

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

Date: *Jefferson Fire Station - Jefferson, OR*

August 18, 2026

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m. by Board President Paresa.

FLAG SALUTE: Board President Paresa led the Pledge of Allegiance.

ATTENDANCE: Director Robbins, Director Nuss, Director Jones, President Paresa, Director Knutson, Fire Chief Eckhardt, and Administrative Assistant Tammy Robbins, Logistics Supervisor Stephanie McClung, City Liaison Walt Perry (Absent: None) Visitors: Michael Couch, Toni Halvardson, Misty Kastle

REVISIONS TO AGENDA: None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – July 21, 2026 - Regular Board Meeting

MINUTES: Motion made to approve last meeting minutes by Director Jones, seconded by Director Knutson, to approve the minutes as listed above. 4-0 All in favor. Motion passed.

FINANCIAL ASSETS as of July 31, 2026

▪ Check Register Balance	\$ 57,393.82
▪ Local Government Inv. Pool	\$1,326,941.30
▪ Petty Cash	\$ 150.00
▪ Total	\$1,387,496.23

Chief's Report: Chief reported we are getting close to finishing the seismic upgrade. They are working on painting the outside of the building. The inside painting is complete. There are still a few things like the doors are getting replaced and then the base needs to be done after doors. We ordered a new stove that should be here in the middle of September. After the meeting we can take a walk next door and show you. Next Thursday, Chief, the architect, construction company, and engineering firm will do a walk through and make a list for anything else that may need to be complete. Director Nuss asked if the trailers had been removed. Chief reported that yes, they have. The job trailer and fencing will be coming down this week along with the cleanup in the yard, gravel etc.

We are still in hiring process, no applications were received this last go around. Another firefighter/paramedic gave there notice and is leaving. We will have two open positions. We have some EMTs going into medic school. We are looking into offering temporary positions to those who are going to paramedic school. Board President Paresa asked if we help with paramedic school. Chief stated that we don't since the cost is approximately \$15,000, unless we get a grant. We would not have two paramedics on each shift because of this. At the end of November another firefighter/paramedic is going on medical leave for a couple months. The Molalla fire district has a position open as well and they extended there process because they only had one application. We sent out flyers to nearby paramedic schools, posted on Indeed and Facebook.

We have participated in six conflagrations since July 15. Chief had a meeting with OSFM, and they stated they have demobilized a lot of resources. Our Grasshopper fire crew is returning in a few days. Crews that return, rest and then go back out.

We have been awarded the following grants from Firehouse Subs, Siletz, (list of everything we requested; set of tires from Les Schwab), and the Oregon Community of Foundation Board for \$13,000 for thermal imaging cameras.

We think the 2004 medic alternator problem is fixed. The 2020 medic air conditioning condenser was fixed than we had to fix the other one under the hood. The rear brakes on the tender were replaced, and we had a new wrap put on the dodge ram with a QR code on the back to volunteer.

During National Night out we participated with Jefferson and Harvey Lane. Millersburg cancelled. We were out in public.

Director Robbins asked if we have investigated where we could offer to pay for the schooling for a paramedic and in trade they would work for us for a certain amount of time. Director Knutson law enforcement had issues with a contract like this. Chief stated that since we are a non-contractual state this probably wouldn't stick. We could talk to our attorneys. They have programs like this for students attending a trade school to become a mechanic. Caterpillar has a program like this where they offer tools, etc. Chief stated \$15,000 would be hard to pay. We applied for a Safer grant that we received and previously paid for six of our EMT's that became paramedics. Due to recruitment and retention, trying to keep them for a certain time after, were not sure if we could require them to stay. The one person we offered the firefighter/paramedic position to, was in the process of going to school to become a paramedic, and we offered that we wouldn't dock her if she had clinicals if she accepted the position. We are discussing with current volunteers interested in going to medic school, help pay tuition and give them temporary job that would work into full-time upon completion. There are a few agencies that do something similar. We liked the Safer grant since they paid up front. We haven't heard if we will get the Safer grant yet.

CITY LIAISON: Walt Perry stated they had one issue in their work session. Jefferson city operates with small staff and it keeps us on our toes. Easy target for prostration. We are going through issues regarding retention bonuses. We are still on top of the game. Jeff is getting ready to retire, big shoes to fill and they are working on training. Elections are coming up and Walt will run for the Mayor position. Half of the council is up for reelection.

VISITOR COMMENT: None

OLD BUSINESS:

- a. Future Planning – Board President Paresa stated planning for the future is important to him. We need to come to a decision regarding going for a bond and/or levy, etc. It sounds like Crossroads would like to help. He would like everyone to start thinking about our direction and we will have a more detailed discussion at the next meeting. Board President Paresa commented that the Chief had given us a presentation few months ago and it would be good to refresh your memory with that document. If you don't have the hard copy, we can get you another one. One thing to consider is a schedule for when we start to present to the public, etc. Director Robbins clarified we are still in the beginning stages. Chief stated next fiscal year we would try for another levy; same rate most likely. We would need to bring the information to the board after the first of this year to put on the ballot for May 2027. This would allow three chances to be on the ballot if it doesn't pass the first time. If it passed it would be seven years for those who are hired. It was commented that Jefferson Parks and Recreation might have something on the ballot in May. Chief would like to move forward by putting together a fact sheet that we can start getting out to the public. We will work on it and present the fact sheet and answer questions. Director Robbins clarified if this is just the facts and we don't state how they should vote. Chief stated yes, facts only. Before last levy we had something similar that we went door to door and

handed out. Director Knutson asked if the fact sheet would also show what the community would lose if the levy doesn't pass? It could also show what we have completed with the current levy. The Board likes this idea.

Chief commented that we are working on grants for Fire trucks, a station and possibly property. Some of the properties we are looking at are Posch's property, N 2nd. Is the board in favor of us looking into the potential of Posch or N 2nd street? There is a potential with Posch property where Bates street would go. Crossroads would investigate paying for property, and then blending homes/apartments to sell. Crossroads would split the property with us and build on the other half. Lisa's property and Posch are coded multi-family, Cory's is multi use. Board President Paresa brought up possibly staying here as well. Everyone needs to think about this and be ready to discuss it at our next meeting. Director Knutson made a motion to move forward with getting more numbers for the property and then comparing seconded by Director Robbins, All in Favor. Motion Passed 5-0). Director Robbins made a motion to table to next meeting, seconded by Director Jones, All in Favor. Motion passed 5-0. Director Nuss stated that we need to focus on the levy first and see if Michael can find money for the land.

NEW BUSINESS:

- a. Crossroads - Michael Couch explained what Crossroads is, and how they work with other non-profits, school districts, municipalities, fire, and police. Crossroads is a service provider that is state funded, non-profit funded and some paid programs that help. Chief explained that Michael is here to answer questions along with helping our district with applying and receiving grants. The grant we received from the Oregon community foundation and Les Schwab both came from Crossroads. Roads Ends out of Sisters, is evaluating our needs for power gurney's etc. Michael and Chief have talked about the needs including fire trucks, land, and a new station. Michael explained a process called Braiding where you start with a couple of small things like two staff vehicles. He would find a grant for \$200,000 to cover the cost of replacing the vehicles; we would have to pay 10% = \$20,000. Then he finds another grant to replace the Rescue for \$400,000 since we already spent \$200,000, we don't have to pay 10%. We are looking at that option versus a 3 million dollar grant to replace fleet and then paying 10% of that. It would be considerably more. He is also looking for money for land. Chief Zeilman has spent money on plans for a fire station. Director Nuss commented that our future funders want to know that we are working on this. Crossroads is a non-profit organization if anyone wants to donate money for the project, they can take care of this for us. They do charge a fee to set this up. They will notify us immediately if they receive a donation in the district's behalf so we can send out a thank you. They would also generate a quarterly report. All donations are tax write offs. They will work with us on that. We can let the volunteer association know that they could do the same thing since they are non-profit if they want to. We are working on a MOU, so we know what our expectations are for each other. Director Nuss clarified that Crossroads is taking us on and will see us through for these projects. Michael confirmed that they are, and everything they are currently doing now is of no cost to us. Michael stated there is a Federal program that will help pay off student loans and he will send the information to the Chief.
- b. Resolution 2026-004 Transfer of Funds – We have received grant funds in the amount of \$25,400.18 from Firehouse Subs Public Safety Foundation, Inc. for the purchase of 22 Kenwood Portable Radios & Accessories, \$6,431.16 from the Siletz Tribal Charitable Contribution Fund (STCCF) to purchase a McGrath video laryngoscope device (\$2,684.16) and three – xlm-100 Electric Vehicle Immobilizers (\$3,747), and \$13,700 from 2026 Oregon Disaster Relief to purchase thermal cameras. Board President Paresa read resolution 2026-004, Director Jones made a motion to adopt resolution 2026-004, seconded by Director Robbins. No further discussion. All in Favor. 5-0 Motion passed.

ALARMS: (sent out with the Board Reports) - We are down about 39 calls for the year however our transports are up. We have also been receiving several calls at the same time.

GOOD OF THE ORDER/DIRECTOR'S COMMENTS – Director Nuss is happy with how the seismic rehabilitation has gone.

ACCOUNTS PAYABLE: TOTAL ACCOUNTS PAYABLE & PAYROLL- The Accounts Payable and Projected Payroll for the month of July 31, 2026, is \$620,249.84; General Fund Payable-\$405,572.80, Payroll-\$214,677.04, Equipment Reserve Fund-\$0

The Board reviewed the accounts payable. Motion by Director Jones was seconded by Director Nuss to pay the bills. All in favor. Motion carried. 5-0

AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT BOARD MEETING: Property discussion.

With no further business to be brought before the Board of Directors, it was moved by Director Nuss seconded by Director Robbins, to adjourn the meeting. All in favor. Motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 6:38 p.m.



Board President
9/15/26 Date



Administrative Assistant