

**Southern Park County  
Fire Protection District  
SPCFPD Board of Directors**  
P.O. Box 11  
Guffey, CO 80820-0011  
(719) 689-9479  
[www.guffeyfire.net](http://www.guffeyfire.net)

**Mike Smith, Board Chair  
Mike Brandt,  
Secretary/Treasurer  
Elaine Campbell, Director  
Louis Fesmire III, Director  
Mike Parrish, Director**

**SOUTHERN PARK COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT  
Special Board of Directors Meeting 2026.01.14**

1) Introduction of Visitors

See [Attachment 1](#)

2) Attendees:

Board members present:

Mike Smith - Chair  
Mike Brandt – Secretary & Treasurer  
Elaine Campbell  
Louis Fesmire III  
Mike Parrish

Excused Board Member:

Department members present  
Chief Aric Stahly  
Aaron Mandel

Dylan Woods: Counsel for the Board

3) Call to Order: Meeting called to order at 15:09 by Board Chair Mike Smith.

4) Approval of Agenda: Mr. Brandt moved to approve the agenda with addition of public comment session at end of the meeting, second by Mr. Fesmire; motion carried.

5) Public comments:

Ric Scheffel: volunteer to help the district. Turn out has been low at public meetings. Information is available regarding fire safety.

Feel like the community is being divided by concern over a Board Members integrity. Want EMS and FD personnel that have integrity.

Executive session purpose? Advice from our counsel.

Internal mechanisms within the department? These are handled by the chief. The Board supplies guidance.

If you are interested in helping please come out and volunteer. Need to work as a team. Contact the Chief to volunteer.

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S.P.C.F.P.D. Mission Statement:

The Mission of the Southern Park County Fire Protection District is to provide fire protection and emergency rescue operations within its 240 square mile district boundaries; encourage fire and human caused disaster prevention through community education; ensure the existence of a properly trained team of primarily volunteer firefighters who are able to, and motivated to, respond professionally and work safely; acquire and maintain the necessary equipment; and provide mutual aid to neighboring fire and emergency services departments, as requested.

6) Executive Session: Mr. Smith moved to go into Executive Session under C.R.S. Section 24-6-02(4)(b) for a conference with the attorney representing the District for the purpose of receiving legal advice on legal and financial risk regarding the Chief's employment contract terms and administration and recent procedural activities raising potential risk to the district. under C.R.S. Section 24-6-02(4)(b). This executive session is not for the purpose of discussing any specific employee's job performance or discipline. Second by Mr. Brandt, motion carried. Meeting adjourned at executive session at xx

7) Executive session adjourned and meeting returned to open session at 16:38. Board was cautioned not to discuss the contents of the executive session.

8) Board discussion regarding board member's roles, actions and performance.

Mr. Smith resigned the position of Board Chair. He nominated Mr. Parrish as Board Chair; Mr. Parrish accepted the nomination; the nomination was seconded by Mr. Brandt and motion carried.

Secretary doesn't have to be a Board member. Ms. Killam has volunteered to be the Board Secretary.

Board members can be reviewed for their actions under the Board bylaws but cannot be removed by Board action. Board members can only be removed by resignation, recall or death.

9) Review of Chief's action at end of 2026.01.08 meeting. (Note: Offered as executive session for discussion of a personnel matter but open at his request.)

Mr. Stahly was cautioned for the inappropriate comments brought to the 2026.01.08 meeting rather than speaking directly to the Board when issues arose.

10) 2026 Chief's contract:

Changes recommended at the last meeting were presented to the chief but weren't found acceptable by the Chief. He's said he'll accept reissuing the existing contract as the 2026 contract.

Mr. Parrish moved to approve a pay increase from \$70,000 per annum to \$77,004 per year effective January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2026. The contract will be presented to Chief Stahly for his review and he will work to arrange a date for signature by the Board or with revisions.

Chief Stahly proposed a pay increase of 10% for Captain Mandel, and a 10% increase with a week of paid vacation for Ms. Killam retroactive to the 1<sup>st</sup> of January 2026. Captain Mandel has operated under a job description that was extended to the end of 2025 and the job description shall be updated prior to the February meeting. Mr. Smith proposed these increases be made retroactive to Jan 1, 2026 for Captain Mandel and Ms. Killam. Second by Mr. Brandt. Motion carried.

11) Approval of Minutes

Approval/revision of Minutes from 2025.12.04, 2025.12.10 and 2026.01.08 meetings. Ms. Campbell moved to approve the minutes second by Mr. Brandt, motion carried.

12) Committee Reports

Treasurer's Report: will be available at [www.guffeyshares.net](http://www.guffeyshares.net)

13) Old Business

Meeting time change from 6pm to 3pm on Wednesdays – see new schedule for distribution.

This change was approved by the board and needs to be added to the transparency notice.

[See attachment 2.](#)

Medical officer planning – job description and planning is printed and will be send to the Board for review.

14) New Business

15) Public input

Chief Stahly clarified that he'd had issues with Mr. Smith. Stahly had been told members of the community had come to him and stated Mr. Smith had stated to several people that his intention was to get rid of the chief. Mr. Smith said he'd had conversations with the community but didn't say that. He noted that such concerns should be brought to the Board and no single board member can fire the Chief. JS said he'd heard Mr. Smith say directly that he wanted the Department to be restructured without Chief Stahly, and without Mr. Brandt on the Board.

Question from the floor: How can the Board not have heard that this was happening. Mr. Parrish replied he didn't know of this until the day of the previous meeting and, once approached, started to investigate. Several people approached him to confirm they'd heard that Mr. Smith say that he wanted to restructure that department.

Chief Stahly said he hadn't intended to have such a strong response and that his intent was to support the department and the community and that he'd apologized to Board members for not bringing this up to the Board directly. He stated that he thought Mr. Smith should resign.

More discussion that this was widespread within the community.

- Community present clearly supported the Chief. Thought the board had been professional by not bringing up dirty laundry about individuals. Unprofessional to bring all this up directly to the community and the crowd was one sided against Mr. Smith because of their support of Chief Stahly. If you don't trust them – the Board is the Board, not just Mr. Smith.
- Show of hands for those here to support the Chief?
- We all want what is best for our community.
- Mr. Smith responded that the Board as a whole can give direction, not singly. Contract indicates a single member can give advice. He noted that he'd asked that giving information needs to be with early communication, cover letters. He feels that the Board's job is to give direction for the documents and communications.
- Chief Stahly responded that any advice was welcomed but he does not think he was appreciated for the work that was accomplished.
- Board is doing what they can and should be appreciated for the time they put in.
- I want to thank everyone for showing up. Fire service has a huge struggle and has grown from a single EMT in the county and neighbors showing up to shovel dirt on a fire. Volunteerism has waned in many communities. Need to have volunteers that have an interest and dedication to the Community. People in the community need to show an

interest in how the department is structured staffed and run. Instead of arguing we've now pulled out all the dirty laundry and we need to put this behind us and move forward. Talk to us, volunteer and tell us what it is you want.

- Now we need to move forward.
- Come and talk to the Chief and see what you can do with the department. Not everyone has to be a firefighter. Grant writers are needed – the more load volunteers can do the easier it is to have firefighters available.
- Grants have been discussed, Rebecca can use help in writing applications.
- Restructuring may need added personnel and changes to the department design. If you have an idea or a skill, bring it on.
- Board did not discuss not giving the Chief a contract.
- I would volunteer if you can find me a job to do.
- Why not turn off your outside lights at night and be nice to your neighbors.
- I think the Board and Red have a communication gap. I have a lot of trust in what I see here right now and that they should be able to work this out together. This meeting has been the most professional by talking about the problem.
- Who writes Red's contract? The Board does.
- The contract is unchanged for the last 3 years and Mike Smith wanted to improve it. Budget has changed over the years and 2026 forecast is just under a million dollars with the capital improvements proposed. You showing up at the meeting is volunteering. If someone doesn't come to the Board with problems you won't get heard. Send it in writing to the Board, anonymously if you wish.
- Minutes are posted on [guffeyfire.net](http://guffeyfire.net) . You can send notes to [treasurer@guffeyfire.net](mailto:treasurer@guffeyfire.net).
- Elaine noted that she started volunteering at 60 and was both a firefighter and an EMT. Age is not a limiting factor.

**16)** Adjourn meeting: Meeting adjourned at 18:43 by Chairman Parrish.

**Attachment 1: Visitors**

Craig Cantrell  
Flip Boettcher  
Linda Chandler  
Brad Chandler  
Tavish Yackanicz  
Lee Bodell  
Wilbur Hall  
Beth Hall  
Louise Peterson  
Georganna Carlisle  
Laclyn Christina  
Ross Eaton  
Deborah Grand  
Rebecca Killam  
W. E. (Rick) Scheffel  
Tim Manderscheid  
Damian Sigman  
Johanna Sigman  
Kristen Elfers  
Larry Turley  
Denise Krey  
Ginny Rae Stolz  
Jesse Stevens  
Shane Carpenter  
Joseph Moehle  
Linda Parrish  
Narelle A. Sheehan  
Debbie Snider  
John Snider  
Brett Yehl  
Anna Yehl  
Sarah Larimore  
Elizabeth Rogers  
Gail Carver  
Dan Sullivan  
Sonia Sullivan

**Attachment 2: Meeting schedule updated**

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**Schedule of Regular 2026 Board Meetings**

Southern Park County Fire Station #1 – 1745 County Road 102, Guffey CO

**3:00 P.M.** (was 6:00 P.M.)

**First Wednesday of each month (was on Thursdays)**

(\*Exceptions 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of the month)

January 8, 2026\*

February 4, 2026

March 4, 2026

April 8, 2026\*

May 6, 2026

June 3, 2026

July 8, 2026\*

August 5, 2026

September 9, 2026\*

October 7, 2026

November 4, 2026

December 9, 2026\*