D. Order of Business.

The business of all regular meetings of the Board shall be transacted, as far as practicable, in the following order, and the agenda for such meetings shall describe in as much detail as is possible the topics planned for discussion within each category:

1. Call to Order
2. Reading and approval of Minutes of prior regular or special meetings
3. Treasurer's Report and approval and payment of bills
4. Public Comment (See section 7. G.)
5. Correspondence
6. Fire Chief and Officers' Reports



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7. Old Business
8. New Business
9. Adjournment

E. Unlawful Public Conduct at Meetings.

Prosecution will be pursued under all applicable laws, including without limitation Sections §18-9-108, C.R.S. (disrupting lawful assembly), §18-9-110, C.R.S. (public buildings - trespass, interference), and/or §18-9-117, CR.S. (unlawful conduct on public property). Law enforcement may be requested to attend meetings at any time in which the Board believes their presence will be an asset to the keeping of peace and the conducting of public business. 9-1-1 will be called at any time that the Board or staff feels threatened or endangered during a public meeting.

F. Minutes.

Within a reasonable time after passage, all resolutions, motions and minutes of Board meetings shall be recorded in a visual text format that may be transmitted electronically and kept for that purpose and shall be attested by the Recording Secretary. Minutes of regular sessions shall be available for public review as soon as practicable following acceptance of the minutes by adoption of a motion therefore by the Board. Executive sessions shall be electronically recorded on audio tape or other electronic media, and such electronic recording or reproduction of the same shall be kept separate from minutes of regular sessions as described in Section 6. E of these Bylaws and shall not be open to the public except as required by law.

G. Public Comment and the Board

1. The Public requirements:
 - a. There is a limit of 3 minutes per speaker.
 - b. The public is to introduce themselves to the Board, where they are from and who they are representing, i.e. the organization or business name.



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- c. If speaking to a specific agenda item, they are to limit their remarks to the subject of the agenda item and avoid repeating what others have said.
- d. They are to be brief, to the point and concise.
- e. If they believe an issue needs to be explained in depth, and they bring handouts, they are to pass them out prior to making the comments.

2. The Board's requirements:

- a. The Board is not required to answer any questions they have.
- b. The Board will not intervene with Operational issues.
- c. The Board will not argue or debate with the guest.
- d. The Board will not discuss personnel matters. This would be done through the Fire Chief and the President or Vice President in private.

(See attachment form, "Do's and Don'ts for Giving Public Comments:" to be given to guests wishing to make a Public Comment.)

SECTION 8. DIRECTORS OFFICERS AND PERSONNEL.

A. Director Qualifications and Terms.

Directors shall be electors of the District. The term of each Director shall be determined by relevant statutory provisions with elections held in odd numbered years and conducted in the manner prescribed by Articles 1 through 13.5, Title 1, and Part 8, Article 1, Title 32, C.R.S. Each Director shall sign an oath of office.

B. Faithful Performance Bonds.

Each Director shall furnish, at the expense of the District, an individual, schedule or blanket surety bond in the sum of not less than \$1,000 each, conditioned on the faithful performance of the duties of his/her office. In



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addition, the Treasurer shall furnish, at the expense of the District, a corporate fidelity bond in a sum of not less than five thousand dollars (\$5,000), conditioned on the faithful performance of the duties of his/her office.

C. Directors' Performance of Duties.

A Director of the District shall perform all duties of a Director, including duties as a member of any committee of the Board upon which the Director may serve, in good faith, in a manner which the Director reasonably believes to be in the best interests of District, and with such care as an ordinarily prudent person in a like position would use under similar circumstances. In performing the Director's duties, the Director shall be entitled to rely on information, opinions, reports, or statements, including financial statements and other financial data, in each case prepared or presented by persons and groups listed in subparagraphs 1, 2 and 3 of this subsection C. The Director shall not be considered to be acting in good faith if they have knowledge concerning the matter in question that would cause such reliance to be unwarranted. A person who so performs the Director's duties shall not have any liability by reason of being or having been a Director of the District. Those programs and groups upon whose information, opinions, reports, and statements a Director is entitled to rely are:

1. One or more officers or employees of the District whom the Director reasonably believes to be reliable and competent in the matters presented;
2. Counsel, public accountants, or other persons as to matters which the Director reasonably believes to be within such persons' professional knowledge or expertise; and
3. A committee of the Board upon which the Director does not serve, duly designated in accordance with the provisions of the Bylaws, as to matters within its designated authority, which committee the Director reasonably believes to merit confidence.
4. The Board of Directors cannot be an employee or volunteer for the District.



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D. Oath of Office.

Each member of the Board, before assuming the responsibilities of his or her office, shall take and subscribe to an oath of office in the form prescribed by law.

1. Election of Officers.

The Board of Directors shall elect from its membership a President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer. who shall be the officers of the District Board of Directors. The Vice President shall have all powers of the offices of Secretary and/or Treasurer as applicable, in the absence of such officers. The officers shall be elected by a majority of the Directors voting at such election. The Board may, from time to time, appoint an acting officer in the absence of any individual officer. The election of the officers shall be conducted biennially at the first regular meeting of the Board following the regular biennial election of the Directors held in May of odd numbered years. Each officer so elected shall serve for a term of two (2) years, or as otherwise directed by the Board. Under any circumstance, the term shall continue until the election of his or her successor.

A. President.

The President of the District shall be the Chair and preside at all meetings. The President is authorized to sign all contracts, deeds, notes, debentures, warrants and other instruments on behalf of the District.

B. Secretary.

In the absence of the President and Vice President, the Secretary shall preside at meetings; be responsible for the records of the District; may act as Secretary at meetings of the Board and record all votes; shall be responsible for composing a record of the proceedings of the Board in a visual text format that may be transmitted electronically and kept for that purpose, which shall be an official record of the Board; and shall perform all duties incident to that office. The Secretary shall be the designated election official of the District, unless



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otherwise determined by the Board, and the custodian of the seal of the District. The Secretary shall have the authority to affix such seal to and attest all contracts and instruments authorized to be executed by the Board.

C. Treasurer.

The Board Treasurer shall be authorized to invest or cause to be invested all surplus funds or other available funds of the District in permitted investments authorized by law or as specified by the Board. The Treasurer shall be chairman of the Budget Committee and of the Audit Committee. The Treasurer shall keep or cause to be kept strict and accurate accounts of all money received by and disbursed for and on behalf of District in permanent records.

D. Vice President

The Board Vice President shall have all powers of the offices of the Board President, Secretary and/or Treasurer, as applicable, in the absence of such officers, and is authorized to sign all contracts, deeds, notes, debentures, warrants, checks, and other instruments on behalf of the District in the case of such absence. In the event that dual signatures of District officers are required on any instrument, then two (2) different officers shall sign such instrument.

E. Recording Secretary.

The Board shall have the authority to appoint a recording secretary who need not be a member of the Board of Directors, and who shall be responsible for recording all votes and composing a record of the proceedings of the Board in a visual text format that may be transmitted electronically and kept for that purpose, which shall be the official record of the Board. The recording secretary shall not be required to take an oath of office, nor shall the recording secretary be required to post a performance bond.

F. Additional Duties.

The officers of the Board shall perform such other duties and functions as may, from time to time, be required by the Board, by the Bylaws or rules and



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regulations of the District, by law, or by special exigencies, which shall later be ratified by the Board.

G. Manager or Administrator.

The Board may appoint a manager or contract with an administrator to serve for such term and upon such conditions, including compensation, as the Board may establish. Such manager or administrator shall have general supervision over the administration of the affairs, employees and business of the District and shall be charged with the hiring and discharging of employees and the management of District properties. Such manager or administrator shall have the care and custody of the general funds of the District and shall deposit or cause to be deposited the same in the name of District in such banks or savings associations as the Board may select. Such manager or administrator will approve all vouchers, orders and checks for payment, and shall keep or cause to be kept regular books of account of all District transactions and shall obtain, at the District's expense, such bond for the faithful performance of its duties as the Board may designate. The Board may delegate such powers and duties to the manager or administrator as it deems appropriate.

H. Personnel Selection and Tenure.

The selection of agents, employees, engineers, accountants, special consultants and attorneys of the District by the Board will be based upon the relative qualifications and capabilities of the applicants and shall not be based on political services or affiliations. Agents and employees shall hold their offices at the pleasure of the Board. Contracts for professional services of engineers, accountants, special consultants and attorneys may be entered into on such terms and conditions as may seem reasonable and proper to the Board.

I. Vacancies.

A Director's office shall be deemed vacant upon the occurrence of any one of the following: §32-1-905(1), C.R.S.

1. Failure to meet the qualifications of Director;
2. Failure to satisfy the oath or affirmation and bond or insurance requirements;



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3. Written resignation;
4. Failure to remain qualified for the office;
5. Conviction of a felony;
6. Removal from office or voidance of election by Court (subject to appeal);
7. Failure to attend three regular Board meetings within a year, unless approval of absence is entered in the minutes, or absence is excused by temporary mental or physical disability or illness.; or
8. Death.

Any vacancy shall be filled by appointment by the remaining Directors. If the Board fails to fill the vacancy within 60 days, the Board of County Commissioners of Delta County may make the appointment.

The Director appointed to fill a vacancy shall serve until the next regular election, at which time the vacancy shall be filled by election for the remainder, if any, of the originally vacated term. *§32-1-905(2)(a), C.R.S.*

Discussions regarding the appointment of a person and his or her qualifications to fill a vacancy on the Board must take place in a public meeting, not in executive session. The appointment must occur by official action of the Board at a properly convened meeting and must be recorded in the minutes of the Board meeting. A notice of appointment shall be delivered to the person appointed, and the notice along with the mailing address of the person so appointed must be filed with the Division of Local Government. *§32-1-905(3), C.R.S.*

Any vacancy occurring on the Board shall be filled by an affirmative vote of a majority of the remaining Directors, as prescribed by law, with the appointee to serve until the next biennial election, as prescribed by statute. The appointed individual must meet the statutorily prescribed qualifications for Directors and shall serve until the next regular election.



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J. Resignation

Any Director may resign at any time by giving written notice to the Board, and acceptance of such resignation shall not be necessary to make it effective, unless the notice so provides.

K. No Nepotism

No nepotism shall occur, including the employment of family members in direct line of authority; the utilization of family member(s) as consultants, vendors or contractors; and/or the involvement of multiple family member(s) as members of the Board of Directors. Also, no elected or appointed District Board Member shall be related to the District Fire Chief or the District Secretary/ Treasurer/ Bookkeeper employed by the District. They may, however, be related to Fire Services Personnel working under the Fire Chief. However, if there becomes an issue with Fire Service Personnel, the related Board Member must recuse themselves from any actions taken or discussions by the Board in regard to the subject personnel. No family member shall directly supervise another family member who are Fire Services Personnel.

It is important that no nepotism shall occur and is compliance with 2 CFR 200 that sets authoritative rules and regulations established by the federal Office of Management and Budget (OMB) that governs federal grants. It outlines uniform administrative requirements, cost principles, and audit requirements for the federal awards to non-federal entities. This regulation serves as a comprehensive framework for grants management and consolidates various rules into a single document.

For clarification, the following definitions apply.

Family Member – An individual who is related to another as father, mother, son, daughter, brother, sister, uncle, aunt, first cousin, nephew, niece, husband, wife, father-in-law, mother-in-law, son-in-law, daughter-in-law, brother-in-law, sister-in-law, stepfather, stepmother, stepson, stepdaughter, stepbrother, stepsister, half brother, half sister, grandmother, grandfather, great grandparent, great grandchild, step grandparent, step great grandparent, step grandchild, step great grandchild, person who is



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engaged to be married to a person in a direct line of authority who otherwise holds himself or herself out as or is generally known as the person whom the employee, in a direct line of authority, intends to marry or with whom the person, in direct line of authority, intends to form a household, or any other person having the same legal residence as the person in direct line of authority.

Fire Chief – Board Appointed Administrator hired by the Board who is responsible for administering all administrative, operational, and fiscal aspects of the Fire District and ensuring the protection of lives and property within the Hotchkiss Fire District from uncontrolled fire and emergency service.

Secretary/Treasurer/Bookkeeper – Hired by and under the supervision of the Board of Directors who performs a wide variety of clerical and financial recordkeeping functions as prescribed by law. This is a highly responsible position.

Fire Services Personnel – All members employed or volunteer who does not hold administrative position.

SECTION 9. FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION.

- A. Fiscal Year. The fiscal year of the District shall commence on January 1st of each year and end on December 31st.
- B. Budget Committee. There shall be a permanent Budget Committee composed of the Board Treasurer, a member of the Board appointed by the President, and the administrator, if any, which shall be responsible for preparation of the annual budget of the District and such other matters as may be assigned to it by the President or the Board.
- C. Budget. On or before October 15th of each year, the Budget Committee shall prepare and submit to the Board a proposed budget for the ensuing fiscal year. Such proposed budget shall be accompanied by a statement which shall describe the important features of the budget plan and by a



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general summary wherein shall be set forth the aggregate features of the budget in such manner as to show the balanced relations between the total proposed expenditures and the total anticipated income or other means of financing the proposed budget for the ensuing fiscal year, as contrasted with the corresponding figures for the last completed fiscal year and the current fiscal year. It shall be supported by explanatory schedules or statements classifying the expenditures contained therein by services, subjects and funds. The anticipated income of the District shall be classified according to the nature of receipts.

- D. Notice of Budget. Upon receipt of the proposed budget, the Board shall cause to be published a notice that the proposed budget is open for inspection by the public at the business office; that the Board will consider the adoption of the proposed budget at a public hearing on a certain date; and that any interested elector may inspect the proposed budget and file or register any objections thereto at any time prior to its final adoption. Notice shall be posted or published in substantial compliance with law.
- E. Adoption of Budget. On the day set for consideration of such proposed budget, the Board shall review the proposed budget and revise, alter, increase or decrease the items as it deems necessary in view of the needs of the District and the probable income of the District. The Board shall then adopt a budget, either during the budget hearing or at a later date and time to be set by the Board, setting forth the expenditures to be made in the ensuing fiscal year. The Board shall provide for sufficient revenues to finance budgeted expenditures with special consideration given to the proposed ad valorem property tax levy.
- F. Levy and Collection of Taxes. On or before December 15th of each year, the Board shall certify to the Board of County Commissioners of Delta County the mill levy established for the ensuing fiscal year, in order that, at the time and in the manner required by law for the levying of taxes, such Commissioners shall levy such tax upon the assessed valuation of all taxable property within the District.



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- G. Filing of Budget. On or before January 30th of each year, the Board shall cause a certified copy of such budget to be filed with the Division of Local Government in the Colorado Department of Local Affairs.
- H. Appropriating Resolution.
1. At the time of adoption of the budget, the Board shall enact a resolution making appropriations for the ensuing fiscal year. The amounts appropriated thereunder shall not exceed the amounts fixed therefor in the adopted budget.
 2. The income of the District, as estimated in the budget and as provided for in the tax levy resolution and other revenue and borrowing resolutions, shall be allocated in the amounts and according to the funds specified in the budget for the purpose of meeting the expenditures authorized by the appropriation resolution.
 3. The Board may make an appropriation to and for a contingent fund to be used in cases of emergency or other unforeseen contingencies.
- I. No Contract to Exceed Appropriations in the Approved Budget The Board shall have no authority to enter into any contract or otherwise bind or obligate the District to any liability for payment of money for any purposes, for which provision is not made in an appropriation resolution, including any legally authorized amendment thereto, in excess of the amounts of such appropriation for that fiscal year. Any contract, verbal or written, contrary to the terms of this Section shall be void ab initio, and no District funds shall be expended in payment of such contracts.
- J. Contingencies.
- a In cases of emergency caused by a natural disaster, public enemy, or other contingency which could not reasonably have been foreseen at the time of the adoption of the budget, the Board may authorize



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the expenditure of funds in excess of the budget by resolution duly adopted by a two-third (2/3rd) vote of the Board. Such resolution shall set forth in full the facts concerning the emergency and shall be included in the minutes of such meeting.

- b If so enacted, a copy of the resolution authorizing additional expenditures shall be filed with the Division of Local Government in the Colorado Department of Local Affairs and shall be published in compliance with statutory requirements.

K. Payment of Contingencies.

- a If there is unexpended or uncommitted money in funds other than those to which the emergency relates, the Board shall transfer such available money to the fund from which the emergency expenditure is to be paid.
- b To the extent that transferable funds are insufficient to meet the emergency appropriation, the Board may borrow money through
 - (1) the issuance of tax anticipation warrants, to the extent that the mill levy authority of the District is available as provided by law, or
 - (2) the issuance of bond anticipation notes payable from future bond proceeds or operating revenue, or
 - (3) any other lawful and approved method.

L. Annual Audit.

- 1. The Board shall cause an annual audit (or exemption from audit) to be made at the end of each fiscal year of all financial affairs of the District through December 31st of such fiscal year. In all events, the audit report must be submitted to the Board within six (6) months of the close of such fiscal year or as otherwise provided by law. Such audit shall be conducted in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards by a registered or



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certified public accountant, who has not maintained the books, records and accounts of District during the fiscal year. The auditor shall prepare, and certify as to its accuracy, an audit report, including a financial statement and balance sheet based on such audit, an unqualified opinion or qualified opinion with explanations, and a full disclosure of any violation of Colorado law pursuant to statutory requirements.

2. There shall be a permanent Audit Committee composed of the Board Treasurer and one other member of the Board appointed by the President. The Audit Committee shall be responsible for the appointment, compensation, selection (to be approved by the Board), retention, and oversight of the work of any independent accountants engaged for the purpose of preparing or issuing an independent audit report or performing other independent audit, review or attest services for the District. The Audit Committee may, as necessary and to the extent of its ability, provide independent review and oversight of the District's financial reporting processes, internal controls and independent auditors. All accountants thus engaged shall report directly to the Audit Committee.
3. A copy of the audit report shall be maintained by the District as a public record for public inspection at all reasonable times.
4. A copy of the audit report shall be forwarded to the State Auditor or other appropriate State official pursuant to statutory requirements.
5. Notwithstanding the foregoing audit requirement, the Board may file for an application from exemption from audit if the statutory criteria are met.



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SECTION 10. CORPORATE SEAL.

The seal of the District shall be a circle containing the name of the District and shall be used on all documents and in such manner as seals generally are used by public and private corporations. The Board Secretary shall keep, or cause to be kept, the seal and shall be responsible for its safekeeping and care.

SECTION 11. DISCLOSURE OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST.

A potential conflict of interest of any Director shall be disclosed in accordance with State law, particularly Article 18 of Title 24, C.R.S., and Sections §32-1-902(3) and §18-8-308, C.R.S.

SECTION 12. COMPENSATION.

Each Director shall receive the maximum compensation authorized by statute, unless otherwise determined by the Board. No Director shall receive compensation as an employee of the District, except as may be provided by statute. As of May 2025, the Board has set this compensation at Forty Dollars (\$40.00) per attended meeting.

SECTION 13. INDEMNIFICATION OF DIRECTORS AND EMPLOYEES.

The District shall defend, hold harmless and indemnify any Director, officer, agent, or employee, whether elective or appointive, against any tort or liability, claim or demand, without limitation, arising out of any alleged act or omission occurring during the performance of official duty, as more fully defined by law or by an indemnification resolution, if any. The provisions of this Section shall be supplemental and subject to and, to the extent of any inconsistency therewith, shall be modified by the provisions of the Colorado Governmental Immunity Act, §24-10-101, et seq., C.R.S.,



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SECTION 14. BIDDING AND CONTRACTING PROCEDURES.

Except in cases in which the District will receive aid from a government agency, a notice shall be published for bids on all construction contracts for work or material, or both, involving an expense of \$60,000 or more of District funds. The Board may reject any and all bids, and if it appears that the District can perform the work or secure material for less than the lowest bid, it may proceed to do so in accordance with law. Notwithstanding the foregoing, the District may award an integrated project delivery contract pursuant to §32-1-1801, et seq., C.R.S. upon,

- (i) the determination of the Board that integrated project delivery represents a timely or cost-effective alternative for a project;
- (ii) publication of a request for qualifications and/or request for proposals; and
- (iii) compliance with Part 18 of Article 1, Title 32, C.R.S. All other statutory requirements relating to performance bonds, retainage, and similar matters shall also be complied with.

SECTION 15. RECORDS MANAGEMENT.

The District shall comply with, and adopt and maintain policies as necessary for compliance with, applicable records retention, destruction, and disclosure requirements, including the Colorado Open Records Act, State Archives and Public Records law, and various consumer privacy legislation. The District Secretary or his or her designee is hereby designated as the Official Custodian of Records pursuant to the Open Records Act. In the event there is any question as to whether the District is permitted to comply with an Open Records Act request, the Custodian of Records shall forward such request to the District's legal counsel. As of May 2025, copies of records shall be furnished at a cost of \$.25 per standard page. The charge for providing a copy, printout or photograph of a public record in a format other than a standard page will be assessed at the actual cost of production. Additionally, in those cases where the location or existence of specific documents must be researched and the documents must be retrieved, sorted or reviewed for applicability to the request, and such process requires more than one hour of staff time, the Custodian may charge a research and retrieval fee not to exceed thirty dollars (\$30.00) per hour,



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as of May 2025. The Custodian will not impose a charge for the first hour of time expended in connection with the research and retrieval of public records.

SECTION 16. MODIFICATION OF BYLAWS.

These Bylaws may be altered, amended or repealed at any regular or special meeting of the Board to become effective immediately or at a subsequent date.

SECTION 17. SEVERABILITY.

If any part or provision of these Bylaws is adjudged to be unenforceable or invalid, such judgment shall not affect, impair or invalidate the remaining provisions of these Bylaws, it being the Board's intention that the various provisions hereof are severable.

SECTION 18. TERMINATION OF PRIOR BYLAWS.

These Bylaws amend, supersede and replace in their entirety all prior Bylaws, and any amendments thereto, previously adopted by the Board of Directors.

ADOPTED this 24 day of April, 2025, by the Board of Directors of Hotchkiss Fire District.

William C. Long David Miller
Kathleen Welt _____
John _____



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ADDENDUM 1

Executive Session Statues

Procedure.

Executive sessions can only be called during a regular or special meeting. Before going into executive session, the topic for discussion must be announced in the open meeting. In the open meeting, before going into executive session, the topic for discussion during the executive session must be announced, but should be general enough so as not to nullify the confidential purpose of an executive session. This announcement should include the specific statutory citation regarding the reason for the executive session.

Executive sessions may be held upon the affirmative vote of two-thirds of the quorum present at a regular or special meeting for any of the matters listed in the statute, except no formal action can occur at an executive session (except for approving previous executive session minutes). Section 24-6-402(4).

An electronic record of the actual contents of the discussion in the executive session must be made. However, pursuant to CRS 24-6-401(2)(d.5)(II)(B) all or portions of the executive session that constitute a privileged attorney-client communication are not required to be recorded. The executive session record must also contain a citation to the specific provision in the statute that authorizes the session.

Subjects.

When making the announcement in the open meeting before going into executive session, and when confirming the citation in the executive session, these are the subjects allowed for executive sessions:



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- Transfers of property interests, except the executive session cannot be for the purpose of concealing a member's personal interest in the transfer, 24-6-402(4)(a);
- Conference with an attorney for legal advice, except the presence of the attorney alone does not meet this requirement, 24-6-402(4)(b);
- Matters required to be kept confidential by federal or state law, 24-6-402(4)(c)- and cite the law, rule, or regulation;
- Details of security arrangements or investigations, 24-6-402(4)(d);
- Determining positions and development strategy for negotiations and instructing negotiators, 24-6-402(4)(e);
- Personnel matters, but in certain situations the subject employee can request an open meeting, and the discussion of other members of the body or of elected officials are not allowed in executive session, nor is the appointment of any person to fill an office of the body or elected official allowed, 24-6-402(4)(f);
- Consideration of documents protected by the mandatory non-disclosure provisions of the Open Records Act, 24-6-402(4)(g).

Procedures Following the Executive Session.

The record must be kept for at least 90 days following the executive session. 24-6-402(2)(d.5)(II)(E). If legally challenged, a judge may privately review the executive session record to see whether the body's discussion strayed substantially off topic or whether the body took prohibited formal actions in its executive session. 24-72-204(5.5). However, the executive session record is not available directly to the public for review and is not subject to discovery in any administrative or judicial proceeding. 24-6-402(2)(d.5)(II)(D).