

SILVERTON FIRE DISTRICT

MINUTES

DRAFTED FOR APPROVAL, SUBJECT TO CHANGE AND OR CORRECTION

REGULAR BOARD MEETING 7:00 P.M. March 11, 2025
Silverton Fire District Station #1 (Silverton)

I. ROLL CALL:

Les Von Flue, President
Stacy Palmer, Vice President
Robert Mengucci, Secretary-Treasurer

Dixon Bledsoe, Director
Ryan Bielenberg, Director

ABSENT:

Rob Mengucci, Secretary-Treasurer

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Chief Miles, Office Administrator (OA) Cantu, AC Veit, BC Pilmore, Lt. Brown, FF Isherwood, Phil Sowa

II. CALL MEETING TO ORDER:

President Von Flue called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and led the group in the pledge of allegiance.

III. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

VI. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

a) Regular Board Meeting Minutes

Vice President Palmer made a motion to approve the minutes of the February 11, 2025 board meeting. Director Bledsoe seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

(President Von Flue: Aye, Vice President Palmer: Aye, Director Bielenberg: Aye, Director Bledsoe: Aye)

b) Board Work Session Minutes

Director Bledsoe made a motion to approve the minutes of the March 3, 2025 board work session. Director Bielenberg seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Vice President Palmer indicated that board members needed to provide a separate set of minutes for the Executive Session that occurred during the Board Work Session. OA Cantu was going to investigate and confirm the need for minutes during the Executive Session.

(President Von Flue: Aye, Vice President Palmer: Aye, Director Bielenberg: Aye, Director Bledsoe: Aye)

VII. OPEN FORUM:

No business was brought forth during Open Forum.

VIII. OLD BUSINESS:

a) Board Work Session

The Board Work Session was held on March 3rd, 2025. President Von Flue stated that the only business to discuss after the work session was the Chief Evaluation which will be brought up during New Business.

IX. FINANCE OFFICER'S REPORT:

b) Check Summary

c) Departmental Expense Report

d) Bank Account Balance Comparison

Vice President Palmer made a motion to approve the finance officer's report as presented. Director Bledsoe seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

(President Von Flue: Aye, Vice President Palmer: Aye, Director Bielenberg: Aye, Director Bledsoe: Aye)

X. CHIEF'S REPORT

a) Monthly Report

Chief Miles gave the Board a brief update on the monthly report, noting a correction of 73 calls from the previous month. He emphasized the importance of the defensible space program in collaboration with Marion County Fire District #1, particularly in the Scotts Mills area, where efforts to improve land management and create defensible space around homes are proving beneficial. Marion County Fire District #1 will also be applying for a Community Wildfire Defense Grant from the US Forest Service and the Oregon Department of Forestry, aimed at addressing high-risk wildland properties in the Scotts Mills area.

Chief Miles also mentioned that officer testing is approaching, with several applicants currently preparing. In response to a question from President Von Flue about the radio project, Chief Miles explained that there had been inconsistent information from the county regarding costs. He has requested up-to-date cost and budget data to ensure he can provide the Board with accurate information. Marion County Public Works is relying on various grants to help cover the funding gap for the project, but the high cost of the new system is making it difficult for some districts to participate.

Vice President Palmer requested that firm numbers be presented to the Board, so a clear decision could be made. Chief Miles acknowledged that funding the transition and sustaining it long-term would be challenging but assured the Board that he would provide updated figures as they became available.

Vice President Palmer thanked Chief Miles for attending the Main Street Plaza meeting. She indicated that the feedback from the perspective of the fire district was beneficial for all to hear when considering emergency response in an already limited area.

XI. NEW BUSINESS:

a) Chief Evaluation

President Von Flue stated that the Chief Evaluation had been formalized during the Board Work Session. Director Bledsoe made a motion to accept the prepared evaluation of Chief Miles as discussed and written. Vice President Palmer seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

(President Von Flue: Aye, Vice President Palmer: Aye, Director Bielenberg: Aye, Director Bledsoe: Aye)

b) 25-26 Staff Salary & Benefit Discussion/Approval

President Von Flue noted that there was prepared information in the packet and opened the floor to Chief Miles or OA Cantu for any additional details. OA Cantu provided an overview of the data collected from other districts regarding the COLA increase. Vice President Palmer then sought clarification on the vacation buyback option. OA Cantu explained how staff accumulate comp time and how it is used in comparison to vacation time. Given the accumulation of vacation time, many employees find it difficult to use all of the time they've accrued, leading to potential "use it or lose it" situations. A discussion on the vacation buyback option followed.

President Von Flue asked OA Cantu to provide scenarios and budget impacts that the vacation buy back would create by the April board meeting.

President Von Flue asked for a motion regarding the proposed COLA. Director Bielenberg moved to approve a 2% COLA for all staff, including the fire chief, effective July 1, 2025. Director Bledsoe seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

(President Von Flue: Aye, Vice President Palmer: Aye, Director Bielenberg: Aye, Director Bledsoe: Aye)

President Von Flue asked for a motion regarding the proposed insurance premium for staff. Director Bledsoe moved to approve the 6% insurance premium for all staff to be paid for by the district. Vice President Palmer seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

(President Von Flue: Aye, Vice President Palmer: Aye, Director Bielenberg: Aye, Director Bledsoe: Aye)

XII. ITEMS PENDING:

XIII. ADJOURNMENT:

With no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 7:54 p.m.

Approved this 8th day of April, 2025.



President