

POLK COUNTY FIRE DISTRICT NO.1
Board of Directors
September 10, 2026
6:00pm – Central Station
Location: 1800 Monmouth St., Independence, OR 97351

Also Virtually at:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83280363029?pwd=NGRDdTVMOHJNMIRQR3ZSV055Um1wZz09>

Meeting ID: 832 8036 3029 - Passcode: 801072

President Jeff Hamilton	Chief Ben Stange
Vice President Cord Von Derahe (virtual)	DC Neal Olson
Secretary Mike Lippsmeyer	DC Frank Ehrmantraut
Director Curtis Cole	DC Troy Crafton
Director Dan Miller	Office Administrator Stephanie Hale
	Office Assistant Anne Schuyler-Moon

CALL MEETING TO ORDER, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Anyone wishing to address the Board please sign the sheet on the back table with your name and topic that you would like to discuss. If you are online, please use the raise hand feature when it comes time for public comment. Comments are limited to three minutes but the Board welcomes additional information in writing. Typically, a speaker's comment is taken under advisement to allow time for the Board to review an issue, however, the Board may ask a speaker for additional information or may convey to the speaker some information that addresses their comment.

Meeting minutes will be recorded and kept for 60 months.

Open for public comment on any of the agenda items.

Director Dan Miller – Motion to take the agenda as a whole.

Secretary Mike Lippsmeyer – Second

President Jeff Hamilton – Discussion?

Secretary Mike Lippsmeyer –Total materials and services? Is it one-offs?

Chief Stange –Semi-annual and quarterly stuff that happens to be right away. The GEMT payment within the medical billing category, as well as the balance from the previous year when they reconciled that. Nothing specific.

President Jeff Hamilton – All in favor, none opposed, carried – Motion passes.

CONSENT AGENDA:

- 1) Board Agenda
- 2) Approve August 13, 2026 Regular Board Meeting Minutes
- 3) Approve August 24, 2026 Special Board Meeting Minutes
- 4) Financials:
 - 3a. Approval of Disbursements for August 1-31, 2026
 - 3b. Finance report for the month of August 2026

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

NEW BUSINESS

- a) Fairground Levy
 - a. Chief Stange – approached by County Commissioner

- b. See materials
 - i. It does serve emergency services
 - ii. House 2020 wildfires, 70 families, 400 animals
 - iii. Response plan for school reunification, point where families meet
 - iv. November election.
 - v. Not an expert on this levy
- c. Secretary Mike Lippsmeyer – If this fails, what is plan B?
 - i. Chief Stange – Unaware
- d. Secretary Mike Lippsmeyer – I don't like the precedent set.
 - i. Dan Miller – agrees
- e. Jeff Hamilton – it is an important community asset.
- f. No action. No more information.

CHIEFS REPORT:

- a) Safe Streets and Roads of All Grant Update
 - i. Chief Ehrmantraut continues to work hard.
 - ii. We were instructed to not be specific.
 - iii. Federal government has changed their position. If its not outlined, it won't be funded.
 - iv. Trying to understand why the change.
 - v. Continuing to track in-kind work we are already doing.
- b) Rural Health Transformation Program Grant Update
 - i. It is being examined; our issue is there is an end-date to this project
 - ii. We will have something, may not be at the level we wanted
 - iii. Our hangup is capital: vehicles, monitors, etc.
- c) Hood to Coast
 - i. Success! Two full teams went with Chief Banuelos from IPD
 - ii. Lots of bonding
 - iii. Got to the beach, got our medals, enjoyed team meal on the beach thanks to Harmony Alvarez's parents
- d) September 11 Events
 - i. Autzen Stadium Stair Climb
 - ii. Program at CHS at 1pm. Full school assembly.
 - 1. Captain Lukas Martin is speaking. In boot camp during 9/11
- e) Notable Events
 - i. Aug 27th – non structure Elkins field fire, wind shifted and ended up losing a vacant residence and detached structure as well. Total of 25 acres, long day.
- f) Member of the Month: Max Patel
 - i. Currently in Engineer Academy
 - ii. North Folk Hand Crew
 - iii. One of handful of people that keeps social engagement going
 - iv. Positive person, seasonal work and helping teach drill next week.

TOPICS FOLLOWING THE PREPARATION OF AGENDA:

- a) Our folks had to respond to a death of a person who was in our district, but not from our district, Captain from Marion County Fire. Off duty but an active member. Started in 2003 as a volunteer. #1 on their Battalion Chief Test. Memorial Service is Friday.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: None.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS:

Secretary Mike Lippsmeyer – Thanks to Frank for dealing with the grants.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: According to ORS 192.660. If necessitated by business. None.

ADJOURNMENT:

President Jeff Hamilton adjourned the meeting at 6:20pm.

Minutes by Anne Schuyler-Moon