SW Polk Fire District
Regular Meeting Minutes – June 19, 2025 – 15455 Salt Creek Rd. Dallas, OR 97338

Board Members Present	Board Members Absent
SW Polk Fire District Rod Watson Frank Pender Tom Gilson Tom Jenkins	Bob Davis
	Administration Present
	Fred Hertel

Virtual- (V) Arrives after roll call- (ARC)

GENERAL BUSINESS		
Call to Order		Rod Watson opens the meeting at 6:06pm. SW Polk Fire District has a quorum of directors and will allow deliberation, decision making, and will take public comment per the posted agenda. Pledge of Allegiance was recited during the regular board meeting.
Roll Call		Chief Hertel called roll as delineated above.
Budget – Public Hearing		President Watson recessed the board meeting and opened the public hearing at 6:08pm.
A. Take Comment		The public asked if the budget was made public. Chief Hertel stated that SW Polk Fire District has complied with all legal posting requirements, and the budget has passed the budget committee. The public budget notices state that a copy of the budget is available at the office.
B. Close Public Hearing		**Motion** Pender **Second** Gilson *I move to close the public hearing on the 2025-2026 Budget.* **Motion Passes Unanimously**
Re-Open the regular board meeting		President Watson reopened the meeting.
Additions/Corrections to Agenda		President Watson added new business (D) Answer public concerns.
Approval of Budget Committee Minutes		The board reviewed the minutes for May 13, 2025, Regular Meeting, May 15, 2025, Budget Committee Minutes. **Motion** Pender **Second** Jenkins *I move to approve the minutes for May 13, 2025, Regular Board Meeting.* **Motion Passes Unanimously** **Motion** Pender **Second** Gilson *I move to approve the minutes for May 15, 2025, Budget Committee Meeting.* **Motion Passes Unanimously**

Financial Report	*Discussion/Action*	The board reviewed the May financial report. **Motion** Pender **Second** Gilson *I reviewed the May bank statements and financial reports, I move to approve the financials as presented.* **Motion Passes Unanimously**
Audience Participation		None
Old Business		
A. Levy Renewal	*Discussion*	Chief Hertel noted that he was unable to find the CPI language discussed previously and will bring back a more formal presentation next month.
B. Strategic Plan Timeline Update	*Discussion/Action*	Briefly went over the timeline and noted the addition of the italic red font with the new additions made to the timeline. **Motion** Pender **Second** Jenkins *I move to accept the timeline as presented.* **Motion Passes Unanimously**
New Business		
A. Resolution 2024-25-06 Adopting the Budget	*Discussion/Action*	**Motion** Pender **Second** Jenkins *I move to pass Resolution 2024-25-06 Adopting the Budget.* **Motion Passes Unanimously**
B. Strategic Realignment	*Discussion*	Chief Hertel discussed that we are in the 4th year of the levy and because of Paid Leave Oregon expenses, only being granted half of the ambulance service area requested and high inflationary costs, the district will be unable to fund staffing for the 5th year. Administration has been working with the union to prepare for layoffs in June 2026 provided that the district is unsuccessful in passing a levy renewal with an increase.
C. Service Agreement	*Discussion/Action*	Chief Hertel described the three updates to his service agreement. Those updates include the term of July 1, 2025, to June 30, 2027, annual wage increase and increasing the termination without cause to 6 months' severance. The board discussion was interrupted by members of the public. President Watson allowed 3-4 members of the public to speak briefly about their opinion on the service agreement. Vice President Pender called for "the question". **Motion** Pender **Second** Gilson *I move to approve the employment/service agreement with Chief Hertel as presented.* **Motion Passes Unanimously**

D. Answer Public Concerns	Discussion	President Watson received a letter from the public with concerns on how administrative staff handled a recent finding and the struggle to keep volunteers. President Watson went on to say that he had investigated the situations noted in the letter and found that the issues had been dealt with appropriately, even though they may not have met everyone's expectations. Watson finalized by giving the advice that people should find out the facts and reflect on the knowledge prior to acting. Director Jenkins gave Kudos to all that work for the organization and specifically Chief Hertel.
Chief's Report	Discussion	Update on the CWPP process and invite all in attendance to complete the public survey. Update on Fackler construction and our litigation. Discussed the current conflagration and generally how the district is set up for the summer. Update on apparatus, training and seasonal staff.
Director Comments	Discussion	Director Gilson announced that he will no longer be working with the City of Dallas.
Meeting Adjournment		**Meeting adjourned at 6:45pm**