

Mosier Fire District

Board Meeting Minutes

Thursday, January 8, 2026

Attendance:

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

Staff: Connor McKibben, Tom Oswald

Volunteer: Mike Langdon

Call to order at 1804

Agenda additions or corrections: The board agreed to have future meetings on the second Wednesday of the month if the Senior Center is available.

Comments from the public: None

Consent agenda - Motion made by Fisher to approve bills and minutes; seconded by Miller; approved unanimously.

Business:

1. Volunteer Report: Mike Langdon reported that volunteer engagement is at an all-time high. Volunteers are motivated to get out in the community. Currently there are seven volunteers to respond at Station 13. There are five EMTs and two in training. An EMR program is happening in the next month, depending on if enough people sign up

2. Volunteer Holiday Party: Chief Oswald is still waiting for his bank card. Goter will contact the bank.

3. Board:

a. Board rep to volunteer drill: Rubin will go to volunteer training in January, Miller in February, and Goter in March.

b. Spending authority of board President – No action taken.

4. Financials

Discussion about noted increase in spending on fire equipment. McKibben explained increased expenses are due to an increase in the number of volunteers needing equipment such as turnouts.

Discussion regarding the timing of property tax income. Mike Langdon, the District Finance Specialist, thought there was a threshold that had to be met for the direct deposit of income to happen and volunteered to get more information on that. Question about how we budget for property tax income. Goter volunteered to ask Kris McNall about it.

Discussion about the cost of hose testing. Chief Oswald stated that one of his goals is to decrease the amount of hose we have (much more than needed) and then the testing cost should go down. Fisher recommended having one replacement piece of each one that is on each apparatus.

a. Move funds to LGIP: **Motion** made by Goter to move \$200K from First Interstate checking account to the LGIP General account; seconded by Rubin; approved unanimously.

b. Potential increase in property taxes: Miller spoke with the Wasco County tax assessor's office, as did McKibben, and both learned that there isn't official guidance yet, but they may have more information in six months. Miller talked to the Oregon state revenue officer who also did not have additional information. HB 3940 goes into effect in 2027.

5. Operations report: See McKibben's written report in the [board packet](#). Oswald added that a hybrid wildland academy is being proposed.

6. Potential Change to ASA : There was a brief discussion of the article referenced by Chief Damian about the subject. The consensus was that MFD should communicate with stakeholders to let them know MFD's concerns and the preference to continue receiving ambulance service through Hood River Fire. Chief Oswald will connect with Chief Jensen at MCFR and ask him who would be the key people to present our concerns, and invite him to our next meeting.

7. JUF : Miller reported on the last meeting of representatives from the City of Mosier and MFD. Attendees agreed to proceed with the joint effort to appeal to the state legislature for more funding. Miller also stated that it was made clear that MFD is looking at a plan for building a fire station, separate from the JUF project, and that Mayor Anderson has a clear understanding of that intent. The meeting also included discussion of going in a design build direction. There was a short discussion about the complexity of separating funds.

Miller, Fisher, and McKibben have visited with County Commissioners Brady and Hege, who have been receptive to the idea of using county land in the area of Station 12 for a new station. They asked for MFD to come up with some graphics of what we have in mind. Commissioner Hege also suggested connecting with the Public Works department to make sure they have no objections to the idea. There hasn't yet been a meeting with Commissioner Justesen.

McKibben presented a preliminary design for building at Station 12. He also plans to go to Wasco in Sherman County to look at their building (similar to the one he's discussed and seen at Rufus).

Additional discussion ensued on possible arrangements including providing space to the County Sheriff's office or the City, how we could begin construction with current available funding and possibly look at a bond for additional funding. Discussion regarding attending an SDAO conference in Seaside which is providing sessions on successfully getting a bond passed. Fisher suggested getting input from the community to see if funding through a bond is viable.

Miller talked about his and Mayor Witt Anderson's visit with state Senator Drazen and their discussion of the JUF. She had a positive reaction and understood the issues.

Reeves provided an aerial view of the County property in the area of Station 12 with an explanation of the water line sign there. His research indicates the water comes from a spring and provides water to a home. After more pieces are in place, we could ask the current users if we are able to test the water and potentially share it.

8. Correspondence: Further discussion of the benefits of going to the SDAO conference. Reeves may go.

Comments from the public: None

Adjournment at 1942