

Shawn Vollertsen, President
Jeff Phillips, Secretary/ Treasurer
Francis Wilson, Board Member

Richard Drake, Vice President
Will Shellabarger, Board Member

NORTHERN SAGUACHE COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

MINUTES

March 9th, 2026

Location: Saguache Fire Station

7:00 PM

- 1) **CALL TO ORDER:** 7:03 PM Shawn Vollertsen
- 2) **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Completed
- 3) **DIRECTOR'S ROLL CALL:** Will Shellabarger, Francis Wilson, Jeff Phillips, Richard Drake, and Shawn Vollertsen all present.
- 4) **APPROVAL OF AGENDA – CHANGES, ADDITIONS & DELETIONS:**
 - MOTION TO APPROVE THE AGENDA FOR MARCH 9, 2026, AS PUBLISHED BY RICHARD DRAKE SECONDED BY WILL SHELLABARGER.**
 - ALL IN FAVOR.**
 - VOTES IN FAVOR 5.**
 - VOTES AGAINST 0.**
 - MOTION CARRIED.**
- 5) **INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS:**District Chief Wesley Moores, District Secretary Juli Close, Equipment Specialists Kendal Adolph, and see attached sheet.
- 6) **APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MONTH:**
 - MOTION TO APPROVE MINUTES FOR FEBRUARY 9, 2026, AS PUBLISHED BY RICHARD DRAKE SECONDED BY FRANCIS WILSON.**
 - ALL IN FAVOR.**
 - VOTES IN FAVOR 5.**
 - VOTES AGAINST 0.**
 - MOTION CARRIED.**
- 7) **READING & APPROVAL OF BILLS. (SUBJECT TO REVIEW OF EACH INVOICE & SIGNING OF CHECKS BY ALL BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT) AGENDA ITEM 13:**
- 8) **PRESENTATIONS:**
 - a. **Update on grant writing:** A foundation grant was submitted for training and education. Talked to Amber and Laura about the fire wells. The Rio Grande Round Table is the best way to meet the State of Colorado. Is something the Board wants? Yvonne needs a good estimate of the cost to drill the well. Tim L. is willing to help with knowledge and some parts. On the 31st. Wes will meet with Pat M. with the Water Division for guidance on the Villa Grove Well. All they are requesting is an estimate. Yvonne would like it by May 1st. Kendal, make sure it applies to a wet hole or a dry hole. Wes says we need 400 gallons plus a minute. Wes, we need two, so we will ask about the priority for a well in Villa Grove and or Moffat.
 - b. **Financial Report: Account balances, Bank Statement Reconciliations, Current Budget Report, mail review, and others as needed)**Shawn Vollertsen read aloud to all present at the meeting.
 - MOTION TO PAY THE BILLS FOR MARCH AS READ AND PRESENTED TO ALL PRESENT AT THE MEETING BY JEFF PHILLIPS SECONDED BY WILL SHELLABARGER.**
 - ALL IN FAVOR.**
 - VOTES IN FAVOR 5.**
 - VOTES AGAINST 0.**
 - MOTION CARRIED.**
 - i. The District received \$86,811.06 for the General Fund and \$5,786.54 for the Pension Fund.
 - ii. Bills were standard. Saguache purchased supplies to paint the station, and the plumbing bill for moving the extractor. I ordered supplies for the file cabinet and ink.
 - iii. We received a \$250.00 bill for processing the 1099-R for the pension. Wes recommended running from the General Fund.
 - iv. QuickBooks charged us for payroll. I reached out, and they refunded the charge in full, a total of \$740.00.

- v. Just so the Board is aware, MES purchased Sea Western.
- vi. Can I pay the rest of the year next month for Emergency Solutions, which is 150.00 a month? The Board is ok with that.
- vii. Does the Board want to renew the Colorado State Fire Fighters Association membership at a cost of \$300.00? Board stated to pay next month.
- viii. I received a statement from the Saguache County Treasurer for \$354.50. I talked to Regina S., and she said the Town of Crestone put a lien on the Crestone Station for unpaid water and hydrant fees. I spent time in January getting the bills straight and paid. Understand, I have not received a mailed or emailed bill from them in months, after making many requests to do so. Regina told me the steps to get it cleared, and then I talked to Patty at the Town of Crestone offices. I refused to pay Saguache County and have them apply it as a credit, as this was their mistake. The Town of Crestone went to the Saguache Treasurer and paid the bill, and they will receive their funds back from the County. I have a receipt from the Treasurer that the account is in good standing, and everything is cleared.

9) **FIREFIGHTER MEMBERSHIP APPLICATIONS, RESIGNATIONS, AND REQUESTS FOR RETIREMENT:**Resignation from Shelby W. from Villa Grove Station.

10) **FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORTS:**

	TRAINING HOURS	REGULAR HOURS	STRUCTURE FIRE	WILDLAND FIRE	MOTOR VEHICLE ACC.	OTHER
Crestone	27 tool repairs/ work day/ truck work	64.5				1 stand down
Moffat	18 training on trucks for new guys	56		3		2 car fire 2 control burns
Saguache	28 SCBA and did maze	89		4		1 car 1rv 1 stand down
Villa Grove/ Bonanza	68.50 inventory and attack 2 and 22 and SCBA training	48.50		2		2 control burns 1 car fire 1 stand down

- a. **Crestone Fire:** The department wants to thank the Board for the equipment. A Crestone community member wants to shut Hemlock down for a few blocks for community safety due to the lack of police and high speeds. That means one way in and out from the Crestone School and Living Wisdom Housing. The department does not think it is a safe idea for the community, and the Board would like Wes to send a letter to the Town of Crestone.

MOTION BY RICHARD DRAKE, SECONDED BY JEFF PHILLIPS, FOR WES TO WRITE A LETTER TO THE CITY STATING THAT CLOSING THE ROAD IS A SAFETY ISSUE.

ALL IN FAVOR.

VOTES IN FAVOR 5.

VOTES AGAINST 0.

MOTION CARRIED.

- b. **Moffat Fire:** July 25th fundraiser, 4-8 Cajun boil. Spayed Neuter April 17-19 at Moffat. Need batteries for the stop signs.

MOTION TO APPROVE FUNDRAISER AND SPAYED AND NEUTERED CLINIC BY WILL

SHELLABARGER, AND SECONDED FRANCIS WILSON

ALL IN FAVOR.

VOTES IN FAVOR 5.

VOTES AGAINST 0.

MOTION CARRIED.

- c. **Saguache Fire:** Brush training 3-21-2026 6 -6:30 am; meet on site and the day before on the 20th 6 pm for a table discussion at Saguache Station. Called Matt for training and did not receive a callback. Training next Tuesday or Wednesday at 6 pm, Rapid Fire Structure training. All departments invited. Wants to start planning for July 4th fundraiser. Kendal will bring a write-up for next month.
- d. **Villa Grove / Bonanza Fire:** reported hours.
- e. **District Chief Report:**

- i. Wes and Shawn met with the attorney about WUI. Saguache County said no to the state's WUI codes. The state is pushing back on deadline dates. David F. and Wes are still attending classes and gathering information. Not going to hold back grant money at this time. Wes stated that other counties do not see a need to hurry. The District doesn't have the statutory authority to make the rules. Wes will keep the Board posted. Wait and let it run its course. 50 counties in Colorado are refusing to adopt the codes.
- ii. Hugo in Gunnison showed Wes and Shawn their training facility. He also invited all our guys over for training. Start with the new guys first after Matt's training. Training for all levels. Wes asked about an old tender, they have an International. Hugo will get it running, and we can have it at no charge. The board would love to receive the tender.

MOTION TO RECEIVE THE TENDER FROM GUNNISON FIRE BY WILL SHELLABARGER AND

SECONDED BY JEFF PHILLIPS.

ALL IN FAVOR.

VOTES IN FAVOR 5.

VOTES AGAINST 0.

MOTION CARRIED.

- iii. No drug testing problems.

11) **OLD (UNFINISHED) BUSINESS:**

a. **Truck Repairs:**

- i. **Oil change Bonanza Attack:** Not Done
- ii. **Tender 2:** bearings are bad, and the pump is bad. Had a pump in storage and used it for replacement. Valves were torn down, and a new one was installed today. Try to get it running this week
- iii. **Engine 1:** turbo ordered.
- iv. **Tender 7 water tank:** replacement tank, DTI out of Denver, and Kiersten Trailer doesn't want the work. Denver Truck would make a steel tank, for \$30,000 or less, with installation and ready to go. Two to four weeks to get it done.

MOTION TO REPLACE THE TENDER 7 TANK, PUMP, AND VALVES, AND TO LOOK AT

SUSPENSION FROM DENVER TRUCK IN DENVER, BY RICHARD DRAKE, SECONDED BY WILL

SHELLABARGER.

ALL IN FAVOR.

VOTES IN FAVOR 5.

VOTES AGAINST 0.

MOTION CARRIED.

- b. **Crestone Building Update:** moving along. Alcon finished the doors and repaired the broken windows. Call the office for Cooley, ask about road base or washed rock for setting concrete blocks. The Sheriff has not moved in yet. Email from Crescent Moon Construction asking for a tax deduction form for \$29,834.54. Juli will write the letter. Can drive around the whole building now. Signage on the new building is needed. Craig drew a sign with the option

of 12" letters, and he needs approval from the town. Shawn stated that the other departments bought their own and could apply for a sales tax grant to cover the cost.

- c. **Brush Truck Villa Grove update:**Box came in today and is in the old building. Will get installed. Still waiting on bumper and receiver wench.
- d. **Office addition for Moffat Station update:**Still working.
- e. **Adding jersey blocks to the back of the old Crestone Station Building:** Tentative Date May 1
- f. **Red Card Training:**Craig wanted to apologize for the presentation last month, which did not go as well as he would have liked, and he does not feel ready to do it tonight. Francis does not think it adds value to the community. Craig, we could create jobs for the community, and Francis says that's not our job. Craig, we need younger people to come up and join the department. Craig needs more time. Wes and Shawn talked to Alex, the attorney, about this. One of the issues. The insurance is under our workers' comp policy. They are our employee which makes us a combined department. Alamosa, Gunnison, Chaffee, and South Fork, members could go there for red card training. Hugo has 4 full-time guys and 3 maintenance guys. Our priority is structure fire, Wes stated. Craig showed a task book, which Crestone wants to offer to the whole District, and Crestone would oversee. Jeff, we have a District Chief who does not think this is the best choice for the District at this time. Wes sees other options. Craig, it could help the department go to a paid District. Craig says this is a way to bring in volunteers, and he thanked the Board for listening.

MOTION BY JEFF PHILLIPS TO DROP THIS RED CARD TRAINING AND REVISIT LATER, SECONDED BY FRANCIS WILSON.

ALL IN FAVOR.

VOTES IN FAVOR 5.

VOTES AGAINST 0.

MOTION CARRIED.

- g. **Bylaws Review and Discussion:**Wes and Shawn talked to the lawyer about members living in the District. Lawyer Alex cautions: if you make one exception, you must keep making exceptions. Leave the wording of "MAY", it is better than not being there. It was put in because of the Baca. Chief Craig stated that all the Crestone members work out of town during the week. Will shared; it will open a dirty box if one exception is made. Richard, if someone is so close or, so many minutes away. If you sign up here, you can't be with another department. The Board can make rules and expectations for each person. Richard, all stations are short, and maybe we should revisit previous applications.

MOTION TO LEAVE IT ON THE TABLE AND REVIEW AT A LATER DATE BY RICHARD DRAKE SECONDED BY JEFF PHILLIPS.

ALL IN FAVOR.

VOTES IN FAVOR 5.

VOTES AGAINST 0.

MOTION CARRIED.

- h. WUI Code Review and Discussion done above 10 e i.
- i. March 21st Brush burning
- j. The main panel in Saguache was replaced and upgraded, and 10 additional spots were added. Outlets on the walls and the dryer outlet were also added. Still working on adding some conduit.

12) **NEW BUSINESS:**

- a. Light is out at the Moffat station back door.

MOTION FOR CRAIG TO REPLACE THE LIGHT AT THE BACKDOOR AT THE MOFFAT STATION BY RICHARD DRAKE, SECONDED BY JEFF PHILLIPS.

ALL IN FAVOR.

VOTES IN FAVOR 5.

VOTES AGAINST 0.

MOTION CARRIED.

- b. Lighted stop signs: Saguache needs 2, Villa Grove needs 1, Moffat needs 2.

RICHARD DRAKE MADE A MOTION TO BUY 7 LIGHTED STOP SIGNS AND BATTERIES, SECONDED BY JEFF PHILLIPS.
ALL IN FAVOR.
VOTES IN FAVOR 5.
VOTES AGAINST 0.
MOTION CARRIED.

- c. Wes got a call; a community member was upset that one of our firetrucks passed her, and she believed it was an illegal pass. Wes asked all members to be aware of other drivers and to watch their own speed. It was brought up that some of the old trucks do not have enough lights to get other drivers' attention.

MOTION TO BUY MORE LIGHTS FOR THE TRUCKS FOR MEMBER AND COMMUNITY SAFETY BY RICHARD DRAKE AND SECONDED BY JEFF PHILLIPS.

ALL IN FAVOR.
VOTES IN FAVOR 5.
VOTES AGAINST 0.
MOTION CARRIED.

- d. George needs foam sticks. Wes will get them ordered. They are a budget item.
e. Shawn: Looking at probation periods of applicants for 2025. Executive Session for an application from May of 2025, Daniel J., 6-month probation period. To discuss with Chief Craig and District Chief Wes, following up on the failure review probation period by the Board.

MOTION TO HOLD EXECUTIVE SESSION APRIL 13TH WITH DANIEL J. UNDER PERSONNEL MATTERS OF PROBATIONARY PERIOD REQUIREMENTS AND COMPLETION S24-6-402(4)(f), C.R.S. BY RICHARD DRAKE AND SECONDED BY JEFF PHILLIPS.

ALL IN FAVOR.
VOTES IN FAVOR 5.
VOTES AGAINST 0.
MOTION CARRIED.

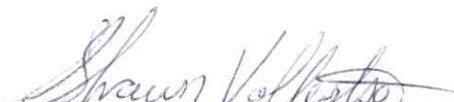
- f. Lisa B with the Crestone Energy Fair, wants to share information of a class Brent teaches on chainsaw use and safety for the community. They would like to invite the department's members to join the class. They would like to come next month and talk to the Board about the training.

- 13) **CITIZEN (GUEST) COMMENTS (LIMITED TO 3 MINUTES):** n/a
14) **REVIEW OF BILLS, RECEIPTS, BANK STATEMENTS, ETC. QUESTIONS AND/OR DISCREPANCIES AND CHECK SIGNING:**8b
15) **ADJOURN:**9:37 pm
16) **Next Meeting:** April 13th, 2026, Saguache Fire Station



Juli Close, Secretary

4-13-2026
Date Signed



Shawn Vollertsen,
Board President



Jeff Phillips, Board
Secretary/Treasurer