

UPPER HOMINY VOLUNTEER FIRE & RESCUE DEPARTMENT, INC.
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
AUGUST 21, 2025

MEMBERS PRESENT:

GLENN HOWELL, JR., VICE-CHAIRMAN
BRIAN WARREN, SECRETARY
ELISE ISRAEL, TREASURER
ALLEN RASH
SARA HOWELL

MEMBERS ABSENT:

DAVID LIVENGOOD, CHAIRMAN
JAMES NETHERTON
HAROLD MCCARSON
SCOTT MCJUNKIN

OTHERS PRESENT: Chief Shane Prestwood, A Shift Captain Tyler Hicks

Meeting called to order at 19:00 hours by Vice-Chairman Howell. Prayer was by Allen Rash.

Minutes from the July 17, 2025 meeting were read by Brian Warren, Secretary. Motion to approve, made by Sara Howell. Allen Rash seconded the motion, motion passed.

Treasurer's report as of July 31, 2025 was given by Treasurer Israel; copy attached. Motion to approve was made by Allen Rash. Elise Israel seconded the motion; motion passed.

Financials as of July 31, 2025 were reviewed.

OLD BUSINESS:

Information Sharing:

1. Andrea's son, Andrew: Is back in the hospital in Nashville; the tumor is still not small enough to remove.
2. Solar Project: No update.
3. Chief 12 still needs it striping put on.
4. Paging System: They have installed the control boxes and run wire for the speakers. There are different contractors for different parts of the job. Estimated completion is October or November.
5. Generator gift: No update.
6. Debris Removal: No more work will occur.
7. Financial Statements: Board suggestions were taken under advisement.

NEW BUSINESS:

Conflict of Interest Policy: The Board would like more examples.

Grants:

1. OSFM grant: We haven't heard from the first round yet which was \$76,000 for radios. We got the second round of \$50,000 for generator building, wildland PPE and other equipment but haven't received the money yet.
2. FireHouse Subs grant: No update.

3. Federal Relief Grant: The state doesn't have a budget yet.
4. Haywood EMC Grant: We applied for this grant last week; we will use the money to buy a small battery powered chainsaw.

Information Sharing:

1. Audit: Chief Prestwood and Andrea met with Auditors for a preliminary audit meeting. They are looking to have Audit done in October. Slater has requested an in-person review of the audit on November 13th at 6:00. They have also recommended we open a line of credit to cover in case of emergencies (i.e. the county misses a payment). The Board request more information.
2. Voting: The County Board of Elections has requested to use the training room for early voting in 2026.
3. Employees: Interviews have been conducted for part-time and full-time positions.
4. Apparatus: E12 dropped off the road coming back from a call on 151 going up the mountain and hit a rock-there was significant damage.

Building Use by the County EMS: We met with County EMS on 8/14. Chief Prestwood has talked with some EMS supervisors and others. Letting them use the building might segway in to having an EMS unit here. They have agreed to run calls with us at night; however, they would also back up EMS 7 and cover when they are out of district. Realistically, there is little benefit to Upper Hominy. There is potential to have conflict with personnel, cleaning issues, etc. Some have said these single units have had less issues that the EMS teams. Will there be backlash if we say no? Others have said it would be "beneficial" for us. The county is looking for areas for future EMS units. If we were to agree to this; we would require a detailed contract that would tailor to our needs. It would eventually partner with our county contract. Chief Prestwood will work on a draft of the contract and our requirements.

Equipment Purchase: The lawnmower at the main station is breaking down more and more and needs to be replaced. Chief Prestwood has talked to the staff and looked at replacing with a similar Cub Cadet or a garden tractor with a belly mower. They feel the tractor would be sturdier. Each were close in price: Cub Cadet- \$15,871; we could get it for \$12,072; Yanmar: \$14,299; Kubota 1880: \$12,500 and Kubota 2380: \$14,400. Kubota financing would be at .9% on the full price. CIVIC 48-month loan would be 6.5% but on the cash price. Secretary Warren made the motion that they evaluate the different types and pursue \$15,000 financing from CIVIC. Elise Israel seconded the motion; motion passed.

Auxiliary: The Auxiliary has had issues in their kitchen. Two burners have disappeared off the stoves and there is non-Auxiliary food in the freezer in the store room no one is supposed to have access to. Chief Prestwood has stated they will lock the interior door to the kitchen and only Chief officers and Captains will have access to the exterior door in case of emergencies. He has also stated he would order replacement burners for the stoves.

No further business.

The next meeting will be the Thursday, September 18, 2025 at 7:00 pm.

Motion to adjourn made by Sara Howell. Elise Israel seconded the motion; meeting adjourned at 20:59.

Respectfully Submitted,
Brian Warren, Secretary