

Hotchkiss Fire District  
Meeting Minutes

January 12, 2025

Board members present, Dan Miller, Kathy Welt, Diane Walker, Zach Hotchkiss, Ron Prosser.

Doug Fritz was absent

**Call the meeting to order 6:34 pm**

**Approval of Meeting Minutes**- Zach Hotchkiss made a motion to approve the minutes of the December 8th meeting. Diane Walker seconded the motion. Motion carried. Dan and Zach signed the approval document.

**Treasurer Report**

General Fund as of December 31 \$25517.48

Pension Fund November \$854698.55 waiting for the current end of year statement

Fireman's Fund \$6230.92 \$53. Donations from the Santa event, and \$100 from Patricia who donates every year.

Special Project \$5822.51

Current GF account balance as of January 12 is \$19620.00

Cally is holding some invoices until we receive some money from the safer grant. The board agreed that she should pay them as money comes in.

Zach Hotchkiss makes a motion to approve the Treasurer report. Kathy Welt seconded the motion. Motion carried

Zach Hotchkiss made a motion that Cally pay any necessary bills, utilities, insurance etc. Diane Walker seconds the motion. Motion carried.

Dan Miller inquired about the back up that we have in case of a fire. Cally wasn't sure of anything other than the google drive. Dan suggested that we start backing up, with a hard drive or thumb drive and when we can afford a fire safe to store passwords and backup in.

**New Business**

**Budget Update** – Cally provided The 2026 budget.

**Resolution 2026-01** Kathy Welt made a motion to approve Resolution 2026-01 designating location to post notice. Diane Walker seconded the motion. Motion carried.

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**Mil Levy discussion** – Dan Miller is working on an informational document to explain what a mil levy will do for the District. The board also discussed what a sales tax would do for the District. Zach Hotchkiss is concerned that a sales tax would not be a steady source of revenue. Dan will continue to compile the information. Cally will work on information for sales tax.

**Hiring New Attorney** -Cally spoke to Carol Viner, who is the attorney for the Town of Olathe. She will not charge a retainer, and will charge \$200 per hour. Carol has a lot of experience with elections and mil levy increases. Kathy Welt made a motion to release current attorney Bo Nerlin and to hire Carol Viner as our new attorney. Diane Walker seconded the motion. Motion carried.

**Sealed Bids to sell Trucks**

Discussion to sell the Truck and the suburban if they are not in use to help with the finances.

Zach Hotchkiss makes a motion to surplus the truck and the suburban unless Doug Fritz can justify keeping one or both vehicles to benefit the department. Kathy Welt seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Dan Miller makes a motion to sell the vehicles with sealed bids with no minimum on bids. Kathy Welt seconded the motion. Motion carried.

**Spending Limits** -The board discussed if they needed to set spending limits on all spending. They thought that they had already set spending limits, but they decided to table the discussion until the board could involve the Fire Chief in the discussion.

**Operating Loan** – Zack will talk to the United Business Bank regarding a line of credit to help with the finances until March when we will start receiving more tax money and Cerf money.

**Hire CPA to Audit 2025** -Diane Walker makes a motion to hire Soronen, Donley, Patterson, CPA to perform the audit for 2025 pending them changing the name to Hotchkiss Fire District on the contract. Kathy Welt seconded the motion. Motion carried. Cally will contact Willy to change the name.

**Access to the Office** - Cally updated the board that Doug took the key out of the ready room and put it in the fire station and it will only be available to the captains.

Upcoming event – Monday January 19 @ 6:30 to honor Doug Fritz for Fire Chief of the Year.

Meeting adjourned 8:39