

Klamath County Fire District 1
Board of Directors
Regular Meeting Minutes
4:00 p.m., Tuesday, March 17, 2026
Central Fire Station
143 N. Broad Street, Klamath Falls, OR 97601

1. Call Meeting to Order

President Storey called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

President Storey led the Board and attendees in the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. Roll Call of Directors

Present:

Gloria Storey, President

Mike Jones, Vice-President

Mike Kuntz, Secretary/Treasurer

Nick Randall, Director (virtually)

Steve Leslie, Director

4. Approval of the Agenda

Secretary Treasurer Kuntz made a motion to approve the agenda, seconded by Director Leslie, motion carried five to zero.

5. Approval of Minutes

a. February 17, 2026 Regular Meeting Minutes

Secretary Treasurer Kuntz made a motion to approve the February 17, 2026, regular meeting minutes, seconded by Director Leslie, motion carried five to zero.

6. Financial Reports

a. February 2026 Financial Reports

Secretary Treasurer Kuntz made a motion to approve the February 2026 financial report, seconded by Vice-President Jones, motion carried five to zero.

b. Ratification of February 2026 Bills

Vice-President Jones made a motion to approve the February 2026 bills, seconded by Secretary Treasurer Kuntz, motion carried five to zero.

c. February 2026 EMS Billing Reports

Secretary Treasurer Kuntz made a motion to approve the February 2026 EMS billing reports, seconded by Director Leslie, motion carried five to zero.

d. March Billing Days Out Report

DAS Hull reported billing is currently 12-13 days out.

7. Unfinished Business

a. Station 1 Construction Update

DC Hitchcock reported ZCS is about two weeks behind and the full design package is expected by mid-April when it will then go out to bid with a June start date.

8. New Business

At this time, the Board is now acting as Contract Review Board and will take up the matter of:

a. SDAO Organizational Assessment Plan

DC Hitchcock briefly reviewed the two proposals received to perform a District consultation and develop an assessment plan. ESCI quoted \$53,000 and is more intricate in the areas of mapping and GIS than SDAO who quoted \$7,500 for a solid nuts and bolts consultation. The group briefly discussed the details, strategic plan development, qualifications of the SDAO representative that are specific to fire operations, pricing, a timeframe, and confirmed Attorney Ratliff reviewed the contract.

Vice-President Jones made a motion to approve the contract with SDAO to perform a District consultation, seconded by Secretary Treasurer Mike Kuntz, motion carried five to zero.

At this time, the Board is no longer acting as the Contract Review Board and the next item on the agenda is:

b. June Board Meeting Date

FC Knutson requested the June Board of Directors meeting be moved to June 23 in order to better accommodate the Budget Committee meetings in early June. The Board agreed to move the June meeting to June 23.

c. 2026-2027 Budget

i. Appoint Budget Officer for 2026-2027

Secretary Treasurer Kuntz made a motion to appoint Fire Chief Brent Knutson as Budget Officer for the fiscal year 2026-2027, seconded by Director Leslie, motion carried five to zero.

ii. Budget Meeting Calendar

FC Knutson proposed June 8 and June 10, 2026, for the Budget Committee meetings. The June 10 meeting would only be held if it is needed for further budget discussion.

Secretary Treasurer Kuntz made a motion to set June 8 and June 10, 2026, for the 2026-2027 fiscal year Budget Committee meetings, seconded by Vice-President Jones, motion carried five to zero.

iii. Budget Committee Vacancy

FC Knutson reported there is one Budget Committee member vacancy being advertised with an application deadline of April 2.

9. Informational Reports

Fire Chief and Operations

a. Fire Chief Activity Memo March

FC Knutson reported BC Bishop's retirement is March 31, firefighter Sweeney will promote to BC and firefighter Engler will promote to Captain. Interviews will take place this week for three paramedic positions to reach the new Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA) requirements. In addition, one person will be offered a firefighter position to fill a vacancy left by the promotions. Priority dispatch continues to be discussed with Dr. Klas, Physician Supervisor, and the District leadership team; additional liability on the Physician Supervisor could make that position less appealing. DC Knutson continues to be extremely optimistic about implementing priority dispatch and the benefits and opportunities it will bring to the District. Over 110 people attended the Employee Appreciation Dinner. Toni Brimmer started as the DC of Operations, taking over some projects and working with DC Denney on the Type III deployment.

- b. Thank you Correspondence
No discussion.

Deputy Chief – Operations

- a. Deputy Chief – Operations Activity Memo March
FC Knutson reported DC Brimmer met with the new Kingsley Fire Chief to discuss new federal requirements to dispatch Kingsley Assistant Chiefs on specific calls with the District, under the District command system. DC Brimmer will be meeting with assisted living facility coordinators to discuss the recent increase in calls to those facilities, will attend the Oregon Fire Chiefs Association round table, and is working on system changes to accommodate hiring changes in the CBA. FC Knutson added labor management meetings will take place monthly and implementation of the engineer position will be discussed at these meetings.
- b. February Incident Activity
No discussion.

Deputy Chief – Support Services

- a. Deputy Chief – Support Services Activity Memo March
DC Hitchcock has a list of apparatus repairs and annual inspections are taking place. In regard to the Rural Health Transformation Program (RHTP), the District is in competition with a lot of organizations around the state for the \$197 million available. Sky Lakes Medical Center and the District are looking at the different classifications of funding to get as much of the funding as possible to the community; two District objectives are radios and the community paramedicine program. An application will also be submitted for the Safe Streets for All grant. Ambulance 3174 is being stocked to put back in service and once in place the District will have five solid ambulances. Several repair and maintenance items are taking place on the facilities. The High Risk Team (HRT) program is working really well to get frequent transport patients connected to services.

President Storey asked about engine dependability, safety and replacement considerations. FC Knutson and DC Hitchcock reported there are two engines that need replaced and operational decisions in this area need more research and discussion. The group discussed replacement in general, adding that ambulance and equipment replacements such as EKG monitors (\$30,000-\$40,000 each), gurneys, radios, and SCBA equipment need to be evaluated, discussed and budgeted for. The SDAO consultation will help with prioritizing some of these items. FC Knutson clarified that right now, engines are not so much a safety issue but a financial issue in determining to continue repairs versus the purchase of new engines. An AFG grant will be submitted, but based on the District's current apparatus and financial status, it is likely the District will not be awarded AFG funds.

Division Chief – Training

- a. Division Chief - Training Activity Memo March
DC Denney reported new hires are finishing the FTEP program. The first quarter training focus included increased interface and training with Sky Lakes Medical Center, the Handtevy pediatric equipment implementation, live-fire training, strike fire training with USFS, BlueCard sim lab training, and a Search Culture training. Case reviews with Dr. Klas were completed. The District switched to a new resuscitation program called HealthStream through the Red Cross. DC Denney was elected as President of the Klamath-Lake Training Association.

Division Chief – Fire Marshal

- a. Division Chief - Fire Marshal Activity Memo March
FM Tramp reported fire & life safety inspections are complete for the City School District reflecting tremendous improvement from previous years and one school being 100% compliant. March is mobile food unit (MFU) inspection month; there are 44 MFU's in the District 1 area. Private school inspections

will begin next and FM Tramp noted that Crosspoint is working on plans for an additional building on the Crosspoint campus. The Henley school complex water system will be redone with 70,000 gallon storage tanks pulling from the city water line versus using the current pond system. The new radio script is for slips, trips and falls. Community Risk Reduction (CRR) employees are set to return on April 1 and April 6 for the season. Prevention staff had a booth at the Sportsman Show with the focus on CRR, smoke alarms and evacuation. Third grade co-op education is being scheduled for April. President Storey asked about the pond system at Paradise Hill; FM Tramp explained the HOA does have maintenance requirements that need to be discussed and some homeowner's have taken risk reduction steps around their properties. The Prevention Division also works closely with the Building Department to suggest sprinkler systems and options for structures in areas that lack firefighting water access.

10. Public comment

None.

11. Adjourn

Motion to adjourn by Vice-President Jones, seconded by Secretary Treasurer Kuntz, motion carried five to zero.

The regular session adjourned at 4:51 p.m.

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Klamath County Fire District 1 Board of Directors will be at the Central Fire Station, 143 N. Broad Street, Klamath Falls, OR 97601 on Tuesday, April 21, 2026, at 4:00 p.m.

BOARD MEMBER SIGNATURES




PRESIDENT




SECRETARY / TREASURER



DIRECTOR



VICE-PRESIDENT



DIRECTOR