



Teton County Fire Protection District

P.O. Box 474

911 N. Hwy 33

Tuesday, May 26, 2026- Driggs Fire Station, as well as Teleconferenced via Zoom

In Attendance:

Jason Letham, Fire Commissioner

Bob Foster, Fire Commissioner

Erin Borbet, Fire Commissioner

Mike Maltaverne-Fire Chief

Kevin Brown – Fire Marshal

Ed Schauster- Deputy Chief of Operations

Mariana O'Neill -CFO

Aaron Stiny- Local 4667, via zoom

Billy Fox – Local 4667

Teton Valley Fire Action Community (Liz & Jeff)

Meeting began @ 14000 hours

Commissioner Foster called the meeting to order.

TVFACT Update

Liz and Jeff provided an update on the Teton Valley Fire Action Community (TV Fact) team, which now has about 80 people on its email list and is actively conducting outreach through various events and initiatives focused on wildfire mitigation. The group is raising funds to support the hiring of a wildfire mitigation coordinator, with a goal of raising \$160,000, of which \$146,000 has been raised to date including a \$20,000 matching challenge from Teton Aviation. The position is expected to be self-funded after the initial three-year period through grant writing, with additional support coming from The Nature Conservancy and Teton County Fire and Rescue.

VURA Update

The meeting focused on updates regarding the urban renewal district partnership with the city of Victor. The fire district presented three options for replacing Engine 2, with the preferred approach being for the city of Victor to purchase the new engine using urban renewal district funds. Further discussion will continue sometime in the fall.

FY 2027 Collective Bargaining Negotiations

The group discussed negotiations regarding a mandatory policy, long-term sick payout structure, and a potential 3% COLA for the next budget year, with Mariana expressing concerns about the financial implications of some proposed changes, particularly the high payout structure for retiring firefighters based on captain wages. Chief Maltaverne discussed staffing challenges, noting that despite hiring efforts, the department remains short-staffed with four current positions unfilled and several employees expected to retire soon. Aaron with Local 4667 reported that the executive board unanimously approved a proposal to hire three firefighters, with the new compensation package offering different payout rates for long-term sick leave hours. They agreed to manage minimum staffing at 6 and aim to hire back to 7, acknowledging that achieving full staffing may be challenging initially. The group decided to postpone implementing a mandatory compensation policy and instead focus on managing staffing through voluntary measures and careful tracking of PTO and training. They also discussed tying future cost-of-living adjustments to forecasted revenue and Western CPI to ensure financial sustainability. The group also discussed the need for additional firefighter staffing and whether to pursue a levy or bond to fund it. Aaron suggested making a community ask for additional staffing rather than relying on ongoing requests, while Chief proposed putting a plan on the ballot for next May that would require a supermajority vote. They acknowledged the challenge of convincing residents to support both fire staffing and cost of living adjustments, with Chief emphasizing that the community would ultimately decide the level of service they want.

District Physician Contract and Wildfire Coordinator

Chief Maltaverne presented updates on two key initiatives. First, he discussed a new contract with Anna Gunderson, a physician's assistant, to conduct NFPA 1582 pre-employment physicals for career firefighters, addressing a state requirement that the district had been violating. Second, he outlined plans to hire a wildland mitigation coordinator, a position funded for three years through community donations and grants, with hiring targeted for October-January 2027.

Commissioner Letham made a motion to approve the Anna Gunderson Contract and the new Wildfire Coordinator Position.

Commissioner Borbet seconded the motion.

Commissioner Letham asked for all in favor. All replied “aye”, and the motion passed.

Minutes: Commissioner Foster asked if there were questions or comments on the prepared minutes from April 2026, meeting.

No comments or questions were asked.

Commissioner Foster made a motion to approve the minutes as presented.

Commissioner Borbet seconded the motion.

Commissioner Letham asked for all in favor. All replied “aye”, and the minutes were approved.

Claims: Commissioner Letham asked for any questions or comments on the claims presented for the period **April 1-30, 2026.**

No comments or questions were asked.

Commissioner Foster made a motion to approve the claims as presented.

Commissioner Borbet seconded the motion.

Commissioner Letham asked for all in favor. All replied “aye”, and the claims were approved as presented.

Budget Statement:

Commissioner Letham asked for any questions or comments on the April Budget Statement presented.

No comments or questions were asked.

Commissioner Foster made a motion to approve the Budget Statement as presented.

Commissioner Borbet seconded the motion.

Commissioner Letham asked for all in favor. All replied “aye”, and the Budget Statement was approved as presented.

Commissioner Letham made a motion to adjourn at 1602 hours.

Commissioner Borbet seconded the motion.

Commissioner Letham asked for all in favor. All replied “aye”, and the Board of Fire Commissioners were adjourned.