



MINUTES

Mid-Columbia Fire and Rescue
Board of Directors Meeting
In Person / Virtually Held
1400 West 8th Street, The Dalles, OR 97058
September 21, 2026

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

President Case called the Mid-Columbia Fire & Rescue meeting to order at 5:31p.m.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Led by President Case.

3. ROLL CALL

Director's Present: Corey Case, Diana Bailey, Walter Denstedt, Dick Schaffeld (virtually).
Chris Schanno 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

4. AGENDA CHANGES

None.

5. MINUTES

Minutes from August 17, 2026, board meeting were approved with correction of name misspelled.

6. PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no Public Comment.

7. FINANCIAL REPORTS

- a. Balance Sheets/Combined Cash Account – President Case noted appreciation for the financial summary and explanations provided by Business Services Manager Joe Talamantez. Director Bailey asked about the CCO monies, Chief Jensen advised that



they had arrived this fiscal year instead of last fiscal year like they were expected to come in. There were no further questions.

- b. Ambulance Service Financial Report – Chief Jensen stated that August was an active month, stating that we didn't have a crazy number of tickets that were submitted. He asked Systems Design for an explanation, they stated it was the volume/type of calls rather than a large change in ticket count. Also noted the ambulatory adjustment that follows CPI done in July per board policy. He also spoke about Life Flight, advising that we are moving a lot more patients for Life Flight because the helipad up at the hospital is under construction. There will be a lot more invoices for them.

8. COMMITTEE REPORTS

- a. Urban Renewal Report – Director Denstedt provided a sheet pointing out some highlights of what was discussed and providing more information, stating that the property at 210 Washington St was granted more money, asking for matching funds. Urban Renewal matched funding with \$9,730 for improvements including air conditioning/building systems. Director Denstedt also spoke about Tony's gravel lot, stating there was no action taken on the lot but a lot of discussion.

9. FIRE CHIEF'S REPORT

- a. Chief Jensen's Report – Report provided. Chief Jensen gave some additional information on his items in his report. He spoke about the Railroad issues, stating he had a good conversation with them regarding firefighter safety and plan to hold After Action reviews on future fires. He also advised that he will be having conversations in the future with the railroad and the State Fire Marshal's Office regarding mitigation work.
Chief Jensen advised that we hired two of our apprentices into full-time positions. He advised that one won't be coming on until November because of budgeting and wanting to spend down the grant funds. He also noted that we had outside applicants and a lot of people calling the station or stopping in to see if we were hiring. Will be starting the apprenticeship advertising very soon, Director Bailey asked how many apprentices we have hired. 6 total. Chief Jensen also spoke about schedules and different options for rotational duty especially help with duty officer coverage on the weekends and to have some consistent leadership over the weekends. He advised there are a lot of options and would likely try a trail period if a preferred model is selected.
President Case asked about the Life Flight pad. His concern was when the helicopter lands does it conflict with the staff leaving on a call. Chief Jensen stated they can land without any crew here. He also advised that we have had a dozen landing so far and we could potentially see over 50 to 60 by the time the helicopter can land at the



hospital again. He also noted that we have reached out to the City and ODOT for barriers for the entrances to the training grounds.

Wildland crew to be done on October 9th. Chief Jensen advised that they have done a great job this year both with mitigation work and building relationships with South County partners. He also stated they have been on a lot of fires and did a lot of good work. Stating "we are super happy with the success of the program, and I think they integrate better and better every year with our normal operations".

- b. Chief Beckner's Report – Report provided. Chief Jensen advised that Chief Beckner has created a new kind of stats dashboard sheet and he would accept feedback. Director Bailey and President Case both stated they like the graph better now.
- c. Chief Grant's Report – Report provided. Chief Jensen advised that the Prevention division has had a lot of events since the last board meeting. We did Touch a Truck, helped with back-to-school shopping and then the Get Ready event this past weekend. Chief Jensen noted that he had heard it went very well. Chief Jensen also spoke about the 6th Street Bridge project, advising that it's a grant application for ODOT and that they just need a letter of support. Director Denstedt feels this is a good thing.
- d. Chief Cole's Report – Report provided. Busy fall training calendar, including a structural collapse/trench rescue class partnering with the city who will be digging some trenches for the class. Structural Incident Commander class, finance/software training for Business Services Manager and the Office Manager. And Chief Cole will be attending the National Fire Academy in October and Chief Jensen will be attending in November. President Case appreciated Chief Coles report and everything he had included in it.

10. OLD BUSINESS

None.

11. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Information Sheet – Strategic Investment Program Agreements and Revenue Distribution Context. Chief Jensen presented follow-up information on the Strategic Investment Program related to Google project revenue distribution, stating that this was an agreement that took place a couple of years ago, however Chief Jensen wanted to bring it to the boards attention that the county's initiative to take a lot of the funding from the program and put it into a saving account for future projects 15 years in advance. He stated this was brought on by community feedback. Chief Jensen reported that one of the points that was brought up at their meeting was the taxes that came to other districts were fair and equitable. He read an article from the



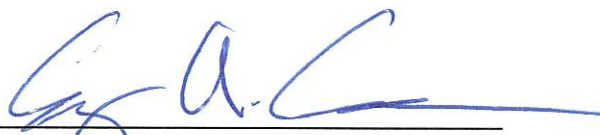
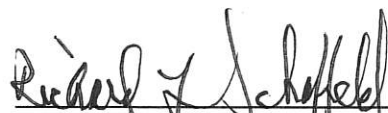
County regarding the fire districts; he stated what they had printed was not correct. The county presented it as the other community partners like fire districts and schools received separate distribution for immediate needs and core services, more than 75% of the allocation. Chief Jensen stated if they had gotten to split the 75% allocation it'd be almost 1.8 million a year on just the first project to the fire district. Chief Jensen reached out to the county regarding this. Chief Jensen stated that the city and county receive 82% of the funds and the other entities split 18% of it. He stated he put this information in the board packet so the board could understand what the county is doing. President Case thought it was important for the board to know about this. There was much discussion on the topic. Director Denstedt asked about the Enterprise zone, the funds for the training tower come from the Enterprise zone. Chief Jensen spoke about the Community Service fees; we get a portion of those fees. The city and county get the biggest chunk. The SIP money goes to the schools through the fees. Director Schaffeld asked whether this material had been shared with the county commissioners. Chief Jensen stated he had discussed the context of the packet with Commissioner Hege, but he hasn't formally shared it with them. Director Schaffeld will share the information with them, advising it is public record.

12. GOOD OF THE ORDER

President Case advised that the OFDDA/Fire District Directors Association meeting is in Hood River November 5th – 7th, notify Chief Cole promptly for registration there are day rates available. . Also, there is the Special Districts conference in February. Chief Jensen asked if there was a Public Meeting law class, Chief Cole stated there are, but everyone is current on that. President Case thanked the staff for the Get Ready event. President Case also asked about the Pig Bowl, it will be Saturday at 7:00p.m.

13. ADJOURNMENT

President Case adjourned the meeting at 18:15 p.m.


Board President
Secretary/Treasurer