

MEETING MINUTES OF THE VERNON FIRE DISTRICT BOARD

3/25/2025 AT 5:30 PM AT THE VERNON LIBRARY

REGULAR BOARD MEETING

1. **CALL TO ORDER REGULAR BOARD MEETING**, meeting was called to order at 5:30 pm.
2. **ROLL CALL OF BOARD MEMBERS**, present were John Vehar, Grey Murphy, Gregg McClendon, Randy Mifflin, and Tony Anderson.
3. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE AND PRAYER**, The Pledge of Allegiance was recited, and Randy Mifflin prayed for the meeting.
4. **RECOGNITION OF GUESTS**, Firefighter Scott Wright, Captain Nathan Aho, Intern Diego Colón, Reserve Zane Olson, Jacob York, Timber Mesa Fire Chief Randy Chevalier Cassie Chevalier, and Timber Mesa Board Chair Jamie Adams.
5. **CALL TO THE PUBLIC**, John Vehar gave the call, there were no members of the public who gave comments.
6. **REPORTS & CORRESPONDENCE**
 - A. Chair Summary – John Vehar stated that he did not have anything to speak about for the summary.
 - B. Financial Report and Discussion – Jacob York gave the financial report. Revenue was around \$168,000. Expenses were approximately \$101,000 in February, about \$16,000 over budget due to vehicles and equipment. Managerial expenses were over by \$9,000, mostly due to the timing of bills. This fiscal year through February, revenue is at \$1.4 million, over projection by \$590,000 due to wildland revenue and grant revenue. Year-to-date expenses are approximately \$1.3 million which is over budget by \$372,000, which is due to wildland expenses and grant expenses. Cash is around \$940,000 as of February 28, and \$240,000 of this is still earmarked for grant expenses. Jacob York called for questions, and Wendy Sharp asked for an explanation of the cash. He explained that it is from multiple accounts, pointing to the balances at the bottom of the report. Randy Mifflin asked whether all the wildland funds had been received yet, and the answer was yes.
 - C. Chief's Report and discussion – Chief Collin DeWitt reported that there were 62 calls in February. One in Round Valley was notable as there was mutual aid involved that contained the fire incident before it could spread. Ten engines responded from the surrounding areas from five districts, which was a great example of the collaboration we have in our area. One other call that was notable involved Captain Aho, who then spoke of a vehicle fire along with a brush fire combined with an active law enforcement scene in which a suspect was being pursued and shots were being fired. Concho Fire was in assistance as well. During the incident, one of our vehicles was involved in an accident. Both fires were extinguished, the accident was then tended to, as well as a shooting victim. Communications were also discussed in that the dispatcher only mentioned the fire and did not inform VFD that there was an active shooter on the scene.
7. **CONSENT AGENDA**
 - D. The Board has reviewed the Financial Report for the month of February 2025.
 - E. The Board has reviewed and approved the meeting minutes for 2/14/25, 2/15/25 and 2/25/25.
8. **BUSINESS**
 - F. Grey Murphy motioned to approve the Consent Agenda, and Randy Mifflin seconded the motion. John Vehar called for a vote, and the Consent Agenda was approved unanimously.
 - G. **Discussion and possible action: Grants**, Chief DeWitt spoke of the two outstanding grants being worked on, one of which is the tender, which is close to being finished. It is a tactical tanker that will be a useful addition to the fleet. Photos were shown. The ADASHI grant was then discussed briefly.
 - H. **Discussion and possible action: Vehicles**, Chief DeWitt spoke of rearranging certain vehicles while the engines are being repaired. Engine 252, the same engine that had previously been repaired, went back in for additional but unrelated repairs. The frame of engine 251 appeared to have a bent frame from the accident mentioned in the Chief's Report. The adjuster is still evaluating the engine. Randy Mifflin asked when engine 252 would be finished, and Chief DeWitt said it would be in field testing very soon, then ready to be picked up.
 - I. **Discussion and possible action: Challenge Coins**, John Vehar gave the opinion that the money should not be spent by the district at this time. Having everyone contribute something to the project may be an option. Raising money through the Auxiliary was mentioned, however, the Auxiliary is currently not functioning. The subject was tabled for the time being.
 - J. **Discussion and possible action: General discussion on JMA**, John Vehar introduced the topic and discussion surrounded JMA typical terms and timelines. Chief Randy Chevalier mentioned his history with Vernon Fire District, the uniqueness of the community, and the closeness of the two districts. A JMA would involve a time commitment, but it would be worth exploring. He has seen the budget and would like to see some more information from JVG. Grey Murphy noted that the board's goal is to do whatever would be most beneficial for the district, providing the best service to the members of the community. Further discussion included the timing of upcoming chief interviews and formalizing the JMA research process by sending a letter of interest from the Vernon Fire District board to the Timber Mesa board. Randy Mifflin made a motion to compose a letter to the Timber Mesa board. Grey Murphy seconded the motion. A vote was called, and it was unanimously approved.
 - K. **Discussion and possible action: Board Action protocol**, John Vehar discussed the need to have two board members request adding items to the agenda. The call can be made to Admin to request it, and then Admin can call John Vehar or another member to ensure that there are two members requesting it. Alternatively, John Vehar can add items to the agenda as the Chair. The request was also made to add items on the agenda by 7 days before the next meeting. The board came to a consensus on the subject.
9. **FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**: Communication center regarding types of calls for service to VFD, update on body armor, 25th anniversary community event, Vehicles, Grants, JMA.
10. **ADJOURNMENT**, Grey Murphy motioned to adjourn the meeting, and Gregg McClendon seconded the motion. A vote was called, and unanimously approved. The meeting adjourned at 6:30 pm.