

Mosier Fire District

Board Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, February 11, 2026

Attendance:

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

Staff: Connor McKibben, Tom Oswald

Volunteer: Mike Langdon

Public: Chief David Jensen, Mid Columbia Fire & Rescue (MCFR)

Call to order at 1803

Agenda additions or corrections: ASA will be discussed earlier on the agenda.

Comments from the public: None

Consent agenda - Motion made by Miller to approve bills and minutes; seconded by Goter; approved by Goter, Miller, and Reeves

Business:

1. Volunteer Report: Volunteer Langdon reported that the new volunteer association has voted in officers (Matt Haase is the president), as well as the association bylaws. They are looking for outreach and event opportunities. Still working on completing required paperwork and articles of incorporation.

2. Volunteer Party: Chief Oswald reported that, due to current training demands, the volunteers would like to wait to do a gathering in the summer.

3. Board:

a. Board rep to volunteer drill: Miller in March, and Goter in April.

b. Representative for Mosier Valley News: Goter will direct MVN to check in with Chief Oswald.

4. Financials: Goter brought up a question about how the MFD bank savings account got an extra \$100K from the the previous month. Mike Langdon talked to the bookkeepers who stated that they are moving money around as needed between savings and checking. He can find out more about it if we want him to.

Further discussion about McKibben's health insurance and his contribution. Goter will confirm his coverage and his portion of the premium.

5. Operations report: See packet for report.

<https://drive.google.com/drive/u/1/folders/1LLZegJaRyV5I0yyXzskYQI03J5o3sM0O>

Additionally, Chief Oswald mentioned future purchases of gear that he's getting prices for. Also mentioned was SCBA selection process. With current government shutdown, expected funding is on hold. He also talked about furthering the Firefighter 2 training among the volunteers.

6. ASA : Chief Jensen explained how ambulance service operates currently in Oregon, i.e., the state requires counties to have an ambulance service plan to figure out how the county will be covered. Often a committee will make recommendations to the county and the committee in Wasco County is very large because there are currently eight ambulance servicing areas in the county, each of which provides two representatives to the committee. Other stakeholders, such as the hospital, the county commission, and county emergency management also have representatives on the committee. The current plan was put in place in 2020 and the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) wants it to be updated every five years.

The Wasco County committee met in 2024 to prepare for 2025 update. Ultimately, a plan was sent to and approved by the OHA that had a provision not previously discussed in the committee. This plan would change the current ambulance service plan to the County contracting with a single ambulance provider for the entire county. This would likely result in a reduction in ambulance response time to many parts of the county, and Mosier emergency medical needs would no longer be served by Hood River County, the closest provider.

Chief Jensen wrote a letter to the OHA, which withdrew its approval for the proposed plan in Wasco County. At this point, the Wasco County Commission has to approve the plan before it goes to OHA. There was discussion of what the MFD board could do to register its opposition to a plan of a single county-wide ambulance service provider. It was decided that Miller would speak to Commissioner Scott Hege, who is a member of the committee working on this plan.

7. JUF Update: Miller reported on the potential for Station 12 development. No further movement at this time. Miller continues to try to reach the third County Commissioner, Jeff Justesen, to talk about negotiations with the County regarding the County-owned land there (acquiring, leasing, swapping, etc.). McKibben met with the county's Public Works (PW) representative, Arthur Smith, who has a positive outlook for development of this property. McKibben learned that the county land can't be partitioned (a change in ownership), but it can be leased. County will do all the permits, and we'd need some kind of agreement, such as a Memorandum of Use. The suggested location would also meet Gorge Commission requirements. McKibben will send his initial informal designs to Mr. Smith. PW would be even more amenable if MFD provided some upgrades, such as a security fence and improved water supply.

Miller reported that he and Mayor Witt Anderson were going to Salem on 2/13/26 to request an additional \$4.5M from the state to complete the current JUF design. Discussion of what to do if the state comes through, putting MFD in the same situation they've been in for several years, OR what to do if the state funding doesn't come through and how to separate current JUF funds.

8. Correspondence: None

Comments from the public: None

Adjournment at 2027