

MESA COUNTY FIRE AUTHORITY BOARD MEETING MINUTES

August 25, 2026

At 7:01 PM Wayne DeGesualdo called the meeting to order. Wayne DeGesualdo, Eric Talley, Murray Thiessen, Dave Upchurch and Chad Wallace were present for the board.

Also present were public member Rich Phillips, Colene Rowland, Cheryl Lumbardy, Chris Rowland, and Paul Dimarchi. Administrative Assistant Stacy Cox, Brian Cherveney (Chief of CFPD), and Chief Balke along volunteers of Mesa County Fire Authority where also attended.

Everyone in attendance stood and said the Pledge of Allegiance.

Wayne DeGesualdo said an opening prayer.

Approval of Minutes

Wayne DeGesualdo asked if everyone had a chance to read the minutes of the July 2026 Board Meeting, they all took time to review them. David Upchurch asked if the corrections from previous board meetings needed to be listed. Advised no, as corrections were made before they were signed into record. Eric Talley noted the date of the next board meeting was incorrect on the Minutes. Chad Wallace made a motion to accept the with the correction. Eric Talley seconded the motion. All were in favor, none opposed. Motion carried. Correction was made before the minutes were signed into record.

David Upchurch also wanted to make suggestion on bid request- Bids needs to be valid for at least 60 days and that concrete needs to be done in two section to allow proper curing of the concrete before vehicles drive in and out of the bays. Advised RFP (Request for Proposals) have been provided for review.

OLD BUSINESS

Update on partnership with CFPD

The following update was provided by Clifton Fire Chief Cherveney

Hello,

I wanted to provide an update on the progress being made toward the potential partnership between the Mesa County Fire Authority and the Clifton Fire Protection District.

We have gathered and reviewed as much operational, financial, administrative, fleet, facility, PPE, and equipment information as has been available for both districts. While we have not been able to locate a complete inventory of every smaller equipment item, we believe we now have sufficient information to assess the major assets, identify important gaps, and develop informed

recommendations. Any remaining inventory details can be verified as the process moves forward and should not prevent us from evaluating the larger service and financial considerations.

One significant safety concern was identified during the inventory process and needs to be addressed. The available records indicate that the Authority's SCBAs have not received the required flow testing and that the air cylinders are not current on required hydrostatic testing. Because this equipment is relied upon for interior firefighting and other immediately dangerous to life or health environments, I recommend that bringing the SCBAs and cylinders into compliance be treated as an immediate priority for the Authority.

Until the required testing, inspection, and any necessary maintenance have been completed, continued use of this equipment for interior firefighting presents a serious safety concern and potentially significant liability. This observation is not intended as criticism of current or previous personnel. It is precisely the type of issue the inventory and evaluation process was intended to identify so that it can be addressed before a firefighter is placed at unnecessary risk. CFPD is willing to assist the Authority in evaluating options and identifying the most practical path toward compliance.

The cost-of-service study is also nearing completion. Following additional discussions regarding each district's budget, existing resources, service demands, and future needs, the study requires a few revisions and refinements. We anticipate receiving the completed report next week.

The completed study will be a key component of the next committee meeting, which will likely be scheduled for the first week of September if everyone's schedules allow. In addition to reviewing the financial findings, we intend to present potential service-delivery models for consideration. These will include options related to staffing, deployment, coverage, cost sharing, implementation, and the resources necessary to provide a safe and sustainable level of service.

The purpose of this work is to provide the committee and both boards with a clear and realistic understanding of:

- The current cost and resources required to provide service
- Potential staffing and service-delivery models
- A fair and sustainable cost-sharing structure
- Possible implementation steps and timelines
- Any remaining legal, administrative, or governance matters that will need to be addressed

Good progress has been made, and the information necessary for a meaningful committee discussion is coming together. Once the cost-of-service study is finalized, we will begin coordinating schedules for the next committee meeting.

Chad and Eric - would you have time for a meeting the week of Sept. 7? That will give me enough time to complete all the necessary informational items before the meeting. Sounds like mornings work best for Chad.

I could attend the Board meeting tomorrow night if it would be helpful and provide all the Board members with his same update. Thanks

Brian Cherveney

Fire Chief

Clifton Fire Protection District

Next meeting is scheduled for 9/7/26. Murray asked how we are on the 90 day time line. Brian advised this is the slow part but things are moving along slowly but steadily. Just wanting on some PPE information sheets from Courtney. Stacy Cox advised she received a request for five years of call reports. Chief advised he will check on that as they should be able to access that without an issue.

NEW BUSINESS

Treasurers Report

Murray Thiessen presented the treasurer's report. We are at 67% through the year and income from tax revenue is at 65.21% from Lands Ends and 70.13% from Central Orchard Mesa but COM Income shows 141.68% due to the repayment of the loan of \$161,661.50 for the tender. Income for the year between the sale of vehicles, tax revenue, bank interest and loan repayment we are at 95.52% on total revenue collected. Total expenses for the year are sitting at 36.65% for the year, Murray advised 409 is over for the year but with the cost of fuel is not surprised. Someone asked if 903 is what we have paid for the newest truck, advised no, that is mostly money dedicated to the vehicle replacement, meaning it is sitting in the bank, dedicated there for as we moved it to that account it is out of our active budget. Eric Talley made a motion to approve the treasurer's report as presented. David Upchurch seconded the motion. All in favor, no opposed, motion carried.

Budget Committee

Budget Committee will be made up of Dave Upchurch, Murray Thiessen, Stacy Cox and Chief Balke or Chief Cherney.

Chief's Report



Mesa County Fire Authority Fire Chief's Report

PO Box 250 Whitewater CO. 81527 • 970-242-2975

August 25, 2026

Prepared By: Charles K. Balke, Fire Chief

Comments from the Fire Chief

I continue to work with the staff on improvements within the organization.

Administrative Update

- I have generated a draft RFP for the Boards' review and comment for the repair to the station apparatus apron at Station 53.
- I have generated a draft RFP for the Boards' review for apparatus bay lighting replacement at both stations.
- We are still working on creating a fleet fuel account at the Golden Gate in Whitewater. The intention is to have a business with Fleet Fuel capabilities within our own jurisdiction for our apparatus and support local business.
- Continue to work with Mesa County Building Department on the process for evaluating and ground truthing process for the Wildfire Resiliency Code.
- I flew to Dacatur Illinois to pick up and drive the new Pumper/Tender back. Spent time with their agency to get in-service training on the apparatus.

Personnel Update

- Based on the pending consideration of Clifton Fire Protection District, assuming organizational leadership all applications have been suspended.

Training Update

- The Hazardous Materials Course has been scheduled with a start date of September 14, 2026 and will be completed on October 11, 2026. This will be a hybrid course consisting of online didactic discussions and hands-on practical skills demonstration.
- We have had training on the new Pumper/Tender

Apparatus/Equipment/Facility Update

- Tender 51 has been sent in for DOT inspection, pump and general maintenance repairs.
- Ladder Testing was completed. All ladders passed.
- Working with ROI to schedule SCBA flow testing and SCBA Fit Testing.

Miscellaneous

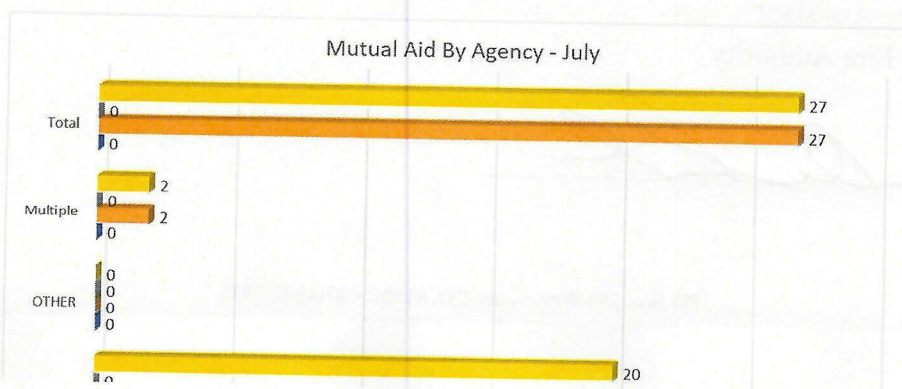
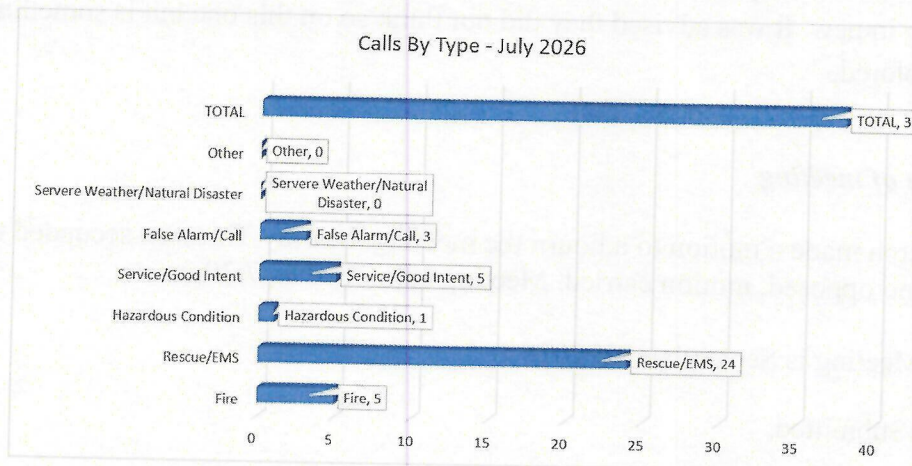
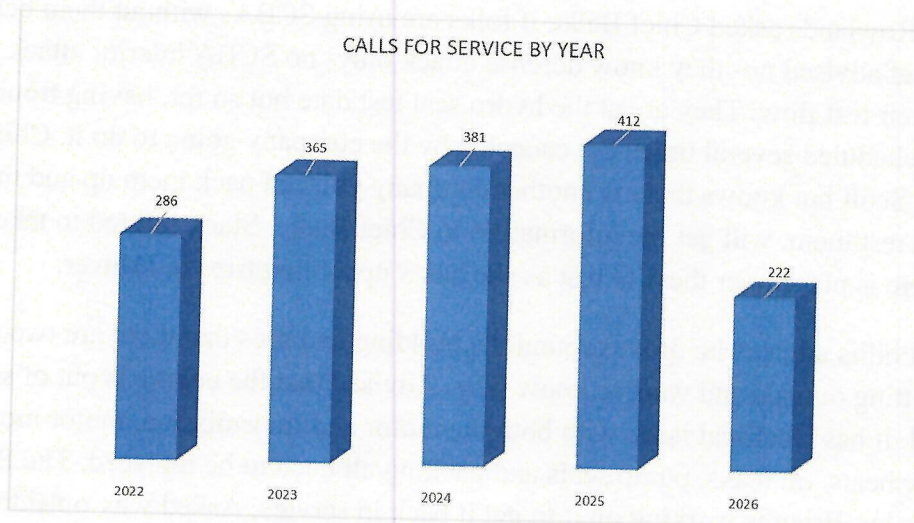
- The SAFER Grant for Volunteer Recruitment and Retention committee selected a grant coordinator. If successful, the coordinator will administer the grant and work with each agency's representative for funding reimbursements.

Operations

I have updated the response numbers through the end of July and will provide whole numbers from the preceding month versus incomplete data for the current month. During the meeting I will provide the updated year-to-date call count.

- For the month of July there were 38 incidents. This is a decrease of 6 calls compared to the same time last year. For the same period in 2026 there have been 222 incidents, a decrease of 15 calls for the same time last year.

Reports



Community Events/Meetings:

None

Public Comment:

Public Chris Rowlands asked Chief Balke if folks are using SCBAs without them being tested properly. Chief advised no- they know defense attack only- no SCBA interior attack. Said they are due for their test flow. They are at the hydro seal test date but so far, having trouble getting it done. Been scheduled several times but canceled by the company going to do it. Chief Cherveney said they use Scott but knows there is another company you can pack them up and mail them to and they will test them, will get the information to Chief Balke. Stacy offered to take them to Denver if there is place over there to test as she has 3 upcoming trips to Denver.

Public Rich Phillis advised he drove around the building and sees that there are two pieces of equipment sitting outside and want to know why. Advised that the engine is out of service and is being striped. It has electrical issue with both the motor and transmission, motor mounts are broke, it over heats, oil leaks, pump seals and packing all need to be replaced. The Brush truck is not in service but Brian is working on it to get it back in service. Asked why outside, advised there is no room in the bays. It was questioned if it would be worth refurbishing the engine rather than investing in new. It was advised they did not think so on this one but is something that could be further explored.

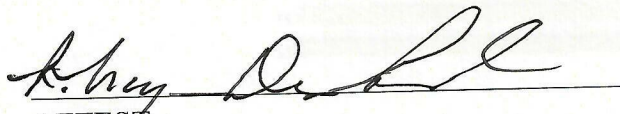
Adjournment of meeting

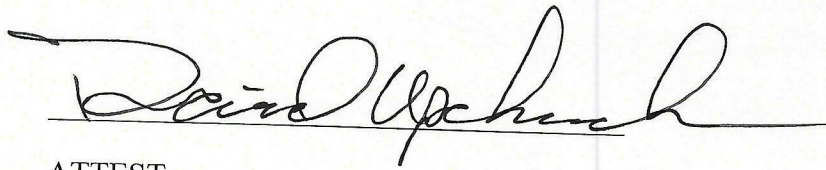
David Upchurch made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Murray Thiessen seconded the motion. All in favor, no opposed, motion carried. Meeting adjourned @ 7:39pm.

Next Board Meeting is September 22, 2026.

Respectfully Submitted,

Stacy Cox
Administrative Assistant
Mesa County Fire Authority


ATTEST

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "David Upchurch", written over a horizontal line.

ATTEST