

Southern Park County Fire Protection District
P.O. Box 11
Guffey, CO 80820-0011
(719) 689-9479
www.guffeyfire.net

Board of Directors
Sean English, Board Chair
Mike Brandt, Secretary/Treasurer
Louis Fesmire III, Director
Mike Parrish, Director
Mike Smith, Director

Regular Board of Directors Meeting 2026.02.04

1) Introduction of Visitors

Elaine Campbell
Denise M. Rera

Dave Bushnell
Ernie Cox

Joanna Sigman

2) Attendees:

Board members present:

Mike Parrish - Chair
Mike Brandt – Secretary & Treasurer
Sean English
Louis Fesmire III
Mike Smith

Department members present

Chief Aric Stahly.
Captain Aaron Mandel
Darrick Landrum
Kurt Nevergold
Ric Scheffel

3) Call to Order:

Meeting called to order at 3:02 PM by Board Chair Mike Parrish.

4) Approval of Agenda:

Mr. Brandt moved to approve the agenda as published, second by Mr. Parrish; motion carried.

5) Executive Session

Mr. Parrish moved to adjourn and move into executive session for discussion of a personnel matter – Section 24-6-402(4)(f), C.R.S. and not involving: employees who have requested discussion of the matter in open session; any member of the SPCFPD Board; the appointment of any person to fill an opening on the SPCFPD Board; or personnel policies that do not require discussion of matters personal to particular employees.

Second by Mr. Brandt, motion carried. Meeting adjourned to executive session at 3:08 PM.

6) Reconvened meeting at 3:13 p.m.

7) Public Input

Statement by Mr. Parrish prior to opening Public comments:

On behalf of the Board: This statement is in response to the ongoing conflict between Board member Mike Smith and Pete and Laurie Zeman. These are not issues for the fire Board to address even if they involve a director. The Directors are not accountable to other Directors, only to the Public electors. That is the Board's position on that matter.

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.

Chief Stahly apologized to the Board for the way this conflict was handled in the last couple of Board meetings. Moving forward I'll modify my actions in this area with respect to the Board..

RS: Glad to see this put behind – he had seen this disrupt the department before and lost a chief. I urge you to control the public input so it doesn't interfere with the department.

8) Board role change.

Mr. Parrish resigned as Board Chair and moved to appoint Sean English as Board Chair, second by Mr. Fesmire, motion carried.

Board Chair English read a statement to the Board (see [attachment 1](#)).

9) Approval of Minutes:

Motion to approve the minutes from the 2026.01.14 and 2026.01.21 meetings by Mr. English, second by Mr. Parrish; motion carried.

10) Director's Chief's and Committee Reports

a. Auxiliary Report:

Nothing to report

b. Regulatory Matters

Nothing to submit

c. Chief's Report

Incident Responses:	Dec 25	Jan 26	YTD 25	YTD 26
Traffic Accidents (w/Med)	2	0	1	0
Traffic Accidents (no Med)	1	1	0	1
Medical	4	12	9	11
Wildland Fire	0	0	0	0
Smoke Reports	0	0	0	0
Structure Fire	0	0	0	0
Mutual Aid	6	3	3	3
Service Calls	4	3	3	3
Total Calls	16	19	14	18

Water usage: total: 1472 gal; kitchen: 618 gal.; maintenance & training: 854 gal.; fire suppression: 0 gal.; R&B: 535 gal.; Community Center: 145 Gal.

Summary:

Equipment status

1. Rescue 9-1 is being repaired at Fire Truck Solutions in Denver
2. Engine 9-3 will work if needed; it's at Station 2- no change
3. Squad 9-2 needs injector / glow plug repair but is still running and in service. Replacement build begins in 2026. Pump has been delivered; Tank is being built in Oklahoma, and the chassis has been ordered.
4. We have an offer for decommissioned Squad 9-2 and Squad 9-3: \$3500 Brett is willing to pay and take possession of the vehicles at our earliest convenience, if the offer is accepted. Mr. English moved to accept the offer, second by Mr. Parrish, motion carried.

CIP Projects

No progress to report since last meeting. Purge of extra and old equipment (clutter in the bay) will continue until the clutter is gone. Dumpster has been ordered; we are going to offer some of the equipment we cannot use to neighboring agencies, to maintain the good will we share with our mutual aid partners.

Personnel Status

- a. 14 Active members
- b. 1 Reserve member
- c. 9 Probationary Members- 3 will be activated before next meeting
- d. 3 fully trained med-ride drivers- 3 more to be trained
- e. The roster currently reflects 8 EMTs and one Paramedic
- f. Roster has been purged from non-participating personnel. Having conversations with 2 members "on the fence"

Events

- a. Appreciation dinner planning underway. At this time, we are going to plan for the first weekend in March. No location has been determined yet.
- b. Chief will attend the CO State Fire Chief Association's Critical Issues Briefing on Monday, Feb 2 and then a Legislative Reception following.
- c. Community Education Calendar for 2026 is posted and has been shared.

5-Year Plan / Strategic Master Plan

- a. Has been submitted to board electronically for review and revision.

d. Treasurer's Report:

Treasurer's report is available at www.guffeyfire.net

No extraordinary items to report this month.

Request for Exemption from Audit for 2025 has been signed with CBIZ and is underway. Fe will be \$3400.

Talking to our current insurance company regarding EMT liability insurance

The following requests for payment have been received and require Board approval. Mr. Brandt moves to approve this items, totaling \$2,838.40, second by Mr. English; motion carried.

Payment to:	Amount:	For:
Coaty & Woods	\$2,838.40	Legal services

11) Old Business

Chipper may be available this month.

Medical officer planning: emailed the job description and potential contract sent to the Board Members for review. Working with Medical Director and the state to allow ALS intervention. Mr Landrum brings experience and should be an asset as the medical officer. Propose that he would

work for the District on a "full time" basis. Has worked with Teller county and with 4-Mile and is working with SW Teller 2 days/week. Will require a mutual aid agreement upgrade for the days he is on shift with SW Teller. Will review and discuss at special meeting next week.

CIP – see Chief's report

Radio plan – Board owes response for 2026 radios. Mr. English moved to release the funds for 2026 NTE \$20,000 to pursue existing radio plan, second by Mr. Parrish, motion carried.

12) New Business

Deputy Chief Contract Review – contract and updated job description send to Board along with original Captain job description. Contract is built from the Chief's contract for a Deputy Chief position. Job description and contract allow for professional growth and deployment as well as maintaining qualifications. Will discuss at a special meeting next week.

Mutual Aid agreement updates – permission to move ahead negotiating with adjoining departments given to Chief Stahly. He'll bring them to the Board for approval. Mr. English wants to see CRS references added as applicable. This will take more than a week.

Discuss NDA recommendation – need to discuss this. In Mr. English first statement he noted that rumors don't help and can be damaging. Work together and discuss.

Assign policy review and updates – Board Chair will send out existing bylaws and policies and schedule a working session to assign sections to improve or modify. What 2 things should each do in the next 2-3 months. Some policies are from 2014 or earlier. Need to have most current info possible. Then set review timeframe of 5 years or so. Target completion by end of 2026.

13) Adjourn meeting: Meeting adjourned at 17:05 p.m. by Chairman English.

Attachment 1: Statement from Sean English

Thank You

I stand before you deeply honored and profoundly humbled by your trust in electing me as Chairman of this Board. To those who have served before me—thank you for the foundation you've built, the bold decisions you've made, and the legacy of excellence you've handed forward. Your leadership has brought us to this moment, and I am grateful beyond words.

To every member of this board, and our Fire Chief: you are the reason I said yes. Your expertise, your passion, your unwavering dedication to our mission—these are the true strengths of this organization. I don't see this role as a position of power; I see it as a platform for service. A chance to listen more intently, to challenge ideas courageously, to align our collective wisdom toward decisions that endure.

As much as we may not want certain things to change, opportunity, uncertainty, and possibility all collide daily. But here's what I know with absolute certainty: the organizations that thrive in times like these are not the ones with the loudest voices or the biggest budgets. They are the ones with the clearest purpose, the strongest unity, and the boldest vision. That is exactly what we will become—together.

My promise to you is simple and non-negotiable:

- I will lead with integrity, transparency, and respect for every perspective in this room.
- I will champion open dialogue, even when it's uncomfortable—because the best decisions are forged in the heat of honest debate.
- I will keep our eyes fixed on the horizon: on the impact we can create, the lives we can improve, the future we can shape.

But I cannot do this alone—and I won't try. This board is not a collection of individuals; it is a force multiplier. When we align our talents, challenge each other constructively, and move as one, there is almost nothing we cannot achieve.

So today, I ask each of you to join me in recommitting—not just to the organization, but to each other. Let's make this the chapter where we raise the bar, where we turn bold ideas into awesome results, where we prove once again why this board sets the standard. It may not be easy, but it will be worth it. Together, we will navigate the challenges, seize the opportunities, and leave this organization stronger, more innovative, and more impactful than we found it.

Challenges:

Confidentiality isn't about secrecy for secrecy's sake. It's about creating a space where people feel safe enough to be honest. It's what allows real problem-solving, genuine support, innovation, and stronger relationships to happen.

So, here's the simple standard we can all hold ourselves to:

- If it's not yours to share, don't share it.
- If you're unsure whether something is confidential, assume it is and check first.
- If someone trusts you with something private, honor that by keeping it between the people who need to know—no exceptions, no "just between us" loopholes.

We don't need dramatic oaths or complicated rules. We just need consistency: what comes to us in confidence stays in confidence. When we protect each other's trust like this, we build something rare and valuable—a culture where people can bring their full selves to the table without fear. That's worth protecting. Every single day.

Here's the truth we already know deep down: Rumors don't build anything worthwhile. They don't solve problems. They don't make us stronger, smarter, or closer. What they in fact do is erode trust—one quiet comment at a time. They turn friends into suspects, colleagues into competitors, and teams into groups of people who second-guess every word. They waste our energy on fiction when we could be using it on facts.

So today, I'm asking each of us to make a simple choice:

- When gossip lands in your lap, don't pass it on.

We have the power to starve the rumor mill. No fuel = no fire.

Let's be the people who choose clarity over drama, truth over speculation, and respect over rumors. Because when we shut down the rumor mill, we make room for something better: real conversation, real trust, and real progress. Let's end the whispers—starting right now.