

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Meeting Minutes of the Estes Valley Fire Protection District

June 29, 2026, 4:30 pm

Dannels Fire Station, 901 N. St. Vrain Ave., Estes Park, CO 80517

Board: Sandra Smith, Scott Dorman, Ryan Leahy, Jon Smith, Jeff Robbins

Absent:

Staff: Chief Warren Jones, Chief Justin Kearney, Division Chief Jon Landkamer, Logan Lasley, Marinda Baxter, Rebecca Gelsinger, Sara Barden

Also Attending: Michael Barnthouse, Patti Brown, Kevin Nunn, Marianne Baxter, Mark Igel, Randy Repola, Ron Bruchwalski, Cassandra Ray, Steve Welchert, Jason Damweber

Sandra Smith called the regularly scheduled board meeting to order at 4:31 pm.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Moved by Jon Smith and seconded by Ryan Leahy to approve the agenda.

Motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

ITEMS OF BUSINESS

Presentation of Research Pertaining to a Possible 2026 Sales Tax Election

The Board received a presentation regarding the recent community survey conducted to gauge support for a potential fire district sales tax. A total of 376 residents participated in the survey, which showed strong community support for the district and a proposed half-cent sales tax measure. Key findings identified wildfire response, maintaining volunteer firefighter response times through communication system improvements, and the value provided by the district's volunteer firefighter model. Staff and consultants reviewed preliminary revenue projections, apparatus replacement funding needs, facility improvement considerations, election timelines, and estimated election and public education costs. Discussion focused on long-term funding needs, capital replacement planning, facility improvements, and ensuring accurate public communication regarding the proposed use of funds.

Discussion on the estimated cost of participation would be \$100,000 - \$150,000. It is consistent with feedback received from other jurisdictions and districts that have reported election costs ranging from \$100,000 to \$150,000. Chief Jones explained that \$30,000 has already been approved and spent on election-related expenses, including the survey and one month of consulting services. In addition, the district's 2026 budget includes a planned \$147,000 contribution to the Capital Fund that has not yet been allocated or spent. The Board discussed the possibility of reallocating a portion of these funds to support election costs if participation is ultimately approved.

The Board discussed the ongoing work of staff and the consultant to evaluate and develop information regarding the potential participation of the Estes Valley Fire Protection District (EVFPD) in the November 2026 sales tax election. The Board supported the continuation of this work and requested that additional information and recommendations be brought forward for future consideration. The discussion did not constitute a commitment to participate in the election; any decision regarding participation will be made by the Board through a future resolution.

Moved by Jon Smith and seconded by Jeff Robbins to direct the staff to proceed with all the work necessary to, accomplish getting a ballot initiative on the November 2026 election, which would, request to the public a 0.50% sales tax.

Motion carried unanimously.

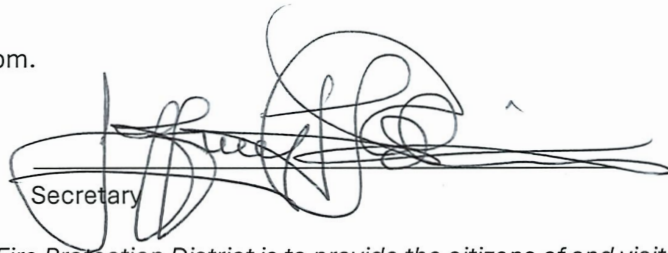
Meeting Minutes: June 29, 2026

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Ryan Leahy and seconded by Dorman to adjourn the meeting.

Motion carried unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 6:09 pm.


Secretary

The Mission of the Estes Valley Fire Protection District is to provide the citizens of and visitors to the Estes Valley with superior fire prevention, fire protection and emergency services in a safe and efficient manner."

"The Mission of the Board of Directors of the Estes Valley Fire Protection District is to establish policy, goals, strategies and financial leadership that are the foundation for the long-term sustainability of the District."