

# Mosier Fire District

## Board Meeting Minutes

### Thursday, April 10, 2025

#### Attendance:

**Board Members:** Carol Goter, Kris McNall, Rob Miller, Todd Reeves, Joanne Rubin

**Staff:** Chief Michael Carlson

**Public:** Joe and Linda Sacamano, Megan Pingree, Mike Langdon

#### Call to order at 1802

**Agenda additions or corrections:** Add increasing credit card limit to Financial; move Chief's Report earlier in the meeting.

**Comments from the public:** None

**Consent agenda -** McNall: Change minutes for 3/13/25 to clarify MCFR would only send an engine to Mosier for more serious types of medical calls. Clarify in 3/13/25 minutes that the quarter of the budget going to apparatus capital pertains specifically to this year's budget. Regarding minutes, it was decided that for the additional Zoom only meeting on the 4th Wednesday of the month only motions need to be captured. **Motion** to approve consent agenda by McNall; seconded by Rubin; unanimously approved.

#### Business:

**1. Volunteer Report -** Mike Langdon was asked to speak on his own behalf on his volunteer experience. He was asked about his MFD training, but he is unable to attend most of those due to his going to the fire academy. He attended the last two which were an apparatus check and a medical training. He found the medical training very helpful.

#### 2. Board

**a. Board Representative to May drill:** Goter reported on attending drill on March 31. Rubin will go in May.

**b. MCFR partnership:** MCFR is assembling a proposal to give to MFD, we expect something later this week.

#### 3. Financials

**a1. Increase credit card limit:** **Motion** made by McNall to increase limit to \$5,000, seconded by Reeves, unanimously approved.

**a. Budget season schedule:** McNall: Need to put a budget together even though we don't yet know if we're going to partner with MCFR or hire a new chief. Suggested delaying our budget meeting until May 12 or 13 at which point we will have seen MCFR's proposal. A poll will be sent.

**b. Move money from LGIP to First Interstate:** **Motion** made by McNall to move \$50K from LGIP to First Interstate, seconded by Rubin, unanimously approved.

**c. Employing Seasonal firefighters and/or other potential part time employees:** Continuation of discussion started by Chief Carlson to pay a seasonal firefighter to staff the office four days a week. McNall recommended moving \$7K from Fire Chief line item to the Seasonal Wildland Firefighters line

item. Reeves and Rubin did not want to vote on it at this meeting, Miller did not want only three board members to vote on a budget item. Delayed until the next meeting.

**d. Oregon Report in lieu of Audit:** McNall reported that the state sent a letter stating that MFD did not file an audit. In fact, MFD did not have to file an audit, but needed to complete a form. McNall requested authorization to complete the form -- received. She will be the contact person for the next two months.

**4. JUF Update:** HB 37 is out of committee and has been moved to Ways and Means.

**5. Chief's report:** There was no chief's report in the packet so Chief Carlson gave it at the meeting: 3 calls for March 2025 (MVC, medical, unstaffed call) compared to 5 calls in March 2024. No change to the equipment maintenance report. MCFR is doing their annual training of "Irons in the Fire". There is S290 training (intermediate fire behavior/advanced wildland fire class). At the end of the month will be a wildland urban interface course. Additional wildland training is coming up and "Engine Boss" training (May/June). Chief was asked about freeway training, which is online training (Traffic Management/Incidents Safety) that all volunteers must do.

Chief Carlson requested a resolution to pay one of the Seasonal Wildland firefighters to staff the office for the four weekdays he isn't in Mosier starting on May 1. Funds are available for this because of our not paying the Chief his full salary. When the grant period starts, that individual would be paid by grant money. This person could do some of the things a Chief would normally do, e.g., pay bills, issue burn permits, do defensible space assessments. Further, they would staff the station and be available to respond to calls. They would not be able to hire and fire people. Discussion ensued. Decision to be made.

**a. Payment for District Wildland Strategic Plan:** Chief Carlson had to leave the meeting before discussion of payment for the strategic plan created by Steven Banks was discussed. Deferred to next regular meeting.

**6. Correspondence:** Reeves received messages from several people from the Paradise Ridge Rd neighborhood in support of an increased partnership with MCFR. Discussion regarding engaging more of the community, informing them of the issues. MFD has an obligation to present coherent presentation to the public, but need to get information from MCFR first. Biggest sticking point is having someone staffed at Mosier.

Volunteer Langdon was asked his opinion and he stated that it was very important that no matter what, the training take place on Mosier equipment. Expressed appreciation for all the training he's received.

Reeves reiterated that regardless of the decision made regarding the MFD future, training and maintaining the volunteer force is very important, and MCFR states the same.

Other correspondence: Tax reports not filed. Being dealt with by Chief Carlson. Normally done by our bookkeepers. Kris will follow up. Point raised about whether our bookkeepers are doing a good job, recalling issues from prior year's seasonal firefighters. Overall, bookkeepers are doing a good job.

**Comments from the public:** None.

#### **Entered Executive Session at 1940**

Executive session pursuant to ORS 192.660(2)(a) "To consider the employment of a public officer, employee, staff member or individual agent."

#### **Reconvened Regular Session at 2042**

We are continuing the interviewing process.

Continued the discussion of how to educate the public. Goter will write a piece for the Mosier Valley News to invite the public to attend our meetings.

Continued discussion of hiring a seasonal firefighter to staff the office for four days a week. **Motion** by McNall to authorize Chief Carlson to advertise to the volunteers a temporary position for FY 2024-2025 of assistant chief or equivalent that will be funded by the surplus chief salary, and that the candidate must be approved by the board. Seconded by Miller. Approved unanimously.

**Adjournment at 2100.**

*Next board meeting is scheduled for May 28, 2025 via Zoom only*