

Jackson County Fire District 1

Minutes – Board of Directors Regular Session

Meeting of March 11, 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, Jim Stearns, John Ellis, Randy Cort and Craig Berry, present

Also in attendance: Mike Hammond, Jenna Kurzyniec, Jeni Darr, Mike Gavlik, Cameron Deupree, Mark Astry, Kaci Carder, Austin Champion and guests Tom Zimmer, Kenny Herinckx, Dale Porter, Gary, and Grace Howell.

GOOD OF THE ORDER: Craig Berry voiced he would like to move monthly board of director meeting time to the evenings. Group will add item to the next meeting agenda. Craig berry, John Foster, John Ellis and Jim Stearns attended the recent SDAO Ethics training.

MINUTES:

-Safety Committee Minutes of February 10, 2026 – Group confirmed that all safety committee members completed the annual OSHA-required safety training. Randy Cort made a motion to accept the minutes, John Foster 2nd. All in favor, except Craig Berry, voting no. Motion passed.

-Regular BOD session of February 11, 2026 – Randy Cort made a motion to accept the minutes, John Foster 2nd. All in favor, motion passed.

-Special BOD session of February 25, 2026 – Craig berry made a motion to accept the minutes, Randy Cort 2nd. All in favor, motion passed.

FINANCE:

Financial report reviewed. Chief Hammond highlighted the increase in overtime (estimated \$10,000) for the month of February. Mainly coverages for sick absences and that the district is still tracking well but is watching the budget early given fire season ahead. Also discussed; recent roof maintenance and ridge cap replacement.

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

CORRESPONDENCE: None

OLD BUSINESS:

- ***Solar Grant*** – The district has been tentatively awarded a fully funded solar and battery storage grant totaling approximately \$603,000 through the Oregon Department of Energy Community Renewable Energy Program. At the time of the meeting, the official award letter and finalized performance agreement had not yet been received; only a draft agreement was included in the meeting materials. Staff will provide the finalized agreement to the Board upon receipt, at which time the Board will determine whether to seek review by legal counsel or the Rogue Valley Council of Governments. Staff explained that while the station can currently operate as an emergency hub using diesel generators, extended outages remain dependent on fuel availability. The proposed solar and battery system would enhance long-term resiliency and reduce reliance on diesel during prolonged emergencies. The project is subject to public procurement requirements, including an RFP process and prevailing wage compliance. Board discussion addressed site footprint considerations, staff use of the back area of the facility, right-of-way and irrigation easements, and seismic considerations, all of which staff indicated were evaluated during project planning. Additional questions were raised regarding power quality, including potential inverter harmonics affecting sensitive communications equipment, and broader implications of distributed generation on utility operations.
- ***Tablet Command***- The chief said it was budgeted but under-budgeted; options discussed included using capital levy funds and other capital/general funds. Given the unexpected overtime costs, the chief recommended delaying the Tablet Command purchase to the next budget cycle (about three months), with the bill landing after July. Chief states new ambulance would

remain out of service until the next cycle if Tablet Command/MDT setup is required; the current ambulance is in excellent condition, and the chief said the new unit could be placed in service quickly if needed. It was also suggested to start the upcoming ambulance remount process.

- **Workshop** - Workshop scheduled in response to a union letter requesting discussion of an organizational review: Set for March 26 at 4:00 PM.

NEW BUSINESS:

- **Resolution R25-26-009 Credit Card Issuance** – Craig Berry made a motion to accept Resolution R25-26-009, updated authorized credit card issuance adding Jenna Kurzyniec as an authorized credit card user, Randy Cort 2nd. Roll call vote: John Foster-yes, Jim Stearns-yes, John Ellis- yes, Randy Cort-yes, Craig Berry-yes. Motion passed.
- **Resolution R25-26-010 \$139.00 Donation** – Craig Berry made a motion to accept Resolution R25-26-010, anonymous donations totally \$139.00 to be spent on employee incentives, Randy Cort 2nd. Roll call vote: John Foster-yes, Jim Stearns-yes, John Ellis- yes, Randy Cort-yes, Craig Berry-yes. Motion passed.

CHIEF COMMENTS:

Chief Hammond presented his monthly report to the board. Firefighter hiring updates: 2 firefighter/Paramedics hired and 1 firefighter/EMT to start March 15; one additional candidate entering background check.

Wildfire season grant: district plans to apply again to Oregon State Fire Marshal for \$35,000; despite being just over the \$2M revenue threshold, leadership expects to remain competitive; if awarded, plan is to hire three seasonal firefighters.

MONTHLY REPORTS:

Monthly captain's reports were reviewed. Craig Berry made a motion to approve the monthly reports as presented, Randy Cort 2nd. All in favor, motion passed.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Several members of the public spoke in support of the project. Comments emphasized the value of increased resilience during power outages, potential cost savings through net metering, and community benefits of renewable energy infrastructure. Some speakers offered technical experience or assistance related to solar and power system design.

ITEMS THAT CAME UP AFTER AGENDA POSTED: None

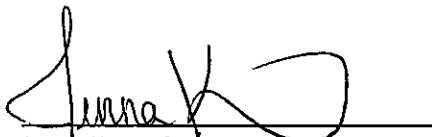
SUGGESTED FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS: Solar Grant Continuation and discuss Monthly meeting times.


Craig Berry made a motion to close for Executive Session at 8:36am, Randy Cort 2nd. All in favor.

Regular Session re-opened at 9:03am. Roll Call: John Foster, Jim Stearns, John Ellis, Randy Cort and Craig Berry, present.

Jim Stearns made a motion to authorize the chief to send a letter to the union "as discussed" in executive session. Randy Cort 2nd. All in favor.

ADJORNMENT: Motion to adjourn at 8:37 a.m. by John Foster, 2nd by Craig berry. Motion passed.


Jenna Kurzyniec
Clerk to the Board


Craig Berry
Secretary/Treasurer - Board of Directors