

Mosier Fire District

Board Meeting Minutes

Thursday, October 9, 2025

Attendance: **Board Members:** Carol Goter, Rob Miller, Todd Reeves, Joanne Rubin
Staff: Connor McKibben, Tommy Oswald
Volunteer: Matt Haas

Call to order at 1800

Agenda additions or corrections: Per Reeves, move SDAO and JUF to early part of meeting.

Comments from the public: None

Consent agenda - Question about a Nexus bill which Reeves advised not to pay (may not a legitimate bill). Rubin made a **motion** to approve minutes and bills (excepting Nexus); seconded by Goter; approved by Goter, Miller, Reeves and Rubin.

Business:

- 1. Volunteer Report:** Matt Haas, volunteer, reporting on his own behalf, that there are about 20 volunteers, including several new recruits. He added that weekly drill draws between 8 and 15 volunteers, who are reporting satisfaction with the training. Both Matt, along with the other volunteers, are very interested in moving forward with rejuvenating the volunteer association.
- 2. Board:** Board Representative to November drill; Reeves will ask Fisher to go. Per Chief Oswald, due to EMR classes being attended by many volunteers, the Monday night drill may be lightly attended; he will follow up.
- 3. Financials**
 - a. LB-30 correction: Goter displayed and explained a missing amount in one of the cells of the LB-30 spreadsheet, \$117K in transfers to the Capital Reserve fund. Goter made a **motion** to approve the correction of this cell, specifying that it goes in the column indicating that it was approved by the board; seconded by Reeves; approved by Goter, Miller, Reeves, and Rubin.
 - b. Supplemental budget: McKibben reported that due to the government shutdown, he hasn't been able to officially accept the FEMA grant, but it's expected that this will be resolved. The grant will require a supplemental budget. Goter will set up a meeting with Kris McNall, Oswald, McKibben, and Mike Langdon to develop the supplemental budget.
- 4. Operations report:** McKibben gave report (11 calls in September of which 7 were medical). McKibben is working with the IT person at county dispatch to resolve the radio issues, Rob Garrett and Steven Lloyd will be working on this issue locally by cleaning out/reviewing radio equipment. McKibben said that MFD has permits to operate a repeater at Wasco Butte on two different frequencies which we are currently not using. Reeves stated he already has a tower up there.

McKibben reported on: Trainings, which included a Life Flight training; all apparatus is in service; ongoing defensible space assessments; community members installing larger water systems and offering services to MFD; Mosier school donation of fire extinguishers to be distributed to community members; completed almost all of the OSHA requirements/recommendations.

Oswald connected with MCFR who requested he send out notification to community departments introducing himself and informing them of his position at MFD, which he has done. Attended the HR County Chiefs meeting. Expects Wasco County burn restrictions to be lifted toward the end of next week.

Discussion of volunteer party after the holidays. A couple of volunteers have volunteered their homes.

5. Staffing: Discussion led by Goter regarding benefits for eligible staff. Goter made a **motion** that for the Administrative Firefighter position beginning November 1, 2025, MFD will pay annual salary based on \$24/hour to be increased to \$25.20 upon completion of EMT certification, 26 days of Paid Time Off per year, to be front-loaded with 8 days, with a maximum accrual of 200 hours of PTO. Other benefits to include the Blue PPO VII medical plan, the premium to be paid 90% by MFD and 10% by the employee (a high deductible plan for which the district will pay the employee's deductible expenses, employee to pay the co-pays); the 2000 Constant dental plan; and short-term and long-term disability, provided the cost doesn't exceed 4% of salary; seconded by Rubin, approved by Goter, Miller, Reeves and Rubin.

Regarding Oswald's PERS paid 100% by MFD, PERS needs confirmation from MFD that they agree to that arrangement. Oswald will draft a letter from the district.

Oswald asked about how to get a bank card and his spending authority. Board agreed that he had a \$5,000 limit without board approval. Other needed bank business is to get Steve Fisher on and Kris McNall off as a signer. Goter will follow up with the bank on what's needed.

6. SDAO: Roy Emery from SDAO gave a presentation on what an SDAO assessment would provide. and the cost. A scope of work has been created, but not seen yet by the Board. Emery explained that the scope of work would provide benchmarks for the District and assess a consistent level of service. They talk to stakeholders, do an organizational overview, a review of finances, look at staffing and scheduling, service delivery, past performance (who shows up on calls), and a spot check on training. They will look at the proposal from MCFR and assess the potential gains and concerns. A verbal report will be delivered to the board. He explained that the fee would be proposed as a "not to exceed" amount, even if the effort ended up costing more. Time frame will be between 2-3 months to complete. Board agreed that they want to move forward with this.

7. JUF: Miller reported that after a discussion with Mayor Anderson, he believes that they are in agreement that there may be no more money forthcoming from the state, though the Mayor believes those options should still be pursued, and that we are approaching a point where we need to start over, including assessing funds we currently have and finding a design that fits the current finances. They discussed the old MOU which put the City in charge of decision-making and they agreed that arrangement would be revisited. Miller conveyed the Fire District's lack of confidence in the current architect and project management. Miller brought up the interest being earned on JUF funds and thought its deposit location deserved a closer look

McKibben reported that he'd noted a water line sign on Carroll Road, but the City's water map did not confirm that it is city water. He advocated looking more at a two-story design. McKibben also offered that he thought the Business Oregon loan expired end of October. Reeves said he would get in touch with them, but couldn't until after the next several weeks.

Reeves asked if our staff could look into prefab metal options, and get more specific information about the Rufus design's cost of the bays and the mezzanine.

Goter requested the the MFD Board follow through on getting details about JUF expenditures and agreed to contact someone from the City about it.

8. Correspondence: None

Comments from the public: None

Adjournment at 2028

The next regular board meeting will be virtual and in person at the Senior Center on November 13, 2025, at 6:00 p.m.