

**Hotchkiss Fire District
Board of Directors
Meeting**

Meeting Minutes February 9, 2026, 6:30pm

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

Fire Chief: Doug Fritz

Administrative Assistant: Cally Gallegos

Call to Order 6:34

Review Minutes of Last Meeting

Diane Walker makes a motion to approve the meeting minutes from January 12. Ron Prosser seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report:

GF balance as of January 31, 2026 \$60393.48

Fireman fund \$6230.92

Pension fund 868378.13 as reported by Doug Fritz

Bills Presented Diane Walker makes a motion to pay December invoice from LN Curtis for 6514.93 and small bills to Rhinehart oil and gas, Canon for copier. Kathy Welt seconded the motion. Motion carried

Bills presented Kathy Welt made a motion to pay the credit card bill, Diane Walker seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Public Comment

Fire Chief and Officers' Reports:

7 calls, lift assist, false alarm, landing setup, 2 car accidents, gas leak at the High School, controlled burn.

3 classes are to be held for Region and we have 3 people attending.

March training neighboring fire departments will help pay the cost.

April CoSwap grant to teach saw class and this will include fuel reduction of Elms and Cottonwood.

Stipend money should be on its way to pay personnel for safer grant.

Application is process for VFA Grant with US Forest Service

Niki is applying for the Health and Safety grant that will help pay for gloves and hoods.

They had the Suburban at the controlled burn out by NF High School and they had to have it towed to Pure Automotive. They fixed the cable to the transmission and Pure Auto determined after they inspected it that the brakes were fine. It will need new batteries, because it was left unplugged. Doug does not want to sell the Suburban because they still use it for towing the trailer with the ranger on it.

New personnel: Jim Wolfgang has experience, was a firefighter from Jackson WY, his credentials have expired. Doug will have a background check done.

Nick Englehart will probably be leaving, due to relocation.

Subdivision & building no issues after inspection of the DriveBrew coffee building for their expansion.

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Old or Continued Business:

Annual rental contract with NFEMS

Kathy Welt makes a motion to approve the new contract with the NFEMS. Diane Walker seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Mil Levy/ Sales Tax discussion and review

Doug and Niki worked with Courtney Seivers and there will be only 2 questions on the survey, Sales Tax or Mil Levy increase. Then there will be another question at the end of the survey regarding mil levy decrease and sales tax.

.4 sales tax and 3.7 increase mil levy was what they decided would help the fire department. Survey and phone calls should be sent out around March 1st.

Cally added that our new town attorney has a lot of experience with writing ballot questions and Dan wanted to make sure that we are covered with not having to send the money back to the state for Tabor.

Dan suggested that Doug look for grants to improve the Redlands fire station.

Selling older fire trucks with bids:

Doug wants to sell E14 it needs a lot of repairs and we sell as is on Garage.com Try to sell for \$4000.

Current Years Business

Current Year Projects and Goals

1 Year Plan:

5 Year Plan:

Diane asked if we no longer discuss the pension fund and Dan said that the pension board should be meeting, bylaws state by annual meetings or meet if someone retires or if there is a death.

Doug added that he just purchased TVA \$39000 bond, 5.2% 10 years. CD coming due 10/19/2026 that has been earning 4.5%

New Business:

Doug needs to renew the mapping subscription for \$1500-\$2000.00 Diane Walker makes a motion to approve the purchase; Kathy Welt seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Redlands tower needs a new repeater and Doug needs approval to purchase one for \$500-\$600 as quoted by 2 Way communications. Kathy Welt makes a motion to approve the purchase; Ron Prosses seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Dan asked who was Peak Alarm? Doug replied that they monitor the fire station fire suppression system.

Delta County said that Hotchkiss Fire District uses the Eagle view system and that we are their biggest user.

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Delta County is working with Montrose and Mesa Counties regarding building code. It is undecided at this time if they will adopt the plan and then not enforce it. Doug and Dan will find out more about that from the County Commissioners.

Doug would like to replenish the snacks at the station as soon as possible. They work hard and they deserve to have food when they have worked a job and then come here for meetings and training. We want to take good care of them. The board agrees and when we have the funds that will be at the top of the list

Adjournment 8:12