

CENTRAL ORCHARD MESA FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

Board Meeting March 4, 2026

PENSION BOARD MEETING

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 PM by Murray Thiessen. In attendance were Eric Talley, John Sigle, Murray Thiessen, Darrell Charlesworth and Dave Gitchell. A quorum was established. Also in attendance were Chef Balke Administrative Assistant Stacy Cox, volunteer member Courtney Griffith.

MOTION by Dave Gitchell and seconded by Darrell Charlesworth to accept the January minutes as presented. All were in favor, no opposed. Motion carried.

Old Business-

None

New Business-4th quarter reports were presented by Stacy. No questions or concerns.

MOTION by Dave Gitchell and seconded by John Sigle to adjourn meeting. All were in favor, no opposed. Motion carried.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:08 PM

FIRE BOARD MEETING:

Meeting called to order at 7:01 PM by Murray Thiessen. In attendance were Murray Thiessen, Eric Talley, John Sigle, Darrell Charlesworth. A quorum was established. Also in attendance were Chief Balke, Administrative Assistant Stacy Cox, and volunteer member Courtney Griffith along with member of pension board Dave Gitchell.

MOTION by Darrell Charlesworth and seconded by Eric Talley to accept the January minutes was presented. All were in favor, no opposed. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS:

None

NEW BUSINESS:

EXEMPTION FROM AUDIT APPLICATION;

The application for exemption from audit was provided along with a resolution to file the application for exemption from audit. A **MOTION** was made by Eric Talley and seconded by Darrell Charlesworth to approve the application and file for exemption from audit. All were in favor, no opposed. Motion carried.

Application and resolution was signed by the four present board members.

TREASURERS REPORT:

Stacy Cox gave the 2026 year to date treasurer's report.

Stacy Cox went over the revenue and expenses so far for this year.

\$2011.06 Property Tax Revenue and a total of \$281,211.37 income so far for 2026. \$273,855.32 of that income is the grant payment for the tender via FEMA.

Total expenses year to date is \$166,541.43 which is 59.27% due to the loan payment back to MCFA for the tender.

Being no questions, a **MOTION** by Eric Talley and seconded by Darrel Charlesworth to accept the year to date 2026 report as presented. All were in favor, no opposed. Motion carried.

Chief's Report

Comments from the Fire Chief

2026 is shaping up to be a legislative intensive year. There are currently 19 bills between the House and Senate that the Colorado State Fire Chiefs are tracking. Of these, 12 will directly impact the fire service. This is in addition to the Colorado State Wildfire Resiliency Code that was adopted in 2025 and all entities with a responsibility for fire protection must adopt by April. I am working with Mesa County Building and Planning for an updated MOU that will include a partnership to meet the demands of the building code portion of the mandate.

Administrative Update

- As part of the Colorado State Incident Management Teams, I deployed to another Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) incident in Weld County. This was the 18th incident in Colorado over the past four years.
- I served as the Incident Commander for the Colorado Emergency Managers Conference in Loveland.
- Submitting a grant application for the Volunteer Firefighter Assistance Grant for new personal protective equipment (PPE). Much of what we have is either already outdated, some as much as 20 years, or will be outdated within a year.
- With the recent transition to the NERIS system all Image Trend reports need to be rebuilt.
- I am still working with CMU on implantation of an Internship Program.

Personnel Update

- We have brought on eight (8) new volunteers. Two are certified EMT, one is an EMT student, and one has volunteer experience within Mesa County. One has completed the Firefighter 1 program through CMU.
- Frank Cavaliere is stepping away from being our Fire Marshal. Cory Schreiner will be filling this role.
- Two Palisade Fire Department Paramedics will start covering a couple of shifts when they can.
- Still working to get our current EMTs on Mesa County Protocol. This remains a difficult process due to the fact these people also have full-time jobs or other personal responsibilities that limit their ability to give up time to do protocol rides.
- Notification will be going out to those members that have been on the roster but have not participated in training/meetings for more than two months without prior communication and/or approval.

Training Update

- The Fire Academy will start on March 16th. We currently have 12 people that will be attending. Classes will be Monday and Thursday nights from 6pm – 10pm and Sundays from 9am – 5pm. This is a blended program combining online learning with in-person skills training.
- For February training consisted of
 - Fire Training – Water Supply
 - EMS Training – Respiratory Emergencies and Treatments

Apparatus/Equipment Update

- The sewer drain issue at Station 51 is still a concern
- Members are coordinating their time to get the new extractor installed and in service.

- We are working to try and find suitable personal protective equipment for the new hires.
- We continue to have mechanical issues with the Class A pumpers around leaking valves. Some of these will need to be replaced versus rebuilt.
- Looking into options for pump testing of the larger apparatus, i.e., engines and tenders.
- I am trying to have SCBA Flow testing scheduled sometime in March or April.

Miscellaneous

- We are still waiting on quotes for repairing the mezzanine and apparatus apron at Station 53. This is a safety concern as it continues to deteriorate.
- 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

- We will be implementing new daily/weekly duties and check sheets.
- For the month of February there were 32 incidents. This is an increase of 8 calls compared to the same time last year. For 2026 there have been 63 incidents, an increase of 8 calls for the same time last year.

Reports

- Agencies are still working on rebuilding the Report Writer components

Incident Number	Date	Time 24 Hr.	Call Type Description	Call Count
2026-00000032	2026-02-01	16	SMOKE	1
2026-00000033	2026-02-02	12	CODE5	1
2026-00000034	2026-02-03	4	STROKE-C3	1
2026-00000035	2026-02-07	6	SICK PERSON-MINOR	1
2026-00000036	2026-02-07	16	TRAUMA-C2	1
2026-00000037	2026-02-07	16	CODE5	1
2026-00000038	2026-02-07	17	BREATH DIFF- MAJOR	1
2026-00000039	2026-02-07	18	CRASH-CLOSEST C3	1
2026-00000040	2026-02-07	20	ASSTF	1
2026-00000041	2026-02-08	2	BACK PAIN-C2	1
2026-00000042	2026-02-09	3	SEIZURE-C2	1
2026-00000043	2026-02-10	17	SICK PERSON-MINOR	1
2026-00000044	2026-02-11	15	FALLS-C3	1
2026-00000045	2026-02-12	7	ASSTM	1
2026-00000046	2026-02-12	12	BREATH DIFF-C2	1
2026-00000047	2026-02-12	15	SICK PERSON-MINOR	1
2026-00000048	2026-02-15	19	EMS	1
2026-00000049	2026-02-17	17	OTHER	1
2026-00000050	2026-02-18	12	EMS	1
2026-00000051	2026-02-19	18	FALLS-C2	1
2026-00000052	2026-02-20	6	CRASH, RESCUE-C3	1
2026-00000053	2026-02-20	7	CRASH	1
2026-00000054	2026-02-21	3	FALLS-C2	1

2026-00000055	2026-02-21	14	FALLS-C3	1
2026-00000056	2026-02-21	17	EMS	1
2026-00000057	2026-02-22	2	FALLS-MINOR	1
2026-00000058	2026-02-22	13	STROKE-C3	1
2026-00000059	2026-02-25	0	CRASH-CLOSEST C3	1
2026-00000060	2026-02-25	23	CRASH-MAJOR	1
2026-00000061	2026-02-26	9	HEART PROBS-C3	1
2026-00000062	2026-02-28	18	UNCON/FAINT-C3	1
2026-00000063	2026-02-28	21	UNCON/FAINT-C3	1

Other Matters before the Board:

Murray advised that he received and emailing asking about meeting with Clifton Fire about joining forces or taking over the area. It was suggested that Murray and Darrell from Central Orchard Mesa and Wayne from Mesa County Fire/Lands End Fire meet with them as anything to do with COM will affect MCFA. Murray will reach out and set it up.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

None

AJDOURMENT:

A **MOTION** was made by Darrell Charlesworth and seconded by Eric Talley to adjourn the meeting. All were in favor, no opposed. Motion carried. Murray Thiessen adjourned the meeting at 7:43 PM.

Next meeting scheduled for May 6, 2026 7:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Stacy Cox: Administrative Assistant

CENTRAL ORCHARD MESA FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT


Attest: _____