

Garden Valley Fire Protection District Board of Commissioners
Special Meeting Minutes

Where: Main Fire Station on Middlefork Rd in Crouch

When: 19 February 2026 @ 2:00 PM



- 1 **Call to Order** 2:00PM
- 2 **Commissioner(s)/Chief Role Call**
Phil Palmiotto, Mike Van Dyk, Chief Cleaveland
- 3 **Amendments to this Agenda**
 - 3.1 Motions to amend this agenda.
-None
- 4 *** Public Participation**
 - 4.1 Members of the public may comment on an agenda item before action is taken and after the Board has discussed the item. Any member of the public making a public comment shall state their name and address for the record prior to addressing the Board. (Please limit public comment to three minutes)

Bob Seal- thinks the commissioners are doing a great job and he doesn't want their job. Suggested that the commissioners wait to vote on this resolution.

- 5 *** New Business**
 - 5.1 Special Levy Election (Resolution 2026-02)
- **Phil Palmiotto presented Resolution 2026-02, and the ballot measure language commencing in FY2026-2027.**

Phil gave his advice on the levy; he believes that the nice equipment that we have doesn't mean much without the volunteer staff. He believes that we need to take care of the firefighters to be successful. The On-call program helps shift coverage for better planning and responses for the community. Funding is the issue with continuing the shift coverage program.

Mike thanked everyone for attending and advised that those in attendance were a small minority of the voter turnout. He said that if the levy were to pass that he believes we will do a better job of reaching out to the public to inform all voters of the concerns that the district has.

Public:

Andrew Anderson, 20 slippery Gulch Garden Valley, ID 83622 feels that most Americans are being nicked and dined by taxes. Suggested, maybe an ambulance district should be formed.

Bob Seal asked about the difference between a temporary vs permanent levy rate.

Dean Lange is in favor of the levy, suggesting that this new levy would be about \$7 per month. A new taxing district would be much more expensive.

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Linda Van Vleck stated in her opinion that donations are not sustainable. Her understanding is that the Garden Valley Hospital taxing district cannot provide an ambulance service. She stated that she is in support of passing this resolution to go to vote.

Mike Van Dyk added that they hope to have the vacant commissioner position filled at the next commissioners meeting.

Linda Van Vleck asked if this resolution is passed would it be possible to withdraw this resolution in the future. Phil Palmiotto said he was unsure about that answer, but this resolution will only mean that this option goes to a vote by the taxpayers so they can decide what they want.

Mike Van Dyk said that he is proud of the fire department, and the service that it provides and that it is rare in rural areas like this.

Troy Van Vleck says that the summertime is busy with river emergencies. Without the quick service it could mean life or death for someone.

Dean says that calls like the accident just happened need 6 people to respond. Chief added that retention for fire district has been an issue for a long time and that the on-call program is the best solution that we come up with. Chief says that he doesn't take taxes increasing lightly.

Kevin Jeffries thanks the commissioners for lowering the levy rate. He believes that this rate is much more affordable.

Carol clarified that reserves are being used and will run out at some point.

Chief clarified that he wants to provide services like EMS, Swiftwater rescue, and rope rescue. However, he doesn't believe that this is possible without further funding.

Dennis Ross stated that he used to be an FF and commissioner. He doesn't have an issue with the volunteers. He suggested that Chief Delvalle only tried for one levy in 2018. 5 years ago, there was a surplus budget.

Steven Raddigan wanted clarification on if the on-call program directly influences response times.

Mike Dolan asked about what on call means if that means that responders are at home or at the station. Austin answered that they are within a reasonable distance to response to a call.

Andrew Anderson spoke with former volunteers he brought up operation concerns and believes that issues should have gone to get taxes sooner.

Phil Palmiotto said that the resolution is to put language on the ballot to allow the community to decide on May 19th. Phil Palmiotto motioned the resolution, Mike Van Dyk seconded all voted in favor.

6 **(*) Adjournment**

Adjourned at 3:07 PM

The next Regular GVFPD Board Meeting will be on Tuesday, 03/10/2026, @ 2:00 PM @ the Main Station above Crouch.

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