

Mosier Fire District

Board Meeting Minutes

Thursday, December 11, 2025

Attendance:

Board Members: Steve Fisher, Carol Goter, Rob Miller, Todd Reeves, Joanne Rubin

Staff: Connor McKibben, Tommy Oswald

Public: Hood River Fire Chief Leonard Damian

Call to order at 1801

Agenda additions or corrections: None

Comments from the public: Chief Damian spoke about two things: 1) He's retiring from the fire department in six weeks. There is an ongoing process for his replacement and Chief Oswald will be kept updated on that progress. 2) Regarding the ASP (ambulance service provider), Hood River has completed their plan, it will head to the County Commissioners for approval (already approved at state level), meaning that HR will be providing ambulance service to Mosier for the next 15 years.

Chief Damian went on to address Wasco County's efforts in this same effort. There are two parallel processes, one by an ASA Committee consisting of various stakeholders. The second is by the Wasco County Administrator and others, who are looking at a single provider for the county, which could be MCFR, or an external provider, e.g. Metro West or others out of the Portland area, meaning that Mosier would no longer be served primarily by Hood River for ambulance service. There is not consensus between the participants in the two processes. Reeves asked if the Mosier area has any say in the matter. Chief Damian suggested that it would be appropriate to speak up, and to possibly start with Sheridan McClellan, Wasco County Emergency Manager. He recommended the MFD board familiarize themselves with background on the topic, referencing a possible upcoming article in the Columbia Gorge News by Emily Harris (see https://www.columbiagorgenews.com/free_news/a-simmering-ambulance-dispute-boils-over-in-wasco-county/article_814a655f-1e65-465d-ab2c-d5859848cc20.html.)

Consent agenda - Discussion of Les Schwab bill for \$999.99. McKibben will look into it. **Motion** made by Rubin to approve bills and minutes; seconded by Reeves; approved unanimously.

Business:

1. Volunteer Report: Volunteer association had its first meeting in November, and a second one in December. Discussed keeping a 501(c)(3) designation, upcoming election of officers, and a name change for the group.

2. Volunteer Holiday Party: Chief Oswald will proceed with this once he has his bank card.

3. Board: Regarding board representative to drill, Reeves went in December. Fisher will go in January if he's able to; otherwise Rubin will go.

The bank document to update board check signers was introduced. Two board members signed; the document is going back to the MFD office for the members attending by Zoom to stop in and sign.

4. Financials - Agreed Upon Procedures: Goter spoke of Mike Langdon's findings regarding our doing an AUP instead of an audit, and he's found a firm in Hermiston who will do this for MFD. Reeves authorized Chief Oswald to sign a contract with the firm.

5. Operations report: McKibben reported on an email he received from the State Fire Marshal's office about a property tax change in 2027 effecting how rural properties are taxed which should result in the

district receiving more funding. McKibben will forward the email to the board. Miller volunteered to connect with the county tax assessor to find out what kind of revenue could be expected.

There were 13 calls in November, with no calls being missed. Training was focused on SCBA testing to determine which ones the department/volunteers want to purchase. The department will purchase equipment that is like at least one of our neighbors (Hood River or MCFR). Relevant to that is the grant for SCBAs, which has been accepted by MFD following the reopening of the federal government.

Medical training is looking at improving volunteers' experience with actual patient care (taking vitals, using the med bags, etc.).

Two new volunteers signed up in November, bringing the total to 23 active. McKibben stated that MFD is hoping to do their own firefighter academy to increase the number of Firefighter 1s from eight to as many as 12.

All apparatus is in service.

6. JUF

Action Items: Reeves contacted Business Oregon. The \$800K loan is no longer available, but in his correspondence he was told that they would work with us in the future on this project.

Chief Oswald and McKibben checked on other city property north of Hwy 30, but do not advise getting even closer to the train tracks.

Miller reported that Mayor Anderson has written a letter to State Senator Christine Drazen requesting a meeting. Miller also spoke about the access difficulties regarding Station 12. He's planning a meeting with Commissioner Brady to talk about options regarding Wasco County either granting us a small portion of land or agreeing to an easement. He asked Rubin and McKibben to join him. He's also reached out to Commissioner Hege, but has not heard back yet. Other ideas discussed were swapping land and offering use of the fire station to county employees when they are at that location. Board members agreed that at this point, we are still investigating alternatives to the JUF, not ready to proceed on our own, and expect to have some more information from the JUF committee, which is meeting next week.

Rubin suggested having a community meeting in order to inform our constituents about the issues and the options for a new fire station, and an update on the JUF and its financial challenges. Miller agreed, but wants the District to have more concrete information to present to the public. Reeves clarified that if MFD did build at Station 12, he's not opposed to there being some kind of joint venture with the City there.

7. Correspondence: During the meeting Reeves received an email from Chief Damian regarding the ASA issue which includes a link to an article that was recommended (referenced in Public Comment above). Chief Oswald would like to share the article on the MFD Facebook site when appropriate. Fisher recommended that MFD speak to the decision-making parties (county commissioners, Chief Jensen, Hood River Fire, etc.) on behalf of our constituents to advocate for a plan that will provide timely emergency medical service to our District.

Comments from the public: None

Adjournment at 1931

The next regular board meeting will be virtual and in person at the Senior Center on February 12, 2026, at 6:00 p.m.