

SILVERTON FIRE DISTRICT

MINUTES

DRAFTED FOR APPROVAL, SUBJECT TO CHANGE AND OR CORRECTION

REGULAR BOARD MEETING 7:00 P.M. April 14, 2026
Silverton Fire District Station #8 (Scotts Mills)

ROLL CALL:

Les Von Flue, President
Stacy Palmer, Vice President
Robert Mengucci, Secretary-Treasurer

Dixon Bledsoe, Director
Phil Sowa, Director

ABSENT:

All Directors were present.

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Chief Miles, Office Administrator (OA) Cantu, AC Veit, LT Brown, LT Heuchert, LT Dandeneau, FF Miller, FF Peterson, FF Valdez Savage

CALL MEETING TO ORDER:

Due to connectivity difficulties, President Von Flue called the meeting to order at 7:27 p.m. and led the group in the pledge of allegiance.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

a) Regular Board Meeting Minutes

Director Bledsoe made a motion to approve the minutes of the March 10, 2026 board meeting. Vice President Palmer seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

(President Von Flue: Aye, Vice President Palmer: Aye, Secretary-Treasurer Mengucci: Aye, Director Bledsoe: Aye, Director Sowa: Aye)

Vice President Palmer sought clarification on revisiting the Chief's retirement, including compensation, a work-back period, and the process for filling the position at the June board meeting. President Von Flue confirmed that the consensus was to take up the conversation again at the June board meeting.

OPEN FORUM:

a) Lt. Dandeneau presented the 2025 VIP Awards Program. Lt. Dandeneau reported that 33 members qualified this year due to the change in point calculations.

b) LT Dandeneau invited the board members to the Annual Mother's Day Breakfast on May 10th at Silverton Fire District Station #1.

- c) Lt. Heuchert informed the board about a delay to the mural. There is not a new date set for the unveiling at this time.

VI. OLD BUSINESS:

- a) President Von Flue clarified the way that the Chief's review had been done. Vice President Palmer was able to confirm that future reviews could be collected digitally; however, any conversation regarding the review had to occur during a regular board meeting open to the public or during an executive session. Moving forward, the board will have the option of submitting information digitally or convening during an in-person meeting.

VII. FINANCE OFFICER'S REPORT:

- a) **Check Summary**
- b) **Departmental Expense Report**
- c) **Bank Account Balance Comparison**

Secretary-Treasurer Mengucci made a motion to approve the finance officer's report as presented. Director Bledsoe seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

(President Von Flue: Aye, Vice President Palmer: Aye, Secretary-Treasurer Mengucci: Aye, Director Bledsoe: Aye, Director Sowa: Aye)

VIII. CHIEF'S REPORT

- a) **Monthly Report**

Chief Miles provided the board with a brief update on the monthly report, highlighting budget preparation, driveway inspections, smoke alarms, and water supply and access for new buildings being built in the district. Additionally, Silverton Fire District is transitioning several stations from Zply analog phone service to an internet-based VoIP phone system. This upgrade will reduce costs while providing more reliable and improved communication service for those stations. Chief Miles provided a brief update on the Marion County Radio project, discussing the new radio tower in Scotts Mills and updates to the Eastview radio site.

Chief Miles updated the board about the vacant Firefighter/EMT position. The Civil Service commission approved the hiring list. Chief Miles and AC Veit will be interviewing candidates on April 20th.

Vice President Palmer asked why the call volume appeared to be decreasing over the last three years. Chief Miles provided insight on the updated ambulance staffing model which has allowed faster response and more availability for calls.

Chief Miles informed the board about B487 and the repairs currently underway. The costs will be projected to be paid in the 2026-2027 budget. Director Sowa discussed the importance of B487 as a response apparatus in the Scotts Mills area. Additionally, Chief Miles updated the board on the two new brush trucks. The new B407 should be ready by this fire season. The new B427 should be ready by fire season next year.

- b) **2026 Academy Graduation**

Chief Miles invited the board to attend the 2026 Academy Graduation on Saturday, April 25th at 3:00pm at the Silverton Fire District Station #1.

- c) **2026-2027 Salary and Benefit Proposal**

Chief Miles presented the 2026-2027 Salary and Benefit Proposal. Chief Miles stated that the

District is requesting a 3% COLA, excluding the chief. Chief Miles and President Von Flue opened the floor to any questions.

President Von Flue asked about the medical deductible option being presented. Chief Miles provided clarification about the deductible and the impacts of the plan on those that are utilizing it. Director Bledsoe asked about the decrease in personnel-related expenses. Chief Miles discussed the difference between the current medical plan and the proposed, as well as how it relates to personnel related expenses. Director Sowa confirmed that employees could change their plan next year if this plan does not fit their needs. Chief Miles provided affirmation. President Von Flue asked about coverage opportunities with Regence Blue Cross. Chief Miles discussed a separate insurance plan that has been presented as an option to employees to switch to that would allow utilization of local medical facilities.

d) Expanded Salary Information

Chief Miles provided a brief overview of the supplementary salary information that was provided. Vice President Palmer asked about comparisons with Mt. Angel Fire District. OA Cantu provided the requested information, as well as comparisons with Keizer Fire District.

IX. NEW BUSINESS:

a) Approve 2026-2027 Salary and Benefit Proposal

Vice President Palmer moved to accept the 2026-2027 Salary and Benefit Proposal as presented, a 3% COLA for all staff excluding the chief, the medical plan will be a \$2500.00 deductible and a \$30.00 co-pay, an increase in VEBA contribution from \$200.00 to \$300.00, all remaining benefits remain the same. Secretary-Treasurer Mengucci seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

(President Von Flue: Aye, Vice President Palmer: Aye, Secretary-Treasurer Mengucci: Aye, Director Bledsoe: Aye, Director Sowa: Aye)

Director Bledsoe asked about the LTD, Deferred Compensation, and Life Insurance premiums not increasing. OA Cantu discussed that, historically, those rates remain steady. The Life Map is based on age.

President Von Flue confirmed that the Chief is only being exempt from the COLA, not the health insurance. Chief Miles confirmed that.

b) Approve Revised Organization Chart to include Civil Service Commission

Director Bledsoe made a motion to approve the revised Organizational Chart to include the Civil Service Commission. Secretary-Treasurer Mengucci seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

(President Von Flue: Aye, Vice President Palmer: Aye, Secretary-Treasurer Mengucci: Aye, Director Bledsoe: Aye, Director Sowa: Aye)

XI. ITEMS PENDING:

a) SDAO Best Practice Checklist

Vice President Palmer asked OA Cantu to resend the link for the Public Meeting training online. OA Cantu sent out an email to each board member regarding the trainings they need and a link to the Public Meeting training.

XII. ADJOURNMENT:

With no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 8:09 p.m.

Approved this 12 day of May, 2026.

Le Van Blue

President

Minutes recorded and prepared by Kaylee Spencer