

Jackson County Fire District 1

Minutes – Board of Directors Regular Session

Meeting of August 12, 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, Mike Gavlik, Jarret Estremado and Gordon Sletmoe.

GOOD OF THE ORDER: Grace Howell shared a message of appreciation from Michael at Public Works, thanking the fire department for their maintenance of fire hydrants, which significantly reduces the workload for public works staff.

MINUTES:

-Safety Committee Minutes of July 14, 2026 – Meeting cancelled.

-Regular BOD session of July 8, 2026 – Jim Stearns made a motion to accept the minutes, Craig Berry 2nd. All in favor, motion passed.

FINANCE:

Financial report reviewed. The board discussed the Ground Emergency Medical Transport (GEMT) finances, noting a reimbursement of approximately \$83,000 in July, though roughly \$54,000 was paid out in administrative fees.

Jenna clarified that the district expects a total of \$203,000 from the 2025 GEMT programs. Jim Stearns also stated there is currently a legislative push to eliminate the program entirely. Salary expenses are currently trending high because the district is paying for three seasonal summer firefighters; however, these costs are partially offset by grant monies carried over from the previous fiscal year. Chief Hammond informed the board of \$14,000 purchase for a replacement HVAC system; the chief noted that the district has six 30-year-old units and is systematically replacing them as budgeted. Jim Stearns made a motion to accept the finance report of July 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- The application period for the Fire Chief position closed with eight applicants; the board met in executive session with Gordon Sletmo from SDAO to select finalists for interviews. The board committed to holding a community "meet and greet" on September 23rd from 5:30 PM to 7:30 PM, despite risk management concerns from SDAO regarding potential liability and pre-judgment of candidates. Formal interviews are scheduled for September 24th starting at 8:00 AM. Craig Berry made a motion to provide one night of lodging for out-of-town candidates, reimbursed at the going government rate, John Ellis 2nd, all in favor (Randy Cort not present at time of vote). Motion passed.

-Solar Grant - Craig Berry reported on correspondence with the Energy Trust of Oregon regarding a grant to support a micro-grid that would provide emergency power for community partners like the police and public works. The board authorized Craig to move forward with the grant application, which must be submitted by September 4th and could cover 50% of unanticipated costs not met by the CREP grant, such as auditing and legal fees.

Regarding the main solar project, the district is finalizing bond verbiage and applying for the first 30% down payments from the Department of Energy, with an estimated completion date in February. Jim Stearns made a motion to authorize Craig Berry to move forward in writing the energy trust grant, Randy Cort 2nd. Roll call vote: Craig Berry-yes, Jim Stearns-yes, John Ellis- yes, John Foster-yes, Randy Cort-yes. Motion passed.

-Annexation of Properties- Chief Hammond presented a list of properties on Savage Creek targeted for annexation and discussed the results of a request to the Mid-Rogue Fire District, which supports the annexation. The board reviewed a draft letter to homeowners, emphasizing that the annexation process itself is voluntary and at no cost for the process, though property owners will be subject to fire district taxes once annexed. It was noted that undeveloped land without structures typically does not pay fire taxes, but the chief recommended annexing these properties to prepare for future development. The board decided to mail the notification letters soon and schedule a formal public meeting on the matter during the October regular board session.

NEW BUSINESS: None

CHIEF COMMENTS:

Chief Hammond reported that "Tablet Command" was successfully implemented last week, replacing older mobile data computers and providing superior mapping and tactical assignments during scenes like the Woodrat fire. The district's new ambulance is officially in service and has already responded to multiple calls. The district has initiated pre-hospital ultrasound training led by an instructor from Rogue Community College (RCC), with standing orders now in place for scanning the heart, lungs, and carotid artery.

MONTHLY REPORTS: Monthly captain's reports were reviewed. Craig Berry made a motion to approve the monthly reports, Jim Stearns 2nd. All in favor, motion passed.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

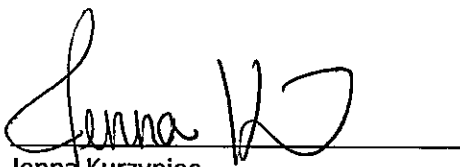
ITEMS THAT CAME UP AFTER AGENDA POSTED: None

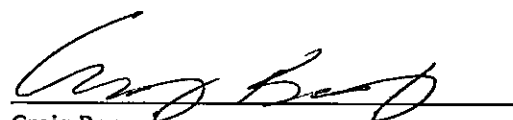
EXECUTIVE SESSION: Regular Session Closed for Executive Session at 8:08 a.m. and reopened at 10:19 a.m.

Craig Berry made a motion to move forward with the selected candidates, Jim Stearns 2nd. All in favor, motion passed.

SUGGESTED FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS: 2025-2026 Audit Presentation

ADJORNMENT: Motion to adjourn at 10:38 a.m. by Craig Berry, 2nd by Jim Stearns. Motion passed.


Jenna Kurzyniec
Clerk to the Board


Craig Berry
Secretary/Treasurer - Board of Directors