

Mid Rogue Fire District Board Meeting: July 13, 2026

5:30 p.m.

Live Streamed at www.youtube.com/@MidRogueFD

Rural Fire Protection District Attendance:

Directors Present: Tom McGowan, Randy Benetti Sr., Ralph Weidling, Vincent Ownbey, Mark Jones

Members Absent:

Recorder: Kassie Austin

1. Call to Order

- a. The meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m.
- b. The board recited the Pledge of Allegiance
- c. Nominations for the Mid Rogue Fire District Board Positions

Director McGowan nominated Director Jones to continue to serve as president. Director Weidling seconded the nomination. Nominations were closed for president. Upon Roll Call – Director McGowan – yes, Director Benetti – yes, Director Weidling – yes, Director Ownbey – yes, and Director Jones – yes. Nomination carries 5-0.

Director McGowan nominated Director Ownbey to continue to serve as vice-president. Director Weidling seconded the nomination. Nominations were closed for vice -president. Upon Roll Call – Director McGowan – yes, Director Benetti – yes, Director Weidling – yes, Director Ownbey – yes, and Director Jones – yes. Nomination carries 5-0.

Director McGowan nominated Director Weidling to continue to serve as the Secretary/Treasurer. Director Benetti seconded the nomination. Nominations were closed for Secretary/Treasurer. Upon Roll Call, Director McGowan – yes, Director Benetti – yes, Director Weidling – yes, Director Ownbey – yes, Director Jones – yes. Nomination carries 5-0.

2. Approval of Agenda

The board reviewed today's agenda items. *Director McGowan made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. The motion was seconded by Director Ownbey. Upon roll call, Director McGowan – yes, Director Benetti - yes, Director Jones – yes, Director Ownbey – yes, Director Jones - yes. Motion carried 5-0.*

3. Approval of Minutes – June 14, 2026

Director Benetti made a motion to approve the minutes as written on June 14, 2026. The motion was seconded by Director McGowan. Upon roll call, Director McGowan – yes, Director Benetti - yes, Director Jones – yes, Director Ownbey – yes, Director Jones - yes. Motion carried 5-0.

4. Secretary/Treasurers Report

Director Weidling gave a report that the LGIP account balance is \$1,264,383.65. The interest is accruing over \$4,000.00 since the transfer of the funds. The balance of the accounts is \$1,506,060.97 which is above what the original grant for the district was.

5. Executive Director Report:

a. Bulletproof Construction Invoice in the Amount of \$5,450.00

Phil Turnbull, Executive Director, explained that the majority of the office remodel is completed. There are two call back items for the contractor, and they are scheduled to come back out by the end of the week to complete the project.

Mr. Turnbull reviewed his Gantt Chart and what his priorities are, and what he has been working on. Mr. Turnbull reviewed the progress on the FDID, and he is hopeful to make more progress on the FDID by the

next board meeting. Mr. Turnbull also gave an update on the Standards of Coverage, as well as future meetings that he has scheduled to work with the county's emergency management team. The floor was opened for volunteers to serve on a Standards of Coverage Committee, to work with Mr. Turnbull. The board appointed Director McGowan and Director Benetti were appointed to the Standards of Coverage Committee without objection.

b. Monthly Vehicle Milage Update

Mr. Turnbull explained that moving forward he will include the vehicle milage update on his report, so that the board can keep track of vehicle maintenance requirements.

6. United Strategies and Consulting Presentation

Greg Lemhouse and his associates gave an in-depth presentation to the board on their strategy regarding how the board can move forward with the campaign for the district in achieving a tax base. Discussion was held on campaign strategies, education, development of the district messaging, building of public trust, coordinating of legislation, and the assisting of the strategic planning. The estimated cost for this firm to be brought on with the district is \$5,000.00 a month with the projection of the tax base to be on the November 2027 ballot.

7. Public Comment

None heard.

8. Old Business

a. Bank Account Update

Director Jones explained that the two new bank accounts have been opened, one for the payroll account and one for the RAMP p-card program, as the board has previously discussed and approved.

b. Payroll and Accounting Update

Director Jones explained that the accountant for the district needs to have online viewing access to the payroll account so that the payroll account can be reconciled. *Director Ownbey made a motion for the accountant to have online viewing access to the payroll account. The motion was seconded by Director McGowan. Upon roll call, Director McGowan – yes, Director Benetti – yes, Director Weidling – yes, Director Ownbey – yes, and Director Jones – yes. Motion carried 5-0.*

c. P-Card Update

The Ramp P-card program has asked for a letter of authority from the board. The underwriters need proof of the board giving Director Jones the authority to open the account. *Director Ownbey read the letter verbatim. Director Ownbey made a motion to approve the letter of authority. The motion was seconded by Director Benetti. Upon roll call, Director McGowan – yes, Director Benetti – yes, Director Weidling – yes, Director Ownbey – yes, Director Jones – yes. Motion carried 5-0.*

9. New Business

a. Committee Reports

Staffing: Director McGowan explained that the Mid Rogue Fire District is now a registered PERS employer.

Training: Nothing to Report

Communications: There was a meeting held with the President of Rural Metro Fire. The meeting went well, and the President confirmed his support of the district.

Policy: The sub-committee stated that there is going to be several financial policies that need to be implemented by the board, that are needed from the accounting firm. Director Jones briefed the board on the financial reporting policy 2026-003. The board discussed renaming the policies so that they are easier to track.

Prevention: Nothing to Report

Vehicle Acquisition: Nothing to Report.

b. Financial Reporting Policy 2026-003

Director Ownbey made a motion to adopt the Financial Reporting under the title as FIN-002 and the amendment of referencing FIN 003 under records retention. The motion was seconded by Director Benetti. Upon roll call, Director McGowan – yes, Director Benetti – yes, Director Weidling – yes, Director Ownbey – yes, and Director Jones – yes. Motion carried 5-0.

c. Mike Hammond, courtesy notification regarding annexation of unprotected Josephine County Properties into Jackson County Fire District 1

Executive Director Turnbull explained that there is a portion of land on Savage Creek that has sent in a petition to be annexed within the Jackson County Fire District 1. The properties do not fall within the Mid Rogue Fire District. This matter was out of respect and courtesy to communicate with local districts to be within the loop. The board approved the request by Jackson County Fire District 1 to annex the 10 requested properties. The board authorized Executive Director Turnbull to send an approval letter of the 10 properties on behalf of the district.

10. Correspondence

None heard.

11. Executive Session

a. To Consider employment related performance and compensation of a public employee – ORS 192.660(2)(a)

President Mark Jones called for executive session at 7:09 p.m.

Executive session adjourned at 7:39 p.m.

Director Jones stated that the board has conducted an employee evaluation for the district's administrative assistant and has determined that the administrative assistant has exceed the board's expectations.

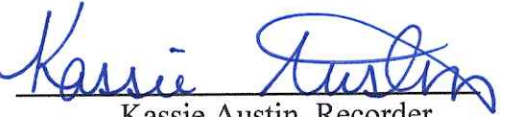
Director Weidling made a motion to increase the Administrative Assistant's wages from \$25.00 an hour to \$32.50 an hour. The motion was seconded by Director McGowan. Upon roll call, Director McGowan – yes, Director Benetti – yes, Director Weidling – yes, Director Ownbey – yes, and Director Jones – yes. Motion carried 5-0.

12. Additional Matters from the Board

The board discussed that there will be two more presentations from public relation firms before a decision will be made. Furthermore, the it was determined that the 27th will be the next district meeting.

13. Adjournment

The board adjourned the meeting at 7:43 p.m. without objection.


Kassie Austin, Recorder