

COLUMBUS RURAL FIRE DISTRICT #3
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
SPECIAL MEETING Minutes
May 5th, 2026 5:30 PM

CALL MEETING TO ORDER Meeting was called to order at 5:30 pm.

Present Curt Robbins, Chuck Kronz, Debbie Parod, John Patterson

Fire Chief: Rich Cowger **Admin Assistant** Lisa Westervelt

Visitors

PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS: None

NEW BUSINESS

Discussion regarding next steps for fire station project

Informational meeting and discussion only, no decision points

Mike Dowling – Dowling Architects

Mike shared the role of an architectural firm would be to finish with the design phase of the project, get contractors, follow the project through the construction phase. An architectural firm would also act as an "owners representative" through the project. They also help with the administration of the grant funds.

Because federal funds would be used in the project, we would need to get bids from interested architects, competitive bids for contractors.

The total project cost, as planned so far, is estimated to be about \$2.7 million, to be refined as the project goes along.

Next steps would be for the District to publish an RFQ (request for qualifications) for an architect. This can be done now (strongly encouraged) and doesn't commit the District to spending any funds. May want to modify the scope of the project to include updates to the maintenance building. We can model the RFQ off of the one Red Lodge Fire used.

RFQ process:

Advertise for 2 weeks (published 3 times)

Review submissions

Board selects from submissions

Mike said they have a consultant from Arizona who specializes in fire stations (has done 100) and could be available as an additional resource, at no additional costs. They also have resources to help with bonding issues *if needed/desired*.

ANNOUNCEMENTS/Public Comment None

NEXT MEETING Regular Board Meeting May 11th 2026, – 5:30 PM Fire Station 944 E. Pike Ave, Columbus

Minutes submitted by Lisa Westervelt

