MINUTES
Mid-Columbia Fire and Rescue
Board of Directors Meeting
In Person / Virtually Held
1400 West 8th Street, The Dalles, OR 97058
May 18, 2026

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER
President Bailey called the Mid-Columbia Fire & Rescue meeting to order at 5:30p.m
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2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
President Bailey led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. ROLL CALL
Directors Present: Diana Bailey, Dick Schaffeld, Corey Case, and Walter Denstedt. Chris Schanno was out sick.
Staff Present: Fire Chief David Jensen, Division Chief Josh Beckner, Business Services Manager Joe Talamantez, and Office Manager Stephanie Ziegler. Division Chiefs Chris Grant and Adam Cole were excused.

4. AGENDA CHANGES
None.

5. MINUTES
a. Minutes from April 20, 2026, Board meeting stand approved as written.

6. PUBLIC COMMENT
There was no public comment.

7. FINANCIAL REPORTS
a. Chief Jensen advised that in most categories we are sitting okay for end of year. He also stated that Director Case had had a question regarding ambulance billing expense line. Chief Jensen explained that there had been an email issue with Systems Design where they had stopped sending the invoices to Stephanie, that problem has since been resolved and payments are now being paid. He also noted that most of the ambulance billing expense line is related to paying our portion to GEMT, which is still outstanding. He commented that we could still receive CCO money by end of the year, but OHA has not been responding to any emails he has sent out. He stated this could impact the projected ending fund balance. President Bailey asked if any payments had been received for 2023 and 2024. There has not been payment for those years. Director Denstedt spoke about the equipment

maintenance line, he stated he wasn't surprised. He also noted that the janitorial line was a little bit up also. This will all be discussed tomorrow night at the Budget meeting.

b. Ambulance Service Financial Report – Chief Jensen advised that we are looking pretty good, money is coming. Tickets dropped off in April, but the call volume increased in May. Director Case asked about uncollectable ambulance bills. Chief Jensen explained that the collection agency we used in no longer in business, leaving $5800 from May uncollectable, which has prompted the need to decide on a new agency or a new process. Chief Jensen went on to provide a detailed explanation of the current collections process, policy considerations, and the need for future board review. He suggested that the board should review the collections and write-off process and address it at a future board meeting.

8. COMMITTEE REPORTS

a. Urban Renewal Report – Director Denstedt had nothing to report.

9. FIRE CHIEF'S REPORT

a. Chief Jensen's Report – Report provided. Chief Jensen gave more details on the items he included in his report, stating that Google had approached the district regarding facilitating the installation of fire detection cameras. He shared a recent experience using a fire detection camera up at Stacker Butte tower noting its effectiveness in strategic decision making. They are working with county GIS to map line of sight and coverage limits for proposed camera sites. Google is pushing for installation before fire season.

Wildland crew working in South County, we are being reimbursed through Wasco County when the crew works for Soil and Water. Director Schaffeld asked about using the woodchipper. Chief Jensen spoke about the agreement with Soil and Water regarding the woodchipper use. Stating that everything was worked out with the county attorney. Chief Jensen also advised that the contract with Soil and Water regarding the woodchipper and usage was amended by the county attorney to clarify indemnification and insurance responsibilities, ensuring that MCFR would not indemnify the county and the replacement cost would be covered if needed. The agreement allows Soil and Water employees to use the woodchipper during the off-season with reimbursement for any fire suppression activities.

Chief Jensen spoke more about the ASA stating that there is no county requirement to ensure an interfacility transfer provider, only a process for the county to secure services. Director Denstedt asked about the small

ambulance companies. Discussion followed. Chief Jensen also stated that an email was sent out from the county stating they are waiting on MCFR and the hospital. He stated we are still waiting on the hospital.
CAD system is moving along; it will mid-October for release. Chief Jensen advised that they got a new project manager and things are progressing along now.

b. Chief Beckner's Report – Report provided.
c. Chief Grant's Report – Report provided.
d. Chief Cole's Report – Report provided. Chief Jensen stated that there will be a Trench Rescue class in June with the City Public Works. Director Case asked about paramedics. He wanted to know how many have made it through the program. Chief Jensen stated there were a few that did not make it through the program but will be retaking it. Director Denstedt asked if we are still partnering with Chemeketa. Yes, we are.

10. CORRESPONDENCE
Thank you from OCDC for the station tour.

11. OLD BUSINESS
None.

12. NEW BUSINESS
a. Resolution 2026-02 Consideration of contract with BIA. Chief Jensen gave a summary of the contract. He stated there have been previous attempts to establish a contract with the village, but they have failed due to funding and leadership changes. There was a contract with them back in 2003, however it expired in 2010. There was much discussion on a potential contract to provide structural fire protection to the village, which is outside the district's boundary. Chief Jensen stated that the fee for MCFR to contract with them would be based on the replacement valuation which has increased from $7 million to $16.224 million. Chief Jensen noted that the board policy uses the assessed value to figure the fee, but in this case the replacement value would be used because there is no county assessment. There was discussion of applying a 10% administration fee to the contract also. There was much discussion with the operational implications of the contract, including obligations to respond to fires and medical incidents. Chief Jensen stated that if there was a fire at Celilo park we would respond, just like if there was a vehicle fire we would respond because of how close they are to the village. We would need to protect the houses and the long house there. There was

also discussion on the difference between the contract and mutual aid. President Bailey would like more information and feed back from BIA. She would also like to have the entire board here before a decision is made. She would also like to know how they came up with the cost. Director Denstedt is in favor of the contract. He does think there needs to be mutual aid because there is a lot of unprotected land. After much discussion and debate the board decided that additional information is needed on the number of structures, communication contracts, and valuation verification. The board would also like to have clear language in the contract to ensure consistent service. There was a consensus that there will be a special meeting with all the board members present before authorizing Chief Jensen to enter into a contract for providing fire protection to BIA at the Celilo Indian village. There was no motion made.

13. GOOD OF THE ORDER

Dinner tomorrow night after the Budget meeting.

14. ADJOURNMENT

President Bailey adjourned the meeting at 18:52 p.m.

Nancy Bailey
Board President

Richard L Schaffeld
Secretary/Treasurer