MINUTES
Mid-Columbia Fire and Rescue
Board of Directors Meeting
In Person / Virtually Held
1400 West 8th Street, The Dalles, OR 97058
August 17, 2026

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

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

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

President Case led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. ROLL CALL

Directors Present: Corey, Case, Diana Bailey, Dick Schaffeld, Chris Schanno, and Walter Denstedt.
Staff Present: Fire Chief David Jensen, Division Chief Josh Beckner, Division Chief Chris Grant, Division Chief Adam Cole, Business Service Manager Joe Talamantez, and Office Manager Stephanie Ziegler.
Others Present: Legal Counsel Andrew Myer, Jeff Griffin and Chris Heppel from SDAO.

4. AGENDA CHANGES

None.

5. MINUTES

a. Minutes from July 20, 2026, board meeting stand approved as written.

6. PUBLIC COMMENT

President Case asked if there was anyone online, Chief Beckner advised that there was one person online, Rowan McKenna from Uplift News. President Case then read the Public Comment rules and once done asked for the person's name that was online and if they wished to speak. She just was there to listen, did not have any comments.

7. FINANCIAL REPORTS

a. Balance Sheets/Combined Cash Accounts – President Case thanked Business Service Manager for the Financial Summary sheet he provided for the financials. He stated that it answered some questions he had. There were no other questions.

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b. Ambulance Service Financial Report – President Case asked about the numbers on the ambulance sheet, Chief Jensen stated that they come form our third-party biller. He also stated when looking at the chart it shows current months that just got billed and that people either haven't received their bill yet or insurance hasn't received the bill. The chart is not really a 12-month rolling average but does show those charges and ticket numbers are a good metric to see that we are on pace. Director Bailey asked about uncollectables, being high but Chief Jensen stated they go up and down.

8. COMMITTEE REPORTS

a. Urban Renewal Report – Director Densted provided a written report with Action items from the Urban Renewal meeting on February 17, 2026, and on August 11, 2026. He stated Basalt Commons had asked for a 6-month extension at the February 17th meeting which passed and then in August had asked for another 4-month extension, which also passed. President Case asked why they are asking for extensions. Director Denstedt believes they are waiting for interest rates to go down. He also advised that the developer was hoping the county would purchase the land then the developer would lease it from them, however that did not happen. He believes the delay is financing.

9. FIRE CHIEF'S REPORT

a. Chief Jensen's Report – Report provided. Chief Jensen highlighted some of his items he included in his report, advising he met with the new intermin county commissioner, he went over ambulance service, fire service needs, and air facility transfers. He stated it was over a two-hour conversation but was a good conversation. Chief Jensen also spoke about the Grasshopper fire, stating we sent two different task forces down to do structure protection in Pine Hollow and Sportsman Park. Chief Beckner led one task force and Chief Cole led another. He reported that for each task force we did not have to use on duty staffing, that we had enough call back staff. He stated that we have had several crew members move into town, which is a good thing, means they don't plan on leaving and going elsewhere. He also stated that the local ODF crew did a tremendous job with putting dozer lines between Camp Cody and Pine Hollow.
b. Chief Beckner's Report – Report provided. Chief Jensen stated that we tested for a Lt. position and that FF Fletcher is now a Lt. Chief Jensen stated that he had come up through the ranks and has come along ways. With FF Fletcher moving up to Lt it has opened up a FF position and all the Apprentices have applied.

c. Chief Grant's Report – Report provided. Chief Jensen stated that Chief Grant included in his report a half year metric on company level inspections and fire investigations.

d. Chief Cole's Report – Report provided. Chief Jensen pointed out that we have the Trench Rescue structural collapse classes coming up in November. He also stated that we will be sending 4 people to Hazmat Tech School in October.
President Case thanked Chief Cole and Chief Beckner on being on the task forces. He also thanked the chiefs for their reports and all the details they put into them.

10. OLD BUSINESS

a. Information Sheet – Continuity of Operations Plan. President Case asked Chief Jensen to walk through the information sheet and give more information. Chief Jensen stated that the plan pointed out things that needed to be identified and some things that are already in place. He stated the plan points out especially on spending and emergencies for when someone who has a procurement like Chief Jensen at a certain level becomes incapacitated or is not available, who can make those purchases. He stated that this process is what they were working through with the COOP. He stated this is a two-part process, the first to discuss the plan and the second is the amendment of the board policy, specifically board policy 1.1, governance by policies after the Coop is adopted. President Case stated that the first thing that the Chief is asking is to discuss the policy and decide on whether they are ready to vote on the plan or not. President Case stated he had read the policy and any questions he had he emailed to the Chief. He asked if anyone had anything else they wanted to bring discuss.

Director Denstedt said he met with Chief Jensen to give his input to him, he felt the plan is incomplete, he stated he gave the chief a couple of other ideas he had regarding fuel relationships with individual farmers. He also said there is not currently an Assistant Chief, asking who would be in charge if the chief was not able to be. Chief Jensen explained if he became incapacitated then the board could hold a special meeting to determine an interim chief if need be but also that the authority levels and in the plan. Director Denstedt also talked about major purchases need to be spelled out for spending limits. Director Bailey responded, stating she had read the draft and felt the draft is complete. She explained the Chain of Command would go to the duty chief and that it would be up to the board to decide on an interim chief. Director Denstedt also stated the plans needs to have more information regarding fuel and shelter. There was much discussion on the topic. Director Schaffeld stated the draft gives a good starting point and that it directs you where to go if there is an emergency. Director Schanno stated there are several best guess scenarios and advised there will be fuel. He feels Director Denstedt points are valued but the COOP gives us a starting point. Director Bailey feels it provides a great road map;

you can't predict what will happen and we have great people that work here, she stated. President Case asked about an assistant chief, with there not being one then you would go down the chain of command, and the board policy is where to start. He then stated he was ready for a motion. Director Bailey moved to approve the Continuity of Operations plan. Director Schaffeld seconded. There was no other discussion. All in favor;

Schanno – YES
Schaffeld – YES
Bailey – YES
Case – YES
Denstedt – NO
Motion passed with 4 Ayes, 1 Nay.

President Case asked for a motion on Resolution 2026-04 Governance by Policies. Director Bailey made a motion to adopt Resolution 2026-04, a resolution modifying board policy 1.1, Governance by Policies. Director Bailey then stated she needed to amend the motion stating the policy should be 1.81A, but Chief Jensen stated that is part of policy 1.1. The motion stays as is. Director Schaffeld seconded. There was no other discussion. All in favor;

Schanno – YES
Schaffeld – YES
Bailey- YES
Case – YES
Denstedt – NO
Motion passed with 4 Ayes, 1 Nay.

11. NEW BUSINESS

a. Information Sheet – BOLI Apprenticeship Agreement. Chief Jensen stated BOLI is giving MCFR $1.25 million for the apprenticeship program. He advised that they are wanting him to sign their agreement, so the motion would be approving the fire chief to execute the Agreement. There was no discussion needed. Director Schanno made a motion to authorize the Fire Chief to execute the Bureau of Labor and Industries Firefighter Apprenticeship Grant Intergovernmental Agreement, Agreement No. PO-83900-00060816 and any associated grant documents on behalf of Mid-Columbia Fire & Rescue. Director Denstedt seconded. All in favor;

   Case – YES
   Bailey – YES
   Schanno – YES
   Schaffeld – YES
   Denstedt – YES
   Motion passed with 5 Ayes, 0 Nays.

b. Information Sheet – Community Wildfire Defense Grant Reinstatement. Chief Jensen explained the motion is to authorize the fire chief to execute the revised intergovernmental agreement for Community wildfire Defense Grant. He stated the chief sponsor is Wasco County and that we are a part of the grant and have been for the last 2 years but there was amendment that changed some of the amounts because Wamic moved out of the process. Chief Jensen advised that some of the money was moved over to Soil and Water. He stated the amount changed but the provisions of the interim government agreement did not change and they would like the fire chief to sign the reinstatement agreement. President Case asked if we would be doing more reporting, Chief Jensen stated it would be the same level of reporting that we have been doing and that this keeps our Crew 24 program funded. Chief Jensen advised that the crew is doing a lot of work down south, but they can be available for our fires. Director Schanno asked if the $428,000 goes to the crew. Chief Jensen stated it is based on the project per hour based off the state rates and we get reimbursed. He stated we will spend that amount before the end of the grant. Director Schanno stated he was ready to make a motion. Director Schanno moved to authorize the Fire Chief to execute the Revised and Restated Intergovernmental Agreement between Wasco County and Mid-Columbia Fire & Rescue for implementation of the Community Wildfire Defense Grant (CWDG) Program, as attached in Appendix B, and authorize the Fire Chief to execute related documents necessary to administer the agreement. Director Bailey seconded. There was no further discussion. All in favor;
Bailey – YES
Case – YES
Schaffeld – YES
Schanno – YES
Denstedt – YES
Motion passed with 5 Ayes, 0 Nays.

c. SDAO – Board Duties Training – Jeff Griffin with SDAO conducted a power point on Board Members Duties and Responsibilities.

12. GOOD OF THE ORDER

Upcoming Directors conference in Hood River will be on November 5,6, and 7th.

13. ADJOURNMENT

President Case adjourned the meeting at 19:40p.m.

Board President

Secretary/Treasurer