



## FLORISSANT FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT BYLAWS

**SECTION 1. AUTHORITY.** The Florissant Fire Protection District ("District") is a governmental subdivision of the State of Colorado and a body corporate with those powers of a public or quasi municipal corporation which are specifically authorized by, and in compliance with, Section 32-1-101 et seq., C.R.S. The district was created by court order and is located in the County of Teller.

**SECTION 2. PURPOSE.** It is hereby declared that the Bylaws hereinafter set forth will serve a public purpose.

**SECTION 3. POLICIES OF THE BOARD.** It shall be the policy of the Board of Directors ("Board") of the district, consistent with the availability of revenues, personnel, and equipment, to use its best efforts, utilizing due diligence, to provide the quality services as authorized under the district Service Plan/Statement of Purposes, Procedural Authority Governing Operations of the district, Roles and Responsibilities and Conduct, or by law.

**SECTION 4. BOARD OF DIRECTORS.** All powers, privileges and duties vested in, or imposed upon, the district by law shall be exercised and performed by and through the Board, whether set forth specifically or implied in these Bylaws.

Without restricting the general powers conferred by these Bylaws, it is hereby expressly declared that the Board shall have the following powers and duties:

- a. To confer upon any appointed officer or employee of the district the power to choose, remove or suspend employees or agents upon such terms and conditions as may seem fair and just and in the best interests of the district.

- b. To determine and designate, except as otherwise provided by law or these Bylaws, who shall be authorized to make purchases, negotiate leases for office space, and sign receipts, endorsements, checks, releases, and other documents. The Board may, on a limited basis and by resolution, give a district manager or other appointed signatory the power to sign contracts and other official documents on behalf of district, as long as the delegated power shall be clearly delineated and with a definite ending date. This should be in writing that the delegated officer can negotiate for a contract or lease after first getting board approval.
- c. To create standing or special committees and to delegate such power and authority to any appointed officer or employee of the district as the Board deems necessary and proper for the performance of such committee's functions and obligations, as long as the delegated power shall be clearly delineated and with a definite ending date.
- d. To prepare or cause to be prepared financial reports covering each year's fiscal activities; and such reports shall be available for inspection by the public, as required by law.

## **SECTION 5. OFFICE.**

- a. **Business Office.** The principal business office of district shall be at
  - i. 2606 US Highway 24, P.O. Box 502, Florissant, Colorado, 80816, unless otherwise designated by the Board.
- b. **Establishing Other Offices and Relocation.** The Board, by resolution, may from time to time, designate, locate and relocate its executive and business office and such other offices as, in its judgment, are necessary to conduct the business of the district.

## **SECTION 6. MEETINGS.**

- a. **Regular Meetings. Regular meetings of the Board shall be conducted on** the third Wednesday of each month at 6:00 p.m. and held at the training room of Station 1 unless otherwise noticed and posted. When necessary, the Board, in its discretion, may change the time and date of regular Board meetings.
- b. **Special Meetings.** Special meetings of the Board may be called by the Chair, the Vice Chair, or any two (2) Directors of the Board.

- c. **Meeting Public**. All meetings of the Board, other than executive sessions and social gatherings, shall be open to the public. Meetings include any and all sessions of the Board, at which a quorum of the Board in office or more are expected to be in attendance for discussion of district business, either in person, telephonically, or electronically.
- d. **Board Member Notice**. Section 6.a. shall constitute formal notice of regular meetings to the Directors, and no other notice shall be required to be given to the Board. Notice of special meetings shall be provided to Directors by email or telephone.
- e. **Public Notice**. Public notice and an agenda for all meetings shall be posted not less than twenty-four (24) hours in advance as set forth in the Colorado Open Meetings Law. The district's webpage is designated for the posting of such notice pursuant to Section 24-6-401, C.R.S.
- f. **No Informal Action by Directors/Executive Sessions**. All official business of the Board shall be conducted at regular or special meetings. Executive sessions may be called at regular or special meetings, and conducted according to the following guidelines:
  - 1. **Calling the Executive Session**. The topic for discussion in the executive session shall be announced in a motion, and the specific statute that authorizes the executive session shall be cited. The matter to be discussed shall be described in as much detail as possible without compromising the purpose of being in executive session. An affirmative vote of two-thirds (2/3) of the quorum in attendance shall be required to go into executive session.
  - 2. **Conducting the Executive Session**. No adoption of any proposed policy, position, resolution, rule, regulation, or formal action shall take place in an executive session. The discussion in executive session shall be limited to the reasons for which the executive session was called. An electronic record (such as an audio tape) of the contents of the discussion in the executive session shall be kept. No electronic or other record is necessary to be kept for any portions of the discussion which the district's attorney reasonably believes constitute attorney-client privileged communication. The attorney shall state on the electronic record when any portion of the executive session is not recorded as an attorney-client privileged communication or sign a statement to the same effect.
  - 3. **Records of Executive Sessions**. The electronic record of any executive session shall be retained by the district for ninety (90)

days from the date of the executive session and then destroyed. Electronic recordings of the executive session, or transcripts or other reproduction of the to the general public for review under any circumstances, except as required by law.

4. **Adjournment and Continuance of Meetings.** When a regular or special meeting is for any reason continued to another time and place, notice need not be given of the continued meeting if the time and place of such meeting are announced at the meeting at which the continuance is taken. At the continued meeting, any business may be transacted which could have been transacted at the original meeting.
  
5. **Emergency Meetings.** Notwithstanding any other provisions in this Section 6, emergency meetings may be called, without notice if the 24-hour agenda notice is not practicable or impossible, by the Chair, Vice Chair, or any two (2) Directors of the Board in the event of a declared emergency that requires the immediate action of the Board in order to protect the public health, safety, welfare and property of the residents, property owners and visitors of the district. If possible, notice of such emergency meeting may be given to the Board by telephone or whatever other means are reasonable to meet the circumstances of the emergency. At such emergency meeting, any action within the power of the Board that is necessary for the immediate protection of the public health, safety, welfare or property of the residents, property owners and visitors of the district may be taken; provided, however, that any action taken at an emergency meeting shall be effective only until the first to occur of (a) the next regular meeting, or (b) the next special meeting of the Board at which the emergency issue is on the public notice of the meeting. At such subsequent meeting, the Board may ratify any emergency action taken. If any emergency action taken is not ratified, then it shall be deemed rescinded as of the date of such subsequent meeting, although the validity and effectiveness of the emergency action during its effective time shall not be invalidated. A declared

emergency for purposes of this subsection h is an emergency within the district that has been declared by county or municipal government, the State of Colorado, the United States government, of any department or agency thereof, or the Chair, Vice Chair, or any two (2) Directors of the Board who are aware of and attest in the minutes to the public necessity for the emergency meeting.

6. **Email Meetings.** Section 24-6-402, C.R.S., requires that certain e-mail correspondence between a quorum of the Board, if said email correspondence discusses pending resolutions or other district business, shall be considered a public meeting subject to the requirements of the Colorado Open Meetings Act. Email communication between the Board that does not relate to the merits or substance of pending legislation or other public business, including emails regarding scheduling a Board meeting or that is sent by a Director for the purpose of forwarding information, or responding to an inquiry from an individual who is not a member of the Board, or posing a question for later discussion by the Board, shall not be considered a "meeting" within the meaning of the Colorado Open Meetings Act.
7. **Telephonic or Electronic Meetings.** Section 24-6-402(1)(b), C.R.S., defines a meeting as "Any kind of gathering to discuss public business, in person, by telephone, electronically, or by other means of communication." Pursuant to Section 32-1-903(5)(a), C.R.S, the meeting "location" means the physical, telephonic, electronic, or other virtual place or combination of such means, where a meeting can be attended. Directors may attend meetings by telephone, electronically or virtually, so long as he or she is able to reasonably hear the comments from the audience and any comments and discussion among other Directors and staff and is able to participate in the discussion.

## **SECTION 7. CONDUCT OF BUSINESS.**

- a **Quorum.** All official business of the Board shall be transacted at a regular or special meeting at which a quorum (majority) of the Directors in office shall be in attendance in person, telephonically, electronically or virtually.
- b **Rules Of Conduct.** Meetings of the Board of Directors shall be conducted by the President in a manner consistent with the Procedural Authority Governing Operations, Roles and Responsibilities, and Conduct of the District.
- c **Vote Requirements.** A quorum (more than one-half of the number of Directors serving on the Board) of the Board must be present before the district may take any official act or vote. A majority of the quorum in attendance is required to pass a measure. §§32-1-103(16) and 32-1-903(2), C.R.S.

Any action of the Board shall require the affirmative vote of a minimum of three directors voting in the affirmative to pass a measure, at a meeting properly called and at which a quorum in office is in attendance.

- d **Electronic Signatures.** In the event the signature(s) of one (1) or more Directors of the Board or appointed signatories are required to execute a written document, contract, note, bond, deed, and/or other official papers of the district, and the appropriate individual(s) is unable to be physically present to sign said documentation, such individual or individuals are authorized to execute the documentation electronically or e-mail signature, unless said documentation provides otherwise. Any electronic signature so affixed to a document shall carry the full legal force and effect of any original, handwritten signature. Except as approved herein, this provision of these Bylaws shall not be interpreted as establishing district's consent or authorization to bind district to any transaction by the use of electronic records or electronic means. This provision is made pursuant to Article 71.3 of Title 24, C.R.S., also known as the Uniform Electronic Transactions Act.
- e **Order of Business.** The business of all regular meetings of the Board shall be transacted, as far as practicable, in the following order, and the agenda for such meetings shall describe in as much detail as is possible the topics planned for discussion within each category:
  - 1. Changes to Agenda;
  - 2. Approval (or approval, as modified) of the minutes of the previous meeting;

3. Public input (for matters not otherwise on the agenda/5-minute time limit/no disrupting, pursuant to Section 18-9-108, C.R.S.); or otherwise as provided throughout the meeting.
4. Officers, committees and professional consultants;
5. Unfinished business;
6. New business and special orders;
7. Adjournment.

**f Public Conduct at Meetings.** Comments by members of the public shall be made only during the "Public Input" portion of a meeting and shall be limited to five (5) minutes per individual or spokesperson of a group. Each member of the public wishing to speak may be asked to indicate their full name, address, and agenda item to be addressed. The Board requests that no oral presentation include any charges or complaints against any district employee, regardless of whether or not the employee is identified in the presentation by name or by another reference, unless such charges or complaints have first been submitted in writing to the Board. The conduct of meetings shall, to the fullest extent possible, enable Directors to consider problems to be solved, weigh evidence related thereto, and make wise decisions intended to solve the problems and receive, consider and take any needed action with respect to reports of accomplishments of district operations. Disorderly conduct, harassment or obstruction of or interference with meetings by physical action, verbal utterance, nuisance or and other means are hereby prohibited and constitute a violation of district rules. Such conduct may result in removal of person(s) responsible for such behavior from the meeting and/or criminal charges filed against such person(s). To the extent such occurrences arise and the person(s) responsible refuses to leave the premises, law enforcement authorities will be summoned to escort the individual or individuals out of the meeting.

**g Director's Performance of Duties.** A Director of the district shall perform all duties of a Director, including duties as a member of any committee of the Board upon which the Director may serve, in good faith, in a manner in which the Director reasonably believes to be in the best interests of district, and with such care as an ordinarily prudent person in a

like position would use under similar circumstances. In performing the Director's duties, the Director shall be entitled to rely upon information, opinions, reports, or statements, including financial statements and other financial data, in each case prepared or presented by persons and groups listed in subparagraphs 1, 2 and 3 of this subsection c. The Director shall not be considered to be acting in good faith if he/she has knowledge concerning the matter in question that would cause such reliance to be unwarranted. A person who so performs the Director's duties shall not have any liability by reason of being or having been a Director of the district. Those programs and groups upon whose information, opinions, reports, and statements a Director is entitled to rely upon are:

- i. One (1) or more officers or employees of the district whom the Director reasonably believes to be reliable and competent in the matters presented;
- ii. Legal counsel, public accountants, or other professionals as to matters which the Director reasonably believes to be within such persons' professional knowledge or expertise;
- iii. A committee of the Board upon which the Director does not serve, duly designated in accordance with the provisions of these Bylaws, as to matters within the committee's designated authority, which committee the Director reasonably believes to merit confidence.

**h Oath of Office. Each Director of the Board, before assuming the responsibilities of his/her office, shall take and subscribe an oath of office in the form prescribed by law.**

**i Election of Officers. The Board shall elect from its membership a Chair/President, Secretary, Treasurer, and Vice Chair/President who shall be the officers of the Board and of the district. The Board may elect from its membership Vice Chairs/Presidents and Assistant Secretaries and/or Assistant Treasurers. The officers shall be elected by a Director's voting. The Board may, from time to time, appoint an acting officer in the absence of any individual officer. The election of the officers shall be conducted biennially at the first regular meeting of the Board following the regular biennial election of the Directors. Each officer so elected shall serve for a term of two (2) years, or as otherwise directed by the Board. Under any circumstance, the term shall continue until the election of his/her successor.**



- j**     **Vacancies.** Any vacancy occurring on the Board shall be filled by an affirmative vote of a majority of the remaining Directors, as prescribed by law, with the appointee to serve until the next biennial election, as prescribed by statute. The appointed individual must meet the statutorily prescribed qualifications for Directors and shall serve until the next regular election. Vacancies shall be filled within 45 days.
  
- k**     **Resignation and Removal.** Directors may be removed from office only by recall as prescribed by statute. Any Director may resign at any time by giving written notice to the Board, and acceptance of such resignation shall not be necessary to make it effective, unless the notice so provides.

  - i**       Anyone resigning their position is not eligible to return to the board until six months from the date of resignation has passed.
  
- l**     **Chair and President.** The Chair shall preside at all meetings. The Chair shall also be the President of the district. The President is authorized to sign all contracts, deeds, notes, debentures, warrants and other instruments on behalf of the district.
  
- m**     **Secretary.** The Secretary shall be responsible for the records of the district; may act as Secretary at meetings of the Board and record all votes; shall be responsible for composing a record of the proceedings of the Board in a visual format that may be transmitted electronically and kept for that purpose, which shall be an official record of the Board; and shall perform all duties incident to that office. The Secretary shall be the designated election official of the district and the custodian of the seal of district, unless otherwise determined by the Board. The Secretary shall have the authority to affix such seal to and attest all contracts and instruments authorized to be executed by the Board.
  
- n**     **Treasurer.** The Treasurer shall be Chair of the Budget Committee and of the Audit Committee. The Treasurer shall keep, or cause to be kept, strict and accurate accounts of all money received by and disbursed for and on behalf of the district in permanent records.
  
- o**     **Vice Chair/Vice President and Assistant Secretaries and/or Treasurers.** The Vice Chair/President and Assistant Secretaries and/or Treasurers shall have all powers of the associated primary officers in the absence of such officers. The Vice Chair/Vice President shall preside at meetings in the absence of the Chair. In the event that dual signatures of Directors are required on any instrument, then two (2) different Directors of the Board shall sign such instrument.

- p** **Recording Secretary.** The Board shall have the authority to appoint a recording secretary, who need not be a member of the Board, and who shall be responsible for recording the minutes of the meetings of the Board. The recording secretary shall not be required to take an oath of office, nor shall the recording secretary be required to post a performance bond. If the Board appoints a recording secretary, the duties of the Board Secretary shall not include the recording of the minutes.
- q** **Additional Duties.** The officers of the Board shall perform such other duties and functions as may, from time to time, be required by the Board, by these Bylaws or the rules and regulations of the district, by law, or by special exigencies, which shall later be ratified by the Board.
- r** **Manager or Administrator.** The Board may appoint a manager or contract with an administrator to serve for such term and upon such conditions, including compensation, as the Board may establish. Such manager or administrator shall have general supervision over the administration of the affairs, employees and business of the district and shall be charged with the hiring and discharging of employees and the management of district properties. Such manager or administrator shall have the care and custody of the general funds of the district and shall de OSI or cause to be deposited the same in the name of district in such or savings associations as the Board may select. Such manager or administrator will approve all vouchers, orders and checks for payment, and shall keep or cause to be kept regular books of account of all district transactions and shall obtain, at the district's expense, such bond for the faithful performance of its duties, or crime insurance as the Board may designate. The Board may delegate such powers and duties to the manager or administrator as it deems appropriate.
- s** **Personnel Selection and Tenure.** The selection of agents, employees, engineers, accountants, special consultants and attorneys of the district by the Board will be based upon the relative qualifications and capabilities of the applicants and shall not be based upon political services or affiliations. Agents and employees of the district shall hold their offices at the pleasure of the Board. Contracts for professional services of engineers, accountants, special consultants and attorneys may be entered into upon such terms and conditions as may seem reasonable and proper to the Board.

## **SECTION 9. FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION.**

- a.** **Fiscal Year.** The fiscal year of the district shall commence on January 1st of each year and end on December 31<sup>st</sup>.

- b. **Budget Committee.** There shall be a permanent Budget Committee composed of the Treasurer, another Director appointed by the Chair/president, and one district executive (CEO, district Manager, Administrator, or Fire Chief), which Committee shall be responsible for preparation of the draft annual budget of the district and such other matters as may be assigned to it by the Chair/President or the Board.
- c. **Budget.** On or before October 15<sup>th</sup> of each year, the Budget Committee shall prepare and submit to the Board a proposed budget for the ensuing fiscal year. Such proposed budget shall be accompanied by a statement which shall describe the important features of the budget plan and, by a general summary shall be set forth the aggregate features of the budget, in such manner as to show the balanced relations between the total proposed expenditures and the total anticipated income or other means of financing the proposed budget for the ensuing fiscal year, as contrasted with the corresponding figures for the last completed fiscal year and the current fiscal year. The proposed budget shall be supported by explanatory . schedules or statements classifying the expenditures contained therein by services, subjects and funds. The anticipated income of the district shall be classified according to the nature of receipts.
- d. **Notice of Budget.** Upon receipt of the proposed budget, the Board shall cause to be published a notice that the proposed budget is open for inspection by the public at the district's business office; that the Board will consider the adoption of the proposed budget at a public hearing on a certain date; and that any interested elector may inspect the proposed budget and file or register any objections thereto at any time prior to its final adoption. Such notice shall be posted or published in substantial compliance with law.
- e. **Adoption of Budget.** On the day set for consideration of such proposed budget, the Board shall review the proposed budget and revise, alter, increase or decrease the items as it deems necessary in view of the needs of the district and the probable income of the district. The Board shall then adopt a budget, either during the budget hearing or at a later date and time to be set by the Board, setting forth the expenditures to be made in the ensuing fiscal year. The Board shall provide for sufficient revenues to finance budgeted expenditures with special consideration given to the proposed ad valorem property tax levy.
- f. **Levy and Collection of Taxes.** On or before December 15<sup>th</sup> of each year, the Board shall certify to the Board of County Commissioners of the County or Counties in which the district is located the mill levy

established for the ensuing fiscal year, in order that, at the time and in the manner

required by law for the levying of taxes, such Commissioners shall levy such tax upon the assessed valuation of all taxable property within district.

g. **Filing of Budget.** On or before January 30<sup>th</sup> of each year, unless there are mitigating circumstances due to direction from authority with powers over the Board, shall cause a certified copy of such budget to be filed with the Division of Local Government in the Colorado Department of Local Affairs.

h. **Appropriating Resolution.**

1. At the time of adoption of the budget, the Board shall enact a resolution making appropriations for the ensuing fiscal year. The amounts appropriated thereunder shall not exceed the amounts fixed therefor in the adopted budget.

2. The income of the district, as estimated in the budget and as provided for in the tax levy resolution and other revenue and borrowing resolutions, shall be allocated in the amounts and according to the funds specified in the budget for the purpose or meeting the expenditures authorized by the appropriation resolution.

3. The Board may make an appropriation to and for a contingency fund to be used in cases of emergency or for any other unforeseen contingencies.

i. **No Contract to Exceed Appropriation.** The Board shall have no authority to enter into any contract, or otherwise bind or obligate the district to any liability for payment of money for any purposes for which provision is not made in an appropriation resolution, including any legally authorized amendment thereto, in excess of the amounts of such appropriation for that fiscal year. Any contract, verbal or written, contrary to the terms of this Section 9 shall be void ab initio, and no district funds shall be expended in payment of such contracts.

j. **Contingencies.**

1. In cases of emergency caused by a natural disaster, public enemy, or other contingency which could not reasonably have been foreseen at the time of the adoption of the budget, the Board may authorize the expenditure of funds in excess of the budget by resolution duly adopted by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Board. Such resolution concerning the emergency and shall be included in the minutes of such meeting.
2. If so enacted, a copy of the resolution authorizing additional expenditures shall be filed with the Division of Local Government in

#### **SECTION 14. BIDDING AND CONTRACTING PROCEDURES.**

b. Except in cases in which the district will receive aid from a government agency, a notice shall be published for bids on all construction contracts for work, materials, or both, involving an expense of the district funds exceeding the limit as provided by law. The Board may reject any and all bids, and if it appears that the district can perform the work or secure material for less than the lowest bid, it may proceed to do so in accordance with law. Notwithstanding the foregoing, the district may award an integrated project delivery contract, pursuant to Section 32-1-1801, et seq., C.R.S., upon (i) the determination of the Board that integrated project delivery represents a timely or cost-effective alternative for a project; (ii) publication of a request for qualifications and/or request for proposals; and (iii) compliance with Part 18 of Article 1, Title 32, C.R.S. All other statutory requirements relating to performance bonds, retainage, and similar matters shall also be complied with.

#### **SECTION 15. RECORDS MANAGEMENT.**

The district shall comply with, and adopt and maintain policies as necessary for compliance with, applicable records retention, destruction, and disclosure requirements, including the Colorado Open Records Act, State Archives and Public Records Law, and various consumer privacy legislation. The district shall designate an Official Custodian of Records ("Custodian") pursuant to the Colorado Open Records Act, as defined in the annual transparency notice. In the event there is any question as to whether the district is permitted to comply with a Colorado Open Records Act request, the Custodian shall forward such request to the district's legal counsel. Copies of records shall be furnished at a cost of twenty-five cents (\$.25) per

standard 8.5-inch by 11-inch black and white page. The charge for providing a copy, printout or photograph of a public record in a format other than a standard page will be assessed at the actual cost of production. Additionally, in those cases where the location or existence of specific documents must be researched and the documents must be retrieved, sorted or reviewed for applicability to the request, and such process requires more than one (1) hour of staff time, the Custodian may charge a research and retrieval fee not to exceed thirty-three dollars and fifty-eight cents (\$33.58) per hour. The Custodian will not impose a charge for the first (1<sup>st</sup>) hour of time expended in connection with the research and retrieval of public records. The fees and charges stated in this Section 15 will automatically be increased to the maximum amounts allowed by law without additional Board action.

**SECTION 16. MODIFICATION OF BYLAWS.**

1. These Bylaws may be altered, amended or repealed at any regular or special meeting of the Board to become effective immediately or at a subsequent date, by an affirmative vote of a majority of the Directors in attendance and voting

**SECTION 17. SEVERABILITY.**

1. If any part or provision of these Bylaws is adjudged to be unenforceable or invalid, such judgment shall not affect, impair or
2. invalidate the remaining provisions of these Bylaws, it being the Board's intention that the various provisions hereof are severable.

**SECTION 18. TERMINATION OF PRIOR BYLAWS.**

1. These Bylaws amend, supersede and replace in their entirety any and all prior Bylaws, and any amendments thereto, previously adopted by the Board.
2. ADOPTED this 21st day of February, 2024, by the Board of Directors of the Florissant Fire Protection district.

President, Paul del Toro \_\_\_\_\_

Vice President, Judy Dunn \_\_\_\_\_

Secretary, David Groat \_\_\_\_\_

Assistant Secretary, Allen Schultz \_\_\_\_\_

Treasurer, LeAnne Spicer \_\_\_\_\_