

Mid Rogue Fire District Board Meeting: June 8, 2026

5:30 p.m. – In Person– Merlin Community Park - 100 Acorn Street, Merlin Oregon

Live Streamed at www.youtube.com/@MidRogueFD

Rural Fire Protection District Attendance:

Directors Present: Vincent Ownbey, Mark Jones, Randy Benetti Sr.

Members Absent: Tom McGowan, and Director Weidling

Recorder: Kassie Austin

Guest Presenters: None

1. Call to Order

- a. The meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m.
- b. The Board recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. Approval of Agenda

Director Jones, brought forward the change of the title of item 7.d. to “Employee Vehicle Usage Agreement” as well as item 7.b in the matter of adopting board policy “amendment number 3 to board policy of 2025-001”. *Director Benetti made a motion to approve the agenda as amended – the motion was seconded by director Ownbey. Upon roll call; Director McGowan – excused, Director Benetti – yes, Director Weidling – excused, Director Ownbey – yes, and Director Jones – yes. Motion carried 3-0.*

3. Approval of Meeting Minutes – May 27, 2026

The board reviewed the meeting minutes from the May 27, 2026. *Director Benetti made a motion to approve the draft minutes. The motion was seconded by Director Ownbey. Upon roll call Director McGowan – excused, Director Benetti – yes, and Director Weidling – excused, Director Ownbey - yes, and Director Jones - yes. Motion carried 3-0.*

4. Secretary/Treasurer Report

Director Jones explained that Director Weidling has requested to take a six week leave next from the Mid Rogue Fire District. Director Jones reviewed balances of the checking, savings, and the LGIP account. Because payroll services have not yet been fully implemented, the Board discussed issuing manual payroll draw checks to the Executive Director and Administrative Assistant. Director Jones explained that each draw represented approximately 70 percent of gross wages, with 30 percent withheld until payroll taxes and deductions could be properly calculated by the future payroll provider. The payroll company had recommended this temporary approach to ensure employees were compensated while maintaining sufficient funds to satisfy future tax obligations. *Director Benetti made a motion to cut a manual check for the district employees for draw check's for May's payroll. The motion is seconded by Director Ownbey. Upon roll call, Director McGowan – excused, Director Benetti – yes, Director Weidling – excused Director Ownbey – yes, Director Jones – yes. Motion carried 3-0.* The Board also discussed district purchasing cards. After researching available providers, Director Jones recommended utilizing Ramp, citing the absence of membership costs, the ability to issue multiple purchasing cards, and administrative features appropriate for the Districts needs. Board members discussed the recommendation, referenced previous conversations regarding the program, and approved moving forward with establishing a Ramp account. *Director Benetti made a motion to move forward with the RAMP program and opening the account on behalf of the district. The motion was seconded by Director Ownbey. Upon roll call, Director McGowan – excused, Director Benetti – yes, Director Weidling – excused, Director Ownbey – yes, and Director Jones – yes. Motion carried 3-0.*

5. Executive Director Report

a. Strategic Plan

Executive Director, Phil Turnbull, gave a reminder to the board, that his next update on this matter will be on July 13, 2026. Mr. Turnbull recommended that the board watch Senate Bill 0454. Director Jones and Mr. Turnbull, had a meeting with the Oregon State Fire Marshal's Office pertaining to the FDID. The

district is required by ORS to outsource fire marshal duties to government entities. Director Jones and Mr. Turnbull have a meeting with the district's legal counsel this Friday to review the agreement between the district and Rural Metro, and to determine if an amendment to the agreement would suffice the Oregon Statute requirement for the FDID.

b) District Office Remodel Update

Mr. Turnbull stated that he has received two bids for the office remodel. The bids came in higher than he expected. Director Ownbey explained that he trusts Mr. Turnbull to review the bids and determine what is best for the district. Director Benetti explained that it was respectful for Mr. Turnbull to send the bids to the board, however it is within Mr. Turnbull's spending limit. The board agreed without objection to authorize Mr. Turnbull to make the decision on which company to use. Both companies would have the remodel completed by the end of June 2026.

c) Public Relations Firm Update

Mr. Turnbull explained that the Friends of Mid Rogue Fire District has been formed. The EIN and the non-profit is registered with the state of Oregon. The next step is creating a group of individuals for the non-profit, and they can review the proposed by-laws. Mr. Turnbull discussed with the board that he met with a public relations firm, and highly recommended the group to come give a presentation to the board on July 13, 2026. He is confident that the public relations group could help with the messaging that the Mid Rogue Fire District is looking for. Director Jones recommended that a price point be placed in the upcoming presentation. Director Benetti would like to see any history with local fire districts in the presentation.

6. Public Comment

None heard.

7. Old Business

A. Payroll and Account Update

Director Benetti made a motion to terminate the company that was previously approved, and move payroll to the company that is owned by Tami Krauss. The motion was seconded by Director Ownbey. During discussion, Director Jones had offered that he would give his SSN, as he has already gone through the "ID me" process. Ms. Krauss has explained that the district would be fine to continue with doing draw checks as long as the board takes a 30% deductions out of the draw check. Upon roll call, Director McGowan – excused, Director Benetti – yes, Director Weidling – yes, Director Ownbey – yes, Director Jones – yes. Motion carried 3-0.

B. Resolution 2026-009; In the Matter of Adopting the Board Policy Amendment No. 003 to the Mid Rogue Fire District Board Duties and Responsibilities Policy Amendment No. 003 – Rescinds and replaces resolution No. 2026-005

Director Jones read the resolution verbatim. Director Benetti made a motion to approve the resolution as presented. Director Ownbey seconded the motion. Upon roll call, Director McGowan – excused, Director Benetti – yes, Director Weidling – excused, Director Ownbey – yes, Director Jones – yes. Motion carried 3-0.

C. Mid Rogue Fire District Purchasing Cards Update

This matter was handled under agenda item 4.

D. Resolution 2026-010; In the Matter of Adopting the Mid Rogue Fire District Vehicle Usage Agreement

Director Jones read the resolution verbatim. Director Benetti made a motion to approve Resolution 2026-010. The motion was seconded by Director Ownbey. Upon roll call; Director McGowan – excused, Director Benetti – yes, Director Weidling – excused, Director Ownbey – yes, and Director Jones – yes. Motion carried 3-0.

8. New Business

A. Committee Reports:

Staffing: Nothing to report.

Communication: Nothing to report.

Policy and Procedure: Nothing to report.

Training: Nothing to report.

Vehicle Acquisition: Nothing to report.

9. Correspondence

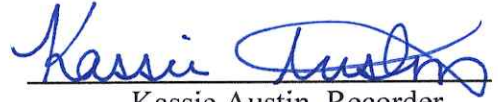
None heard.

10. Additional Matters

None heard.

11. Adjournment

The board adjourned the meeting at 6:27 p.m. without objection.


Kassie Austin, Recorder