



# Wellington Fire Protection District

MARCH 10, 2025, BOARD MEETING MINUTES

## Meeting Opening

- **Time Called to Order:** 17:11, after Pension Board Meeting.
- **Pledge of Allegiance:** Conducted.
- **Roll Call:** Directors Lopez, Standing, Gaiter, and Bollinger was present. Director Hunter was absent.

## Agenda Notes

- **No additions or deletions** to the agenda.
- **No conflicts of interest** noted.
- **No correspondence** presented.

## Public Comment

**Speaker: Mike Amicarella** (Property Owner, 9193 North County Road 17)

- Expressed gratitude to the board, chief, and firefighters for turning the department around in the past 1.5 years.
- Praised financial improvements, equipment updates, and staffing stability.
- Criticized misinformation spread in previous community comments.
- Commended the professionalism and service of the team.

## Employee Recognition

- **Firefighters Recognized:**
  - *Daniel Dewitt* and *Bryce Fording* completed Peer Support Academy training through First Responder Trauma Counselors.
  - Now part of the department's **Peer Support Team**, providing internal mental wellness resources.

## Chief's Report – Operational Updates

- **New Hires:**

- 3 firefighter candidates accepted job offers.
- Undergoing background checks and physicals; orientation to follow.
- Expected to relieve overtime burden.
- **New Engine:**
  - Successfully held a *Push-In Ceremony*.
  - Engine is now active and responded to its first fire.
- **Training Grounds:**
  - Getting quotes to remove hazardous trees at the Hwy 1 training area.
- **Board Election:**
  - 5 candidates filed.
  - Ballot order drawn fairly with a community member present.
  - DEO will organize candidate forum (possibly with League of Women Voters)
- **Sales Tax Survey:**
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  - Survey through *Magellan* about sales tax proposals to be released in April.

## Hiring Process – Details Shared

- **Applications Received:** 16
- **Screening Rounds:**
  - 14 advanced to skills assessment.
  - 8 to station day.
  - 5 interviewed.
  - 3 hired.

## Apparatus Committee & Reserve Engine

- **Current Status:**
  - Equipment is all installed in the new truck.
- **Disposition of Old Truck:**
  - Evaluated by Front Range Training Consortium for donation in exchange for training.
  - If not feasible, will be donated to a nearby volunteer department (e.g., Red Feather, Livermore).

## Financial Report Highlights (By David Green)

- **Major Points:**
  - Low number of checks issued (approx. 9).
  - 2024 finances mostly closed out.
  - \$269,000 in debt service payments due by April 1 (now paid, extinguishing gear leases).
  - Only \$93,000 in revenue so far (due to tax disbursement delay).
  - Ending balance: **\$1.8 million** after all payments—considered a strong reserve.

## **District Business**

### **1. Resolution: CBA Notification**

- Language updated to ensure notice is posted **at least 30 days before the meeting** where acceptance is considered.
- Motion made by Jane Lopez, Seconded by Sara Standing.
- **Approved** unanimously (4-0) – Resolution No. 2025-04.

### **2. Resolution: Attorney Access by Board Members**

- Clarifies directors must **confer** with the board president or chief before contacting legal counsel (not seek permission).
- Protects against duplication and unnecessary legal costs.
- Motion made by Jane Lopez, Seconded by Richard Bollinger
- **Approved** unanimously (4-0) – Resolution No. 2025-05.

### **3. Administrative Job Description & Salary Range**

- Renamed role to **Administrative Manager**.
- Duties include payroll, HR, and sensitive records handling.
- Salary set to attract experienced long-term candidate.
- Motion made by Sara Standing, Seconded by Jane Lopez
- **Approved** unanimously (4-0).



## **Calendar and Miscellaneous**

- **Next Meeting:** May 21st, 2025 at 17:00, Station 1.
- **Chief's Vacation Notice:** Captains have coverage planned. Board members advised to contact Captain Crop if needed.

## **Adjournment**

- **Time:** 17:36
- **Duration:** Less than an hour (record speed for the board!)
- **Adjourned By:** Motion passed unanimously.

