

Leadership Coverage During Chief's Absence

- Chief Jones announced he will be away from Thursday of that week until the following Thursday.
- During his absence:
 - Justin will serve as Acting Chief.
 - Rebecca will lead ongoing election-related work.
- Chief Jones will remain available by phone and text if needed but will be too far away to return quickly in the event of an emergency.
- He expressed confidence that Justin, Jon, and the rest of the staff can effectively manage operations during his absence.

UNFINISHED OR OLD BUSINESS -- None

NEW BUSINESS

Ryan Leahy raised a discussion item about increasing informal communication between board members and fire department leadership. He noted that under former Chief Wolf, there had been a long-standing practice in which board members met regularly with the fire chief outside formal board meetings. Ryan said that with the volume of information currently coming before the board, it often feels like “drinking from a fire hose” during meetings, and that more regular interaction would help board members stay informed.

Discussion Highlights

- Ryan recalled a previous practice where:
 - The board president met regularly with the chief.
 - Other board members met with the chief on a rotating basis.
- He expressed interest in reestablishing some form of those meetings to allow board members more opportunities for discussion and understanding outside formal board sessions.

Board President Sandra acknowledged that, when she first joined the board, she had been told that regular meetings between the board president and the fire chief were standard practice, and that she had continued those meetings through several chief administrations.

There was discussion about:

- Whether meetings should occur weekly or less frequently.
- Whether one or two board members should attend with the board president.
- The need to balance communication with the increasing number of meetings already taking place.

Ryan indicated that his primary goal was simply to have more opportunities for informal updates and conversations regarding district operations.

Decision / Outcome

After discussion, the board generally agreed to continue the existing practice of weekly meetings between the board president and the fire chief until a permanent fire chief is hired.

The agreed approach was:

- Weekly meetings will resume.
- One additional board member will attend each meeting on a rotating basis.
- This rotation will allow every board member to participate regularly and receive updates firsthand.
- If a board member cannot attend their scheduled meeting, they can receive a summary afterward.
- Once a permanent fire chief is selected, the board and new chief will revisit the practice and determine whether any changes to frequency or format are appropriate.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The next board meeting is scheduled for Monday, June 22, 2026, at 4:30 pm.

ADJOURNMENT

*Moved by Ryan Leahy and seconded by Jon Smith to adjourn the meeting.
Motion carried unanimously.*

The meeting adjourned at 6:48 pm.

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- Starlink has been installed on our command vehicles, MDT's will be updated early next week with PFA IT department.
- Planning for the July 4th Incident Action Plan (IAP) is underway. Staff are working with representatives from Police and EMS to finalize operational details. We are also coordinating with our mutual aid partners to secure additional apparatus coverage within town for the event.
- Met with LCES, EPPD, Larimer Sheriff on evacuation briefing
- Captain and Lieutenant promotional interviews are currently being scheduled and are expected to be completed before the end of the month. We received applications from four Lieutenant candidates and two Captain candidates.
- All apparatus have completed annual fleet maintenance, including oil changes and inspections. Garrett has compiled a list of identified maintenance items and will be coordinating repairs. At this time, no issues have been identified that would require any apparatus to be removed from service.

Chief's Report

Emergency Communications System Upgrade

- Chief Jones highlighted a significant improvement to the region's emergency communications infrastructure.
- Previously, the Estes Valley had only a single communications connection to the Front Range through the Big Thompson Canyon.
- A new redundant communications loop has now been completed via Highway 36 to Longmont and back through Fort Collins.
- This upgrade strengthens system reliability by providing backup pathways if a dispatch center or communications link fails.
- The project has been in development for several years.
- Justin Kearney and Ian Stuart will attend a ceremony recognizing the completion of the project and the agencies involved.
- Chief Jones emphasized that while the improvement is largely invisible to the public, it is critically important for public safety and emergency response operations.

Discussion of Fire Restrictions

- Chief Jones reported that he and Jon Landkamer have begun discussing whether current fire restrictions in the Estes Valley should be reevaluated.
- Conditions in the Estes Valley may differ from other areas of the county, raising questions about whether local restrictions should be adjusted.
- Coordination with the sheriff's office and other agencies will be necessary before any decisions are considered.
- One challenge is that:
 - The district is currently under Stage 2 restrictions.
 - Nearby areas, including the national park, are under Stage 1 restrictions.
- Creating different restriction levels among the county, town, district, and park could lead to public confusion and enforcement challenges.

Factors Supporting a Possible Relaxation to the Restrictions

Chief Jones noted several environmental indicators that have improved:

- Drought conditions have eased significantly compared to earlier in the year.
- Fuel moisture levels are increasing.
- Weather forecasts suggest an earlier monsoon season with increased moisture.
- Conditions are closer to a normal year rather than the extreme dryness previously experienced.

However:

- Large fuels (1,000-hour fuels, such as large trees and logs) remain relatively dry.
- Forecasts still show warm temperatures ahead.
- Fire officials remain cautious and are continuing to monitor conditions.

Economic Considerations

- Chief Jones acknowledged that fire restrictions can have economic impacts on local businesses, particularly campgrounds.
- Restrictions on campfires affect visitor experiences and campground operations.
- He noted that commercial campgrounds typically have staff monitoring fires and that he does not recall incidents where a wildfire escaped from a commercial campground.
- The department wants to balance public safety concerns with impacts on local businesses.

REPORTS

Community Risk Reduction Division

Prevention Division:

- Wildland Fire Risk Reduction Educator, Lasley, has completed 57 home assessments & 8 neighborhood assessments YTD.
- Presented at the “Living with Fire” symposium several weeks ago along with wildfire, forestry, and weather professionals from around northern Colorado.
- Another reminder of our first pine needle & pinecone drop-off that will be on
 - o July 18 (9:00am – noon) located at the fairgrounds by the tennis courts
- The Estes Valley Board of Realtors will be hosting a Pine Beetle Pheromone Packet pickup event here at the station this Saturday, June 6 from 10:00am-1:00pm. They will be distributing up to 5 packets per household and it's first come first serve. This is one of the projects funded by the Larimer County OEM community mitigation grant.
- Will be presenting information later this evening on requesting to allot 1A funds to assist with Larimer County's grant program.
- Captain Sutherland is working on plan review experience with plan reviewer Whitney, providing comments for multiple projects.
- Captain Sutherland has interviews next week for the inspector 1 position.
- Captain Sutherland is continuing inspections as needed, mostly on new construction and special events.
- Captain Sutherland provided training for auxiliary members for inspections on special events and tents. beginning ride-a-long training. The events this month are, Pride in the Park and the Wool Market..
- The Prevention Division is happy to announce that Sara Barden has accepted the position of Wildfire Risk Reduction Project Specialist, and she started her role on Friday, May 29th.
- DC Landkamer will be working with Sara on finalizing agreements between all parties to get the CWDG Thunder Mountain project started. Working with Larimer County Sheriff's Department/Emergency Services to get work done on the CWDG project along the boundary with RMNP. Will be working on an RFP for the larger portion of the project next along with EVWC.
- DC Landkamer is working on grant implementation and management for the 2022 FR-WRM, and 2023 CWDG Thunder Mountain, and 2025 COSWAP.
- DC Landkamer and Logan participated in a tour of the forestry project work going on at MacGregor Ranch. The attendees were participants in a conference going on in Fort Collins, and the tour focused not only on the work that has been accomplished at MacGregor Ranch, but the partnerships and collaboration that make projects like this possible.
- DC Landkamer and Captain Sutherland will be interviewing for the Fire Code Inspector I position over the next couple of weeks.
- DC Landkamer continues to attend partner meetings when possible, including CWDG, BTWHP, NCFC, FACO, EVWC, Larimer County Woody Biomass Stakeholders, and TOEP Water Master Plan.

Larimer County will be hosting a 50-year commemoration of the Big Thompson Flood on July 31, 2026. I will keep the district notified of this event so we can attend.

Operations & Training Division

Training:

- Finishing up Swiftwater training this week
- We have several different trainings in the coming weeks. Wildland scenario, helicopter Lz training, membership meeting and family dinner.
- The new recruitment banner done this week, and we will get it on the trailer by the road. We have info meeting on the 13th of June for any interested candidates who have questions. Chris designed a new flyer card that will be distributed into the community this week.
- Fire extinguisher training with the rec district staff coming up
- The next big thing for training is Fire Academy, which starts next month. Preparations for the training ground will be underway this month.
- Engineering Academy starting this month, 6 members in the class (52 hours)

Operations:

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Board members were reminded of open meeting requirements and advised to avoid discussing district business or candidate evaluations with other board members during the interview process to ensure compliance with applicable laws and to avoid the appearance of impropriety. No action was requested or taken by the Board.

Election Update

Chief Jones provided an update on planning activities related to a potential ballot measure. A contract has been executed with the district's election consulting firm. Chief Jones reported that a draft community survey is expected to be received for review shortly. Board members agreed that the draft survey would be distributed individually to each board member for review and comment. Any feedback will be submitted directly to Rebecca and sent to the consultants. The Board also agreed to hold a special meeting on June 29 at 4:30 pm to receive survey results and consider whether to proceed with a ballot initiative or defer consideration to a future year. Chief Jones reported that planning efforts are continuing in anticipation of a possible election, including development of a detailed project schedule, preliminary budget estimates, facility improvement concepts, apparatus and equipment replacement planning, volunteer program support initiatives, wildfire response enhancements, and coordination with community partners and local government representatives. The Board was advised that significant additional work would be required if a ballot measure moves forward, including developing project priorities, determining potential funding levels, conducting public information efforts, and establishing an independent issue committee to conduct campaign activities if a ballot question is ultimately referred to voters. No formal Board action was required beyond scheduling the June 29 special meeting and the process established for reviewing the draft survey.

Satellite Camera for Fire Detection

Chief Jones provided an update on ongoing discussions with the Town of Estes Park, the Larimer County Sheriff's Office, and other partners regarding potential wildfire detection technology for the Estes Valley. The discussion includes both a fixed-camera system on Prospect Mountain and a satellite-based wildfire detection service. Chief Jones reported that the Estes Valley currently has limited wildfire detection camera coverage compared to other areas of Larimer County and the Front Range. A proposed satellite monitoring pilot program would provide wildfire detection coverage through regularly updated satellite imagery at an estimated cost of approximately \$33,000 for a one-year pilot period. The project is being explored as a multi-jurisdictional partnership involving the Fire District, the Town of Estes Park, the Police Department, and potentially the municipal electric utility. Cost-sharing arrangements, contract administration, and implementation details have not yet been determined. Board members discussed advances in wildfire detection technology, including artificial intelligence-assisted camera systems currently used by other communities. Chief Jones noted that technology in this area is evolving rapidly and that additional evaluation of available options may be warranted before any long-term commitment is made. Chief Jones emphasized that no funding request or formal proposal is being presented at this time due to ongoing project development and current budget considerations. The Board expressed interest in receiving additional information as the project develops. No action was requested or taken by the Board.

Executive Session

Moved by Ryan Leahy and seconded by Jeff Robbins to enter into executive session pursuant to C.R.S. 24-6-402(4)(b) for the purpose of receiving legal advice from the District's legal counsel related to the Fire Chief hiring process and Executive Session pursuant to C.R.S. 24-6-402(4)(b) for the purpose of receiving legal advice from the District's legal counsel regarding the Fair Campaign Practices Act.

Motion carried unanimously

were expected to receive county awards. The proposed pilot program would provide \$36,000 in EVFPD 1A funds to support wildfire and hazard mitigation efforts. Funding would be used to supplement the seven county-funded projects to a minimum total award of \$5,000 each and provide \$3,000 awards to seven additional qualifying projects that would otherwise receive no funding. All awards would remain subject to the county's existing grant requirements, oversight, and reporting processes. Larimer County Mitigation Coordinator Josh Roberts participated in the discussion and confirmed that all funded projects, including those supported by EVFPD funds, would be administered through the county's established grant program and would be required to meet the same deliverables and reporting standards. Prior to board discussion, Chair Sandra Smith disclosed her service on the Windcliff Homeowners Association board and stated that Windcliff was not among the proposed recipients. Board member Jeff Robbins disclosed that he serves as president of the Upper Venner Ranch Property Owners Association, a proposed funding recipient, and recused himself from discussion and voting on the item. Board members discussed funding sources, grant administration, eligibility requirements, and the use of 1A funds for wildfire mitigation purposes. Jon Landkamer confirmed that the proposed expenditures were eligible under the 1A funding guidelines.

Moved by Scott Dorman and seconded by Jon Smith to approve the Larimer County Mitigation Grant, Pilot Program

Motion carried unanimously with Jeff Robbins recusing himself.

Dept. 120th Anniversary (2027)

Chief Jones reported that 2027 will mark the Fire Department's 120th anniversary. Chief Jones acknowledged the milestone and advised the Board that planning for the anniversary celebration will be incorporated into the department's 2027 work plan. Potential considerations for future planning include budgeting, inviting former volunteers and members, and coordinating anniversary-related events. Chief Jones indicated that planning is still in the early stages and that a more detailed program will be developed and presented to the Board at a later date. No action was requested or taken by the Board.

Fire Chief Search Committee

President Sandra Smith provided an update on the Fire Chief recruitment process being conducted in partnership with GMP Consultants. The Search Committee developed candidate profiles and recruitment materials, which were distributed through various channels. A total of 19 applications were received.

GMP Consultants conducted an initial review of applications and identified nine semifinalists.

Following further review, one candidate withdrew for personal reasons, and another was not advanced by the committee. The Search Committee and GMP Consultants conducted interviews with the remaining semifinalists and subsequently selected four finalists:

- Peter Bryan
- Kevin Nunn
- Mark Mahoney
- Jason Clark

The Board was informed that detailed biographical information on the finalists would be publicly released by the end of the week through the district website, social media platforms, local media, and postings at the fire station.

The committee outlined the next steps in the selection process. On June 17, the finalists will participate in a district tour, a meet-and-greet with staff and volunteers, and a community meet-and-greet. Attendees will have the opportunity to provide feedback through an online survey.

On June 18, the finalists will participate in a series of interview panels composed of board members, search committee members, district personnel, community stakeholders, partner agencies, and local government representatives. Following the panel interviews, the Search Committee will review feedback and provide a recommendation to the Board regarding the preferred candidate.

The Board is scheduled to consider selection of the next Fire Chief at its June 22 meeting. Following selection, a Board-appointed negotiation committee will work with the chosen candidate to develop an employment agreement for subsequent Board approval.

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Meeting Minutes of the Estes Valley Fire Protection District

June 1, 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, Captain Stacey Sutherland, Division Chief Jon Landkamer, Division Chief Justin Kearney, Logan Lasley, Marinda Baxter, Rebecca Gelsinger, Sara Barden

Also Attending: Dot Dorman, Michael Barnhouse, Diana Ver Der Ploeg, Nathan Meulener, Patti Brown, Rick Spear, Jack Kister, Ashley Hernandez-Schlagel, Nicole Friel, Steven Rodriguez, Josh Roberts

Sandra Smith called the regularly scheduled board meeting to order at 4:30 pm.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Moved by Jeff Robbins and seconded by Ryan Leahy to approve the agenda with the modification of moving item 7d to 7b.

Motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Moved by Scott Dorman and seconded by Jon Smith to approve the meeting minutes from the April 27, May 11, and May 15 meetings.

Motion carried unanimously.

ITEMS OF BUSINESS

Financial Matters

Treasurer's Report

Financial consultant Steven Rodriguez provided the financial report. He noted that property tax revenue is currently approximately \$253,000 below budget projections, which appears to be due to slower county collections rather than an actual revenue shortfall. The district remains in a strong cash-flow position. Expenses remain under budget and generally in line with historical trends. Mr. Rodriguez also reported progress on separating the 1A QuickBooks file into a standalone accounting file. Balance transfers have begun, and the district expects to present separate financial statements for the 1A fund at the June 22 meeting.

April Paid Bills

Board Treasurer Ryan Leahy presented the April paid bills. The board reviewed the paid bills and transactions included in the board packet.

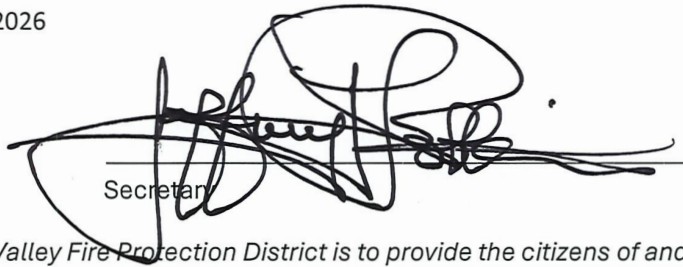
Moved by Scott Dorman and seconded by Jon Smith to approve the transactions listed on the Treasurer's report provided at the June 1, 2026, meeting.

Motion carried unanimously.

Larimer County Mitigation Grant, Pilot Program

Logan Lasley presented a proposal for the Estes Valley Fire Protection District (EVFPD) to partner with Larimer County's Community Mitigation Grant Program through a pilot supplemental funding initiative. He reported that Larimer County received 41 applications for the 2026 grant cycle, including 22 from the Estes Valley. Due to limited county funding, only seven Estes Valley projects

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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.”