

MESA COUNTY FIRE AUTHORITY BOARD MEETING MINUTES

January 27, 2026

At 7:28 PM Wayne DeGesualdo called the meeting to order. Wayne DeGesualdo, Murray Thiessen, Dave Upchurch, Chad Wallace and Eric Talley were present for the board. Also in attendance was Chief Balke, Board Assistant Stacy Cox, Rich Philips, Rick Weber along with members of the fire authority.

Wayne DeGesualdo led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance

Wayne DeGesualdo said an opening prayer.

OLD BUSINESS

Bank Accounts and Safety Deposit Box

Stacy presented the board with paperwork from ANB Bank to update the signature cards on file. The board signed the paperwork. Stacy will return it to ANB Bank.

NEW BUSINESS

Disclosure of Conflicts of Interest on the Board

Each board member was asked does anyone of the board have a conflict of interest regarding the fire department or have a personal financial (monetary or gift) gain in dealing with the fire department? Each in turn answered Murray Thiessen. said no. Dave Upchurch said no. Wayne DeGesualdo said no. Chad Wallace said no. Eric Talley said no.

Resolution to designate date, time and location of all meetings for 2026

Presented two options to the board and the following resolution was chosen.

Resolution to designate MCFA board meetings to be at 7 PM or shortly there after a Lands End Fire Protection Fire Meeting, on the 4th Tuesday each month starting January 2026 except for February (hold it on the 3rd week on the 17th) and nothing in December at 34980 Pronghorn Drive, Whitewater, CO unless otherwise cancelled was presented and signed. Also, the "24-hour notice of meeting" to be posted at the Whitewater Post Office and on the website at mesacountyfireauthority.com. Eric Talley made a motion to set meeting time, dates and location, and Murray Thiessen seconded the motion. All members signed the resolution.

Approval from the Board to apply for Exempt from Audit

Eric Talley made a motion to approve the filing for an Exemption from Audit for the year 2025. Chad Wallace seconded the motion. All were in favor, no opposed. Motion carried. Wayne signed the letter of engagement for exempt from audit.

Treasurers Report

Murray Thiessen presented the Final 2025 treasurer's report, we finished the year and our income is sitting at 154.2% for the year and expenses for the year at 77.34%. The total expenses line was left off but Stacy corrected that. Eric Talley made a motion to accept the treasurer's report as presented with the correction. Chad Wallace seconded the motion. All were in favor, no opposed. Motion carried.

Murray Thiessen presented the Year to Date 2026 treasurer's report, we are at 8.33% through the year and our income is sitting at 0% for the year and expenses for the year at 2.39%. The total expenses line was left off but Stacy corrected that. Stacy also noted that line item 208 should be on the line item 403. Chad Wallace made a motion to accept the treasurer's report as presented with the correction. Eric Talley seconded the motion. All were in favor, no opposed. Motion carried.

Chief Report/Call Information



Mesa County Fire Authority

Fire Chief's Report

January 27, 2026

Prepared By: Charles K. Balke, Fire Chief

&

Courtney Griffith

Comments from the Fire Chief

2025 was a busy year in various aspects from bringing on a new Fire Chief via MOU and the number of calls dispatched too. One of the more time-consuming aspects was that of me getting a solid idea of the gaps and capabilities of the organization. I am confident that 2026 will yield more organizational growth and career development opportunities.

Administrative Update

- Attended the Central Orchard Mesa Fire District Board Meeting.
- Will need to submit documentation to the State to re-establish our account so we have the potential to send personnel/equipment on wildland deployments.
- The State of Colorado passed legislation requiring all governing bodies to adopt a Colorado Wildfire Resilience Code (CWRC) by April of 2026 with implementation by July 2026. Working with local agencies for the development of an agency appropriate code. I will have a draft resolution for Board review for the February meeting.

- We have transitioned to the federal incident reporting system, NERIS which replaced the old NFIRS. ImageTrend is our report management system and integrates with NERIS similarly to NFIRS. There are a few glitches impacting the report generation which is being addressed.

Personnel Update

- We continue to struggle to get personnel the time and/or calls to be able to be release from probation function on Mesa County Protocol.
- We have six completed applications for Volunteer. A mixture has either fire or medical certifications.

Training Update

- We pushed the Fire Academy back to first part of February due to the hiring process being on Sunday January 25th and waiting for textbooks.
- I was able to secure grant funding through CMU to send one member to the EMT course this semester and possibly more next semester.
- Trainings for January were
 - Fire Training – Engine 51 Hose/Equipment
 - EMS Training – Pit Crew CPR and Bleeding Control.
- Looking to send a couple of individuals to a BLS/CPR Instructor course so we will be able to provide this training to both our personnel and community members.

Apparatus/Equipment Update

- The drain issue at Station 51 has been fixed at least temporarily.
- The old ambulance and tender have been delivered to the auction team yard. The auction date is 1/26/26.
- Squad 51 has been having mechanical issues to include numerous mechanical issues, many due to high mileage, and some safety concerns if not addressed soon. Will need to consider replacement at some point.
- The pump on brush 53 will need to have a service technician look. We need to consider the cost versus benefit of keeping this unit.
- The gas monitoring devices and calibration equipment in service
- Repairs made to Engine 51 generators and fans and now function properly.
- All supply hose on Engine 51 was removed. The hose didn't appear to have been removed/cleaned for an unknown amount of time. Replaced with 5" supply hose and clean 2 ½. Much of the fire hose we have is going to need to be replaced due to age ranging from 1th 1990's- - 2003 and/or condition. I am working with vendors to do flow

tests to compare to hose type so when we do replace the fire hose it is done with the most appropriate for our organization.

Miscellaneous

- Courtney is working on quotes for repairing the mezzanine and apparatus apron at Station 53 for future consideration.
- Courtney remains in contact with Ute Water about repairing the pothole in front of Station 51. Information has been sent to an asphalt company. We are waiting for information to determine how to proceed
- The Golden Gate opening has been pushed back for an uncertain time. They still need a final inspection for the Certificate of Occupancy to be issued.

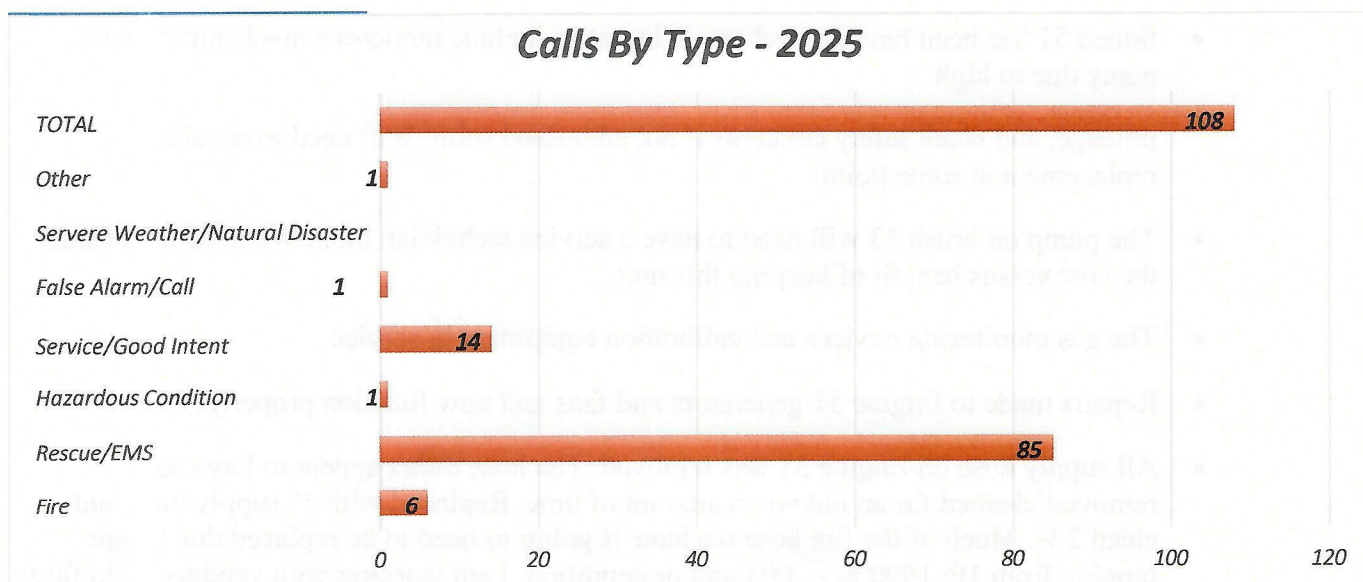
Operations

Staff continue working on the inventory process of personal protective equipment being housed at both stations 51 and 53. We have found that while we have a significant amount of both structural and wildling PPE, a large amount of it is beyond its NFPA compliance dates. Based on the use factor, I will reach out to the various manufacturers to request an extension for use.

We started the year with a structure fire in the early morning of January 1, 2026. A quick response from our members is credited to saving the home despite the garage being a total loss. We did use mutual aid for this call. I conducted a fire investigation with the support of two of our members. I feel this was beneficial for them to participate in.

We closed out 2025 at 412 calls. As of the time of this report, we are at 22 calls for January 2026.

Calls for Service for 2025



Stacy advised that in the eight weeks since the last meeting 5 calls were not attended by MCFA members.

Community Meetings/Events:

Stacy Cox advised of the Upcoming Community Meetings/Events

- Community Meetings February 8th at 1 pm, March 7th 8-12 Republican Caucus
- CMU Bike Race in March 29th 8-2 asked what we wanted to charge- Chief needs more information and then he will advised.

Other Matters before the Board:

Wayne DeGesualdo asked about a fund raiser date yet? Courtney advised looking at June and doing another safety fair with CPR, Wild Land Defensible Area and others.

Looking at training to get CPR trainers trained but will need to buy CPR equipment if we go that direction.

Public Comments

Rich Phillips advised that he thinks we should look at other options like Iron Plant in the future to sell assets for two reasons over The Auction Team. First, he believes it is a 40/60 split and that is a lot of the public's money we are giving away. Second the same vehicle is selling for 27K on Iron Plant. Wayne thanked he and said we would look at that in the future as we want to be responsible with the public's money.

Rick Weber advised that they are selling their place but is working with the title company to ensure that the fire authority and departments will have access going forward and always. Asked if anyone has tested the tanks to make sure they can draft off them. Advised they are holding water. Rich advised he would like to be present when it is tested. Chief advised will work on that and be in touch with a date.


Adjournment of meeting

Murray Thiessen made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Dave Upchurch seconded the motion. All in favor, no opposed, motion carried. Meeting adjourned at about 8:20pm.

Next Board Meeting is February 17th at 7PM

Respectfully Submitted,

Stacy Cox
Administrative Assistant
Mesa County Fire Authority


ATTEST



ATTEST