

**Boulder Mountain Fire Protection District  
Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting  
Monday, April 14, 2025 @ 1600 hours, Station 2**

**Call to Order:** 1600 hours by Bob Loveman (Chair)

**BOD Attendees:** Bob Loveman (President), Paul Domich (Vice-President), Nick Molé (Treasurer), Rob Quinn (Secretary pro tem), Matt Struzziero, Stasi York (via phone)

**Absent:** Katy Fassett (Secretary) (excused)

**Other Attendees:** Chief John Benson, Fire Chief-Designate Mike Palamara

**Public Attendees:** Markus Taekla

**Meeting Minutes:** Bob Loveman moved that the minutes of the March 10, 2025, meeting be approved. Seconded by Paul Domich and approved; unanimous.

**Public Comment:** None

**Reports**

**Treasurer:** Nick Molé provided the March 2025 financial reports. He noted that the amount of cash held in the CSAFE Investment Pool had increased to approximately \$630,000 in March. He stated that this is a reasonable amount of cash to have in CSAFE going into the BMFPD summer mitigation season. Nick said that the CSAFE number may increase some. Nick also noted that the issue of aging receivables had improved, including a \$42,000 receivable from September 2024 that was collected in March.

**Chief Benson Update:** Chief Benson indicated that he expected more aging accounts receivables would be collected in the next few weeks. He reported that BMFPD property tax funds should be received during May. On the other hand, he noted that funds will be needed soon to pay for the mitigation utility truck that BMFPD has on order.

Chief Benson advised the Board that an audit report from Green & Associates for 2024 may be discussed at the May 2025 Board meeting.

The Board and Chief Benson discussed a proposal for installing heat pumps at Station 2 to improve costs and efficiency at that Station. Chief Benson and Paul Domich agreed to work on obtaining bids to determine what the project might cost BMFPD, and to present those bids to the Board soon.

Chief Benson reported repairs were paid by BMFPD in the amount of \$4,300 related to a collision between 4302 and another vehicle during a recent fire incident in Pine Brook Hills. He also reported the purchase of new tires for 4322 and 4302.

Chief Benson noted that a new bookkeeper, Morain & Bakarich, had been retained by BMFPD to replace retiring bookkeeper Marysue Huckabee. BMFPD is also in current discussions with payroll processing contractors to provide payroll services to BMFPD.

Chief Benson announced that he had traveled to Michigan for a second time to resolve the ongoing issues with one of the woodchippers. As a result of this visit, a new working woodchipper has now been delivered to BMFPD by the manufacturer. BMFPD now owns two working woodchippers.

**ERT Coordinator Report:** Mike Palamara advised the Board that he planned to meet with all grant representatives on a quarterly basis to discuss the status of ongoing grant work, and to discuss the provision of BMFPD backup information for grant representatives, in order to encourage timely payment of BMFPD invoices.

Mike provided an update on the two capital purchases which were approved by the Board for 2025, the UTV and the mitigation utility truck. He said that the UTV is now in service. The mitigation utility truck is still on order and expected to be in service by the summer/fall of 2025.

Mike noted that the 2025 seasonal mitigation crew has started work this week. The total mitigation crew for this year, including seasonal and permanent employees, will be approximately 28 members.

Mike next discussed his projections for federal, state, and local mitigation grants. He believes that BMFPD has now lined up mitigation grants through 2026. He is currently looking at lining up mitigation grants for 2027. Mike and the Board then discussed BMFPD staffing needs for the grant application process during Mike's transition to BMFPD Chief at the end of 2025. Mike indicated that he expected to continue to be involved in the grant application process.

Paul Domich left the meeting at 1700 hours.

The Board and Mike Palamara had a general discussion about salary structure of the various BMFPD mitigation crew positions and how to compare the ERT salary structure to the salary structure of other local fire organizations.

### **Meeting Notices and Scheduling**

Next BOD meeting is at Station 1 on May 12, 2025, at 1600.

**Adjournment:** Bob Loveman moved to adjourn the meeting at 1718 hours. Seconded by Rob Quinn and approved; unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,  
Rob Quinn

Approved \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_