



## MINUTES

Mid-Columbia Fire and Rescue  
Board of Directors Meeting  
In Person / Virtually Held  
1400 West 8<sup>th</sup> Street, The Dalles, OR 97058  
February 23, 2026

### 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, Dick Schaffeld, Walter Denstedt, Corey Case. Chris Schanno was excused.

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

Others Present: Legal Counsel Andrew Myers.

### 4. AGENDA CHANGES

None.

### 5. MINUTES

- a. Minutes from January 26, 2026, Board Meeting approved as written with correction of adjournment time from 16:37 to 18:37.

### 6. PUBLIC COMMENT

No one online or in person.

### 7. FINANCIAL REPORTS

- a. Balance Sheets/Combined Cash Accounts – Director Case had a question concerning the checking account showing a negative balance. Chief Jensen stated it was a software-related issue and confirmed that there was not a negative balance.
- b. Ambulance Service Financial Report – There were no questions asked.

### 8. COMMITTEE REPORTS

- a. Urban Renewal Report – Director Denstedt handed out a report from the last Urban Renewal Meeting. He reported that Scott Baker from Parks and Rec is organizing meetings to find funding for Parks & Rec, however there has not been any formal funding



request yet. He also mentioned ongoing issues with the planned walkway behind Safeway on Mill Creek and concerns from Chuck Gomez and his neighbors regarding the Basalt Commons and the height of the building. Director Denstedt also spoke about an Exterior Refresh Pilot Program. He explained that the program will offer 100% reimbursement up to \$7500 per project for building improvements.

## **9. FIRE CHIEF'S REPORT**

- a. Chief Jensen's Report – Report provided. Chief Jensen provided an update on the items he provided in his report. He stated he is working on closing out existing grants and determining available funds for the next budget year. He also stated that the Bureau of Labor and Industries reached out advising that they are offering an Apprenticeship Grant. Chief Jensen stated the apprenticeship grant usually comes from the State Fire Marshal Office not BOLI. Chief Jensen said we will be applying for the grant and will ask for a 24-month built into the 24-month apprenticeship program. He stated not very many have applied for the grant, he thought we had a pretty good chance of receiving it. Director Case asked if the original apprenticeship program was winding down. Chief Jensen stated we had a left-over balance from the original program to do a whole new program for another year or 2 with spending the grant down by the next budget year. Chief Jensen reported Rep. Smith posted support letters regarding the GEMT monies. He stated that it was a good win for the fire service. Chief Jensen also stated that Hood River Fire hired a new Fire Chief. Chief Jensen stated that he has met him, and the new fire chief seems willing to work with us. Director Case asked where he came from. Chief Jensen stated he came from Dallas Oregon, and a small city out of Atlanta GA. Mosier is requesting support in legislative funding to build a new building.
- b. Chief Beckner's Report – Report Provided. Chief Jensen updated the board on Chief Beckner's work on the CAD System, focusing on mapping and medical dispatch accuracy to minimize errors when the system goes live. President Bailey asked about the Interfacility Transfers. Chief Beckner stated he is compiling data now and working with the hospital on it.
- c. Chief Grant's Report – Report provided. Chief Jensen stated Chief Grant has been busy with inspections and preparing for mitigation season. He is also helping with grants.
- d. Chief Cole's Report – Report provided. Chief Jensen announced that two paramedics have completed their training, with additional candidates nearing completion. He also stated that pay rates will be adjusted once the firefighter transitions to Firefighter Paramedics.

## **10. CORRESPONDENCE**

Thank you letter from Vesta Smith.

## **11. OLD BUSINESS**



None.

**12. NEW BUSINESS**

- a. Discussion – Electronic Payment Process. President Bailey explained the process for ACH payments, including the lack of dual custody for ACH transactions and the possibility of developing a process for the board members to review and initial ACH payments when they are signing the checks. There was lots of discussion. Chief Jensen stated there is an internal controls policy that needs to be updated through the Internal Policy Review Committee. He stated he would let the board know what the new language will be.

**13. GOOD OF THE ORDER**

Awards Banquet will be March 6, 2026, at 5:00p.m. SDAO conference went well. Chief Jensen reminded everyone to take the Public Meeting Law class. There is an on-line option.

**14. ADJOURNMENT**

President Bailey adjourned the meeting at 18:06 p.m.

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Board President

Secretary/Treasurer