

REDMOND FIRE & RESCUE
BOARD MEETING MINUTES
August 19, 2026

BOARD PRESENT: President Jessica Meyer, Vice President John Blanton, Secretary/Treasurer Earl Fisher, Member Gary Ollerenshaw, and Member Dick Knorr

STAFF PRESENT: Fire Chief Ryan Herrera, Deputy Chief Dustin Miller, Human Resources Manager Diane Cox, Fire Marshal Tom Mooney, Chief of Training Tim Craig, Administrative Assistant Katie Annen, HR/Payroll Specialist Jessica Jackson appeared electronically

STAFF ABSENT: None

PUBLIC PRESENT: Michael Miller appeared electronically

CALL TO ORDER: President Meyer called the meeting to order at 9:30 am.

ROLL CALL: All present

AGENDA CHANGES: None

PACKET DOCUMENTS FOR INFORMATION:

Member Blanton expressed concern that the current Financial Dashboard lacked sufficient information and noted that he had not received one since May. He stated that he finds the dashboard helpful for monitoring spending.

Chief Herrera explained that the July financial report will generally have less information because the new fiscal year budget has not yet been fully entered into Caselle, preventing a complete report from being provided.

Member Blanton also asked about several large expenditures reflected in the report, including the \$580K Workers' Compensation payment. Chief Herrera clarified that the amount represented the new premium for the current fiscal year. He also noted that the LifePak expenditure was a one-time payment.

Chief Herrera further explained that additional rollover amounts in regard to command vehicles will be addressed through a supplemental budget. Delays have resulted in only one vehicle being paid for to date.

CONSENT AGENDA:

1. Meeting Minutes – July 15, 2026

Board Member Blanton made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. The motion was seconded by Board Member Fisher and approved unanimously with a vote of 5-0.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: None

PUBLIC PRESENTATION: None

REPORTS: None

ACTION ITEMS: None

FIRE CHIEF COMMENTS:

1. Personnel

Long-term leave is up from last month, at 8.2%.

2. Recognitions

Chief Herrera recognized four (4) of the new firefighter/paramedics. Firefighters Sam Pyke and Wyatt Cunningham completed Phase 3 testing and received their standing orders. Firefighters Gavin Larson and Jesy Lopez have completed their testing today and are currently waiting for scoring.

Chief Herrera also recognized firefighters from our district and from neighboring jurisdictions for their response to two fires with significant potential for spread. He credited their quick actions and hard work with preventing the loss of homes. An invoice for reckless burning was issued to the homeowner responsible for starting the Oak Fire.

Recognition went out to Chief Miller and all the Battalion Chiefs, especially Chief Terry, for their work in the acquisition of new command vehicles. One vehicle is currently in the truck bay, another is at the vendor's paint booth, and the third has not arrived yet due to delays.

3. Deschutes County Admin

Chief Herrera informed the Board that the district is tracking all incidents in the E. Antler area, including crew response times and instances when crews are unavailable to respond to other incidents within the district or mutual aid areas. Two such instances have occurred recently, involving a trauma call and a medical call. The district is documenting these incidents and sharing information on social media. Chief Herrera has notified the county, so they are not surprised by seeing the public comments, which are getting significant negative feedback.

4. Blood Drive

The blood drive on July 22 for Michael Kienzle reached 132% of our goal. The next one is scheduled for September 22 from 8:00 am-1:00 pm.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Tech/computers

Chief Herrera explained that the Board's current iPads are outdated and no longer support the functions needed. He presented the options of tablets or laptops and invited the Board to discuss their preferences.

The Board generally expressed a preference for iPads. Member Knorr suggested considering Android tablets, while Member Meyer suggested allowing each Director to select their preferred

device. Member Fisher expressed concern about justifying the expense given the limited use of the devices.

Chief Herrera stated that replacement of tablets would be a minimal expense and that he would look into providing updated devices for the Board.

2. Canyon Fire – Fuel Reduction

Member Knorr led a discussion regarding canyon fires and the need for fuels reduction. He noted that Chief Herrera had previously contacted the city regarding fuels reduction efforts and had been told that progress was being made but had not observed significant activity.

Chief Herrera reported that considerable thinning work has been completed but noted that the city has received concerns from citizens who want to preserve wildlife habitat. He stated that fuels reduction efforts in the canyon will be ongoing and that recommendations from the County Forester and Oregon department of Forestry (ODF) would be helpful.

Member Knorr suggested establishing a subcommittee to meet with City Council to discuss the issue. Member Blanton expressed concern that excessive clearing could increase erosion.

Chief Herrera noted that mastication had been discussed as a potential fuels reduction method but was not supported by the City Council.

Member Knorr moved to form a subcommittee. Following further discussion, he withdrew his motion.

3. District Subdivisions – Fuel Reduction

Member Knorr also led a discussion regarding reducing fuels in subdivisions throughout the district. He expressed interest in meeting with the County Forester to better understand current efforts and plans to improve wildfire safety.

Chief Mooney outlined current prevention efforts, including the future adoption of R327, which would establish additional requirements for new construction, and the development of a district Wildland-Urban Interface (WUI) fire code currently under review by the State Fire Marshal's Office. He also reported that the district has applied for an Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) to establish a woodchipper program.

The Board discussed whether there was assistance from homeowners' insurance companies to reduce fuels on properties and the financial burden on homeowners associated with tree and vegetation removal. Member Fisher suggested working with the city to develop a comprehensive fuels reduction plan for the district rather than addressing individual subdivisions separately.

Board Member Knorr made a motion to establish a subcommittee to address fuel reduction within the fire district. The motion was seconded by Board Member Fisher and approved unanimously by roll-call vote.

President Meyer appointed Members Knorr and Fisher to serve on the subcommittee.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Ambulance Billing Adjustment Report

HR Manager Cox presented the Board with a brief overview of ambulance write-offs and adjustments. Member Fisher thanked her for the report and noted that the information was helpful.

Member Blanton asked whether the report included the costs incurred when a unit responds but the patient declines transport. HR Manager Cox clarified that the report only reflects costs associated with patient transport. He also asked whether crews provide services such as bandaging without transporting the patient.

Chief Miller explained that crews provide a significant amount of community assistance and that certain services, such as resuscitation, may be billed when no transport is conducted, while other assistance, such as smoke detector installation and basic first aid without transport, is not billable.

Chief Herrera noted a common misconception regarding the services funded by property taxes. He clarified that taxes fund fire protection, while EMS services are not tax-funded despite representing a significant portion of the district's overall service activity.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS:

Member Ollerenshaw inquired about ambulance rates. HR Manager Cox stated that she discussed the matter with CFO Jodi Burch and she will review the rates once the budget and audit processes are complete. Member Ollerenshaw also suggested billing individuals who reside outside the district's tax boundaries that require services. Chief Herrera stated he is working with legal counsel to determine the district's authority and options regarding this matter.

Member Fisher publicly thanked the Redmond City Council for its decision to ban fireworks on the Fourth of July. He also expressed support for the district's blood drive efforts and encouraged continued promotion through social media and local news outlets to increase public awareness of their importance. He referenced the GIS staffing report and agreed the district is significantly understaffed.

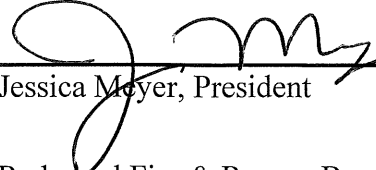
Member Blanton expressed appreciation for fire crews throughout the state, particularly district personnel, and offered hopes for an early start to the rain and snow season. He commended the crews for their work and recognized the many notes of appreciation the district has received from the public.

Member Knorr expressed agreement with the comments made by other Board members.

BOARD PRESIDENT COMMENTS: None

ADJOURN: Being no further business, Board Member Fisher moved to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Board Member Ollerenshaw and was approved unanimously with a vote of 5-0. The meeting was adjourned at 10:27 am.

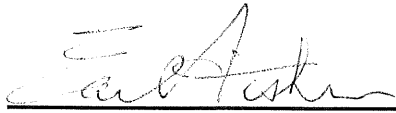
Approved:



Jessica Moyer, President

September 16, 2026

Date

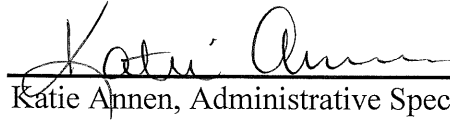


Earl Fisher, Secretary/Treasurer

September 16, 2026

Date

Attest:



Katie Annen, Administrative Specialist

September 16, 2026

Date