

MINUTES
JEFFERSON RURAL FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS' BOARD MEETING

Date: February 18, 2026 *Jefferson Fire Station - Jefferson, OR*

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 5:36 p.m. by Board President Nuss.

FLAG SALUTE: Dave Jones led the Pledge of Allegiance.

ATTENDANCE: Director Robbins, Director Nuss, Director Jones, Director Paresa, Director Knutson, Fire Chief Eckhardt, and Staff Assistant Rebecca Mangrum. (Absent: Administrative Assistant Tammy Robbins, Training/Maintenance Officer Louis Gisler, City Liaison Walt Perry) Visitors: Paramedic Alexis Williams and Volunteer Association Vice President Daniel Fiedler.

REVISIONS TO AGENDA: None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – January 20, 2026 - Regular Board Meeting- Director Nuss advises one change that needs to be made on the minutes. In OLD BUSINESS section C, change \$61,000 to \$31,000.

MINUTES: Motion made to approve last meeting minutes with adjustments by Director Robbins, seconded by Director Knutson. All in favor. Motion passed.

FINANCIAL ASSETS as of January 31, 2026

▪ Check Register Balance	\$ 56,129.13
▪ Local Government Inv. Pool	\$ 1,970,321.17
▪ Petty Cash	\$150.00
▪ Total	\$2,026,600.30

Chief's Report:

Seismic grant- Last Tuesday we had contractors out for a walk-through. CMGC are receiving bids. They are hoping to get 3 bids for each trade. The association has purchased the storage containers, and they will arrive tomorrow. We will be putting insurance on the containers and contents. We will be working on a rental contract with the association.

We had a house burn on January 31, and it went well. We had 658 hours of training that went into the house.

Siletz Tribal Fund- We received a grant for \$3182.52 with a match of \$250.00, to purchase one Mcgrath video laryngoscope.

The back wall of the training room has been repaired. They found dry rot. They installed vinyl plank flooring, opposed to tiles due to the cost of bulk ordering. The contractors put in CDX plywood instead of wafer board per Director Robbins' suggestion. We will get it painted as weather permits. The cost came in a little bit higher than anticipated because they found more dry rot than expected.

CPI- Average CPI for 2025^{Jan} is 2.71%, which is used to calculate wage and step increase. They didn't have a calculation for November due to the government shutting down.

Civil Service- We had our first meeting on February 3rd, and it went well.

Hiring of FF/Paramedic- We received three applications. Two of the applicants appear to meet minimum qualifications. We will have an assessment center next week.

Chief Eckhardt will be at a meeting Thursday afternoon at OSFM regarding Senate bill 454 on trying to figure out how to get fire agencies more money. If there are any thoughts, let Chief know.

CITY LIAISON: No report due to absence.

VISITOR COMMENT: Volunteer Association Vice-President Daniel Fiedler advises that they purchased two connex boxes and a third box is getting donated. Daniel was able to find a source that would move them at no cost. They will be at station 64 and Louis will be overseeing the move. We will be able to use these boxes for fire training.

OLD BUSINESS:

Future planning- Chief Eckhardt advises that it was previously mentioned to dissolve the district and then make a new district. You must have two ballot measures. One measure would dissolve and the other measure would form a new fire district. By doing this they both must pass or they both must fail. Director Robbins advises that he always comments on this as an option because we have the lowest tax base in Marion County. Director Robbins asks the question whether we should dissolve the district and reinstate it to increase the tax base, or continue to go out for bonds and levies. Chief Eckhardt adds that we can also go for a levy and a bond for apparatus to get the rate, then go to the taxpayers for a permanent rate. The committee Chief Eckhardt is going to on Thursday and is supposed to have recommendations by the end of this next year and that could be a factor as well. Currently our base rate is \$1.1955 and the levy rate is \$0.81. Chief Eckhardt offers to look at numbers at \$2.50 or \$2.60 to see what they would look like. Director Nuss asked if there are numbers that they gave Chief Eckhardt in regard to forming a new district. Chief Eckhardt advises they did not give numbers. This is something to think about.

Staff Presentations- Chief Eckhardt advises that he spoke to staff and they are willing when on shift to do 5-10 minutes presentation on some of their tasks or what they do. Director Knutson advises that she doesn't feel there is a purpose unless it's something that Chief would like to present to the board to help them make an educated decision. Director Robbins doesn't think that it needs to be every month and if someone has something they would like to present, then he would like to see it. Director Paresa feels that he would like to know more and would like to see a presentation. Director Robbins advises that there is training every Thursday night. Director Jones advises that he doesn't think presentations should be mandatory, but if there is something that they want to show us, they are welcome. Discussion was made. No decision made.

Chiefs Wage and 2025 Goals- Director Nuss advises that based off the data spreadsheet handout, Sublimity Fire District and Aurora Fire District we are similar in size. Director Nuss summarizes similarities between Jefferson Fire and Aurora Fire District including their Chief wages. Chief's current contract is up to 3% CPI, and a merit may be given up to 5%. Director Nuss recommends a one-time 12%, then go back to the contract. You must offer a salary that will keep your personnel. Even with one-time 12%, Chief Eckhardt's salary will still be lower than Aurora and Sublimity. Director Robbins has concerns that when we keep adding 8% each year, it may push us away from some of our goals. Director Knutson wants awareness to keep the community on our side and Chief's pay may be a flag to anyone that may be in opposition to a potential future Levy or Bond. Director Jones makes the recommendation Chief Eckhardt receives 5% and cost of living. Discussion made.

Director Jones makes motion for Chief to get a step increase of 5% in addition to the cost of living of 2.71% in this year's contract. Director Paresa seconds the motion. Discussion made.

Director Robbins & Director Knutson Abstain, Director Paresa No, Director Nuss Yes, Director Jones Yes
Motion did not pass.

More discussion made. Director Paresa recommends increasing it to 12%. Director Knutson would like to do her own research.

Director Robbins makes motion to table "Chiefs Wage" until next month. Director Knutson seconds the motion. 1-No Director Jones, 4 Yes Motion passed.

NEW BUSINESS:

Resolutions 2026-002- Unanticipated Revenue to the General Fund- Levy- take the \$28000 which is the 10% that we got from the county from the Hazardous Mitigation (generator) and the \$42,000 from conflagration and put in the equipment reserve fund. Director Paresa read the resolution out loud.

Director Jones makes motion to adopt resolution 26-002, Director Kristin seconded. No further discussion. All in favor. Motion passed.

Elect Budget Officer-

Director Jones makes motion to appoint Chief Eckhardt as the Budget Officer. Director Knutson seconded. All in favor- Motion passed.

Marion County Planner- Director Paresa & President Nuss- during the work session, they were asked to talk to Marion County planning. If EFU, what is the process to get conditional use from the county to see?

Director Robbins makes motions to have Director Paresa and Director Nuss move forward with speaking to the County for more information. Director Jones seconded. All in favor-motion passed

ALARMS: (sent out with the Board Reports) No comments. Chief Eckhardt adds that alarms are down for the year. We were down about 20 calls. Last year we were down for calls in 2025.

GOOD OF THE ORDER/DIRECTOR'S COMMENTS – No comments

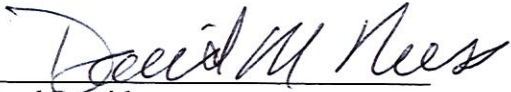
ACCOUNTS PAYABLE: TOTAL ACCOUNTS PAYABLE & PAYROLL- The Accounts Payable and Projected Payroll for the month of January 31, 2026 is \$270,308.94 General Fund Payable-\$133,575.05, Payroll-\$136,733.89 Grant Fund Payable-\$0, Payroll-\$0, Equipment Reserve Fund-\$0

The Board reviewed the accounts payable. Motion by Director Jones seconded by Director Robbins to pay the bills. All in favor. Motion carried.

AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT BOARD MEETING:

- Chief's Salary
- Goals
- President Nuss- updated information on WRK
- Swearing in (2) next month
- Director Paresa mentions Seismic grant update

With no further business to be brought before the Board of Directors, it was moved by Director Robbins, seconded by Director Paresa to adjourn the meeting. All in favor. Motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 6:54 p.m.



Board President



Administrative Assistant

3/17/20 Date