



Mid-Columbia Fire and Rescue  
Board of Directors Meeting  
In Person / Virtually Held  
1400 West 8<sup>th</sup> Street, The Dalles, OR 97058  
December 15, 2025

**1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER**

President Bailey called the Mid-Columbia Fire & Rescue meeting to order at 5:30p.m.

**2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

President Bailey led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**3. ROLL CALL**

Directors Present: Diana Bailey and Dick Schaffeld. Chris Schanno via phone and Walt Denstedt arrived at 5:48 p.m. Corey Case was excused.

Staff Present: Fire Chief David Jensen, Division Chief Josh Beckner, Division Chief Chris Grant, Division Chief Adam Cole, Business Services Manager Joe Talamantez, and Office Manager Stephanie Ziegler.

Others Present: Legal Counsel Andrew Myers, and County Administrator Tyler Stone.

Online: Juanita Phillips

**4. AGENDA CHANGES**

None.

**5. MINUTES**

- a. Minutes from November 17, 2025, Board meeting stand approved as written.
- b. Minutes from December 1, 2025, Board meeting stand approved as written.

**6. PUBLIC COMMENT**

President Bailey read through the public comment rules, then asked if there was anyone online, Juanita Phillips was online but did not comment. President Bailey then asked if there as anyone in the audience that wished to comment and there was no one that wished to speak.

**7. Recognition of Kindness 911 and The Dalles Meals on Wheels:** Chief Jensen and Chief Grant led a presentation honoring Ashley Hector and The Dalles Meals on Wheels program, highlighting the partnership with Kindness 911 and the impact of volunteer drivers and staff in serving over 50,000 meals to seniors in the community.

- **Kindness 911 Partnership:** Chief Grant explained that Kindness 911 is a nonprofit organization designed to connect public safety agencies with their communities by recognizing acts of kindness.



- **The Dalles Meals on Wheels Program:** Ashley Hector was recognized for representing The Dalles Meals on Wheels program, which began in 1974 and now serves over 50,000 meals annually with the help of 50 volunteer drivers and a dedicated staff, providing both in-center and home-delivered meals to seniors.
- **Impact of Volunteer Drivers:** Chief Grant shared a story about a Meals on Wheels driver who discovered a client in distress, emphasizing the critical role drivers play in not only delivering meals but also providing safety checks and social connection for isolated seniors.
- **Donation Mechanism:** Chief Jensen clarified that, as a public entity, the fire district cannot make direct donations, but Kindness 911 makes donations on their behalf, allowing the district to support local organizations recognize outstanding community members while adhering to public government regulations.

#### 8. FINANCIAL REPORTS

- a. Balance Sheets/Combined Cash Accounts – Chief Jensen reviewed the district’s financials, noting a seasonal decrease in ambulance revenue and ongoing inquiries with the billing agency regarding collections. Chief Jensen then asked if there were any concerns regarding the balance sheets or combined cash accounts, there were no concerns.
- b. Ambulance Service Financial Report - Chief Jensen reported that ambulance revenue was down compared to the previous year, attributing the decline to seasonal fluctuations and delays in CMS payments due to a government shutdown. He stated our billing agency is investigating the cause and will continue to monitor ambulance revenue and will provide updates when he receives them from the billing agency.

#### 9. COMMITTEE REPORTS

- a. Urban Renewal Report – Director Denstedt arrived late to the meeting, but when he did arrive, he stated that the Urban Renewal meeting had been canceled.

#### 10. FIRE CHIEF’S REPORT

- a. Chief Jensen’s Report – Report provided. Chief Jensen provided an update on the progress of the dispatch CAD system implementation, including investment in automated emergency medical dispatch cards and recent training completed by Chief Beckner and the dispatch team. Chief Jensen stated that the dispatch CAD system is 190 days from go-live, with ongoing weekly meetings to track progress and assess



readiness for the implementation timeline. He also stated that the fire district is investing additional funds outside its county contract to implement automated emergency medical dispatch cards linked to a national database, enhancing emergency response capabilities for all agencies dispatched by the center. Chief Beckner completed a 30-hour course with the dispatch manager and supervisor, including mock call dispatches to ensure proficiency in the new system.

Chief Jensen provided an update on the successful completion of paramedic training for 5 new staff members, with one additional trainee still in the process, marking a significant milestone for the department's staffing and coverage capabilities.

- b. Chief Beckner's Report – Report provided. Chief Jensen spoke about the statistic sheets that Chief Beckner provided in his report, stated that the program can provide a lot of valuable data.
- c. Chief Grant's Report – Report provided. Chief Jensen reported on Chief Grant's report, stating Chief Grant's report included updates on community risk reduction activities, inspection goals and recent fire investigations. He stated that a recent fire investigation involved a lithium battery on an e-bike that caused significant property damage to a barn.
- d. Chief Cole's Report – Report provided.

Director Denstedt brought up Continuity of Operations plan, he would like to know more about the plan. The board discussed the continuity of operations, expenses and the districts budget approval process. Director Denstedt raised questions regarding the cost of the consultant, expressing concern over limited information. Chief Jensen explained that the fire chief is authorized to execute district operations within the approved budget line items, with individual transactions up to \$125,000 not requiring additional board approval and that the consultant expenses are included in the professional services line. Director Bailey advised that Director Denstedt should meet with the chief on his own to acquire the information he is inquiring about. Chief Jensen also suggested that Director Denstedt meet with him to review the breakdown of the consultant expenses and line items.

## **11. OLD BUSINESS**

- a. Ambulance Service Plan – Chief Jensen summarized the recent developments regarding the Ambulance Service Area plan, including the meeting he attended on December 11<sup>th</sup>. He stated all the committee members were invited to the meeting, but it was not a committee meeting. Chief Jensen stated the meeting was intended to discuss the ASA plan but ended up being about the secondary plan. Chief Jensen stated that the county's attorney spoke stating that the current plan was from 1990 and needed to be updated and they were following the state process. There was quite a bit of discussion



with the county officials, providers and legal representatives. Chief Jensen then stated that he was given the opportunity to speak. He stated that the plan has been in effect since 2020 not 1990 and that the plan speaks to how specifically updates are made to the plan and its through the Ambulance Review Committee. He stated that he spoke for quite awhile about changes, stating that if you are going to change the plan so drastically and it's going to affect the public and what the public receives in benefits and services then the meeting should be public and that the providers should be involved in the process. Chief Jensen stated that the county circumvented all of the ASA Committee members and all the providers throughout the county. Chief Jensen then advised that South County representatives and Dufur's attorney, expressed concerns about training standards and financial stability, with Dufur's attorney advising that there could be a potential for violations and fines because the county didn't follow the rules. Chief Jensen reported that he sent a formal written request to the county for notification and consultation before any future changes to the ASA plan, in accordance with ORS provisions, to ensure provider input and public transparency.

Chief Jensen also stated that the hospital had representatives at the meeting, they discussed ongoing evaluations of inter-facility transfer processes, acknowledging that the current trial period is functioning adequately, but raised concerns about the district's capacity to absorb increased transfer burdens if the hospital services are reduced.

President Bailey asked if this meeting was a public meeting and if it had been recorded. Chief Jensen stated it was not a public meeting nor was recorded. Chief Jensen is awaiting a response to his request for an ASA review committee meeting. He stated he will keep the board updated on what takes place next.

## 12 NEW BUSINESS

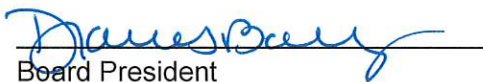
None.

## 13. GOOD OF THE ORDER

Special Districts Association conference coming in February. Chief Cole will reach out to the board members to see who will be attending. President Bailey stated that her and Chief Jensen would like to invite Jeff from Special District out for a presentation on educational and policy review opportunities. Chief Jensen also advised that the annual board Christmas dinner is tonight at Casa el Mirador following the board meeting.

## 14. ADJOURNMENT

President Bailey adjourned the meeting at 18:14 p.m.

  
Board President

  
Secretary/Treasurer