

Jackson County Fire District 1

Minutes – Board of Directors Regular Session
Meeting of July 8, 2026 at 7:30am



CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 a.m. by President, John Ellis.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGEANCE

ROLL CALL:

John Foster, Randy Cort, John Ellis, Jim Stearns, Craig Berry, present.

Also in attendance: Mike Hammond, Jenna Kurzyniec, Jeni Darr and guests Tom Zimmer, Kenny Herinckx, Grace Howell, Brian Mortensen and Lane Augustson.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS:

➤ **Annual Election of Officers for FY2026-27**

-Jim Stearns made a motion to elect *John Ellis as Board of Directors President*, Craig Berry 2nd. All in favor, motion passed.

-Jim Stearns made a motion to elect *Randy Cort as Board of Directors Vice President*, John Ellis 2nd. All in favor, motion passed.

-Jim Stearns made a motion to elect *Craig Berry as Secretary of the Board of Directors*, John Ellis, 2nd. All in favor, except John Foster, voting no, motion passed.

➤ **Annual Appointments for FY2026-27**

-Craig Berry made a motion to appoint *Chief Mike Hammond as Budget Officer*, Jim Stearns 2nd. All in favor, motion passed.

-Craig Berry made a motion to appoint *Jenna Kurzyniec as Board Clerk*, John Ellis 2nd. All in favor, motion passed.

GOOD OF THE ORDER: None

SOLAR GRANT:

The board discussed four proposals received for the solar grant project, which has a maximum authorized funding of \$603,630. Craig Berry presented a comparison of the bids, noting that Advanced Energy Systems was above bid with a lower workmanship warranty of five years. Timber Mountain Construction was noted for having low solar capacity at 85.68 kW and subcontracting \$450,000 of the project to a second entity for electrical work.

Rogue Solar Solutions was the low bidder with a 10-year warranty but lacked experience in large-scale installations. True South Solar submitted a bid of \$585,000 and offered significantly higher annual production at 334,000 kilowatt hours, which would meet 100% of the district's needs.

PUBLIC HEARING:

The board held a public hearing for Solar Grant. Public hearing opened at 7:42am. Grace Howell questioned placement of the project. Craig berry explained that the project would involve 13 poles and 180 panels located in the field behind the station. Tom Zimmer questioned kW on one proposal. Public Hearing closed at 7:43.

Craig Berry made a motion to award contract to True South Solar, Jim Stearns 2nd. Roll call vote: John Foster-yes, Randy Cort-no, John Ellis-yes, Jim Stearns-yes, Craig Berry-yes. Motion passed.

MINUTES:

- Safety Committee Minutes of June 9, 2026*** – Randy Cort made a motion to accept the minutes, Craig Berry 2nd. All in favor, motion passed.
- Regular BOD session of June 10, 2026*** – Randy Cort made a motion to accept the minutes, Craig Berry 2nd. All in favor, motion passed.

FINANCE:

Financial report reviewed. The Chief reported that the district needs to replace a 30-year-old furnace and heat pump, with the lowest of three quotes coming in at \$14,130. The district has \$50,000 saved for HVAC replacements and plans to perform the installation next Wednesday. Fuel expenses for the month were \$8,000, which the Chief noted was high but expected given current prices; approximately 50% of this cost is shared with the city.

Jim Stearns made a motion to accept the finance report of June 2026, Craig Berry 2nd. Roll call vote: Craig Berry-yes, Jim Stearns-yes, John Ellis- yes, John Foster-yes, Randy Cort-yes. Motion passed.

CORRESPONDENCE: None

OLD BUSINESS:

-Chief Recruitment Process- Jim Stearns provided an update on the Fire Chief recruitment process, noting the position is advertised on the Daily Dispatch, SDAO website, and Indeed through the end of July.

-Resolution #R26-27-001 – Craig Berry made a motion to approve Resolution #R26-27-001 for non-bargaining unit salaries and benefits for FY2026-27, FY2027-28 and FY2027-28, Randy Cort 2nd. Roll call vote: John Foster-yes, Randy Cort-yes, John Ellis-yes, Jim Stearns-yes, Craig Berry-yes. Motion passed unanimously.

-Union Contract MOU - A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the union was presented regarding personal time for 40-hour bargaining members, resolving a grievance related to time trades. John Ellis clarified that the MOU includes a provision that accrued personal time cannot be cashed out. Craig Berry made a motion to approve MOU as presented with agreed changes, Jim Stearns 2nd. Roll call vote: John Foster-yes, Randy Cort-yes, John Ellis-yes, Jim Stearns-yes, Craig Berry-yes. Motion passed unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS:

-Annexation of Properties- The Chief proposed annexing 10 to 12 properties on Savage Creek Road that sit in Josephine County but are only accessible through Jackson County Fire District 1. Under ORS 478.702, the district can annex properties within seven miles of a station; the Chief to present letter and negotiate with the Mid Rogue Fire District to allow these owners to opt into the taxing district.

-Board Decorum- The board discussed decorum and professionalism following past negativity; the Chair encouraged focusing on the betterment of the department rather than personal attacks. John Foster stated that while he will comply with decorum, the issue had been blown out of proportion and he will continue to express his opinions.

-2026 Wildfire Season Staffing Grant Resolution #R26-27-002 – Craig Berry made a motion to approve Resolution #R26-27-002, to receive Oregon State Fire Marshal WFS Grant funds in the amount of \$35,000, Jim Stearns 2nd. Roll call vote: John Foster-yes, Randy Cort-yes, John Ellis-yes, Jim Stearns-yes, Craig Berry-yes. Motion passed unanimously.

CHIEF COMMENTS: Chief Hammond reported that two ambulance bills were forgiven under the new financial assistance policy, including one for an individual whose hospital bill had also been forgiven. District personnel are currently participating in three days of formalized boat training in White City alongside Grants Pass Fire, Fire District 4 and the Sheriff's Department. The district's new ambulance is currently waiting for the installation of Tablet Command software before it is moved to "first out" status.

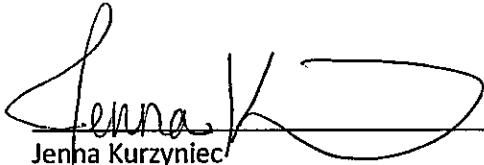
MONTHLY REPORTS: Monthly captain's reports were reviewed. Chief Hammond mentioned meeting with an outside instructor from the college to establish an ultrasound training program for staff. Craig Berry made a motion to approve the monthly reports as presented, Jim Stearns 2nd. All in favor, motion passed.

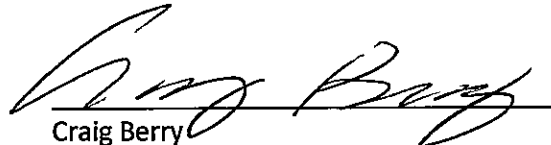
PUBLIC COMMENT: None

ITEMS THAT CAME UP AFTER AGENDA POSTED: None

SUGGESTED FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS: None

ADJORNMENT: Motion to adjourn at 8:20 a.m. by Craig Berry, 2nd by Randy Cort. Motion passed.


Jenna Kurzyniec
Clerk to the Board


Craig Berry
Secretary/Treasurer - Board of Directors