

SILVERTON FIRE DISTRICT

MINUTES

DRAFTED FOR APPROVAL, SUBJECT TO CHANGE AND OR CORRECTION

REGULAR BOARD MEETING 7:00 P.M. March 10, 2026
Silverton Fire District Station #1 (Silverton)

I. ROLL CALL:

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

Dixon Bledsoe, Director
Phil Sowa, Director

ABSENT:

All Present

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Chief Miles, Office Administrator (OA) Cantu, AC Veit, BC Terhaar, LT Brown, FF Isherwood

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

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

a) **Regular Board Meeting Minutes**

Director Bledsoe made a motion to approve the minutes of the February 10, 2026 board meeting. Secretary-Treasurer Mengucci seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

(President Von Flue: Aye, Vice President Palmer: Aye, Secretary-Treasurer Mengucci: Aye, Director Bledsoe: Aye, Director Sowa: Aye)

V. OPEN FORUM:

No business was brought forth during Open Forum.

VI. OLD BUSINESS:

No old business.

VII. FINANCE OFFICER'S REPORT:

- a) Check Summary
- b) Departmental Expense Report

c) Bank Account Balance Comparison

Secretary-Treasurer Mengucci made a motion to approve the finance officer's report as presented. Vice President Palmer seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

(President Von Flue: Aye, Vice President Palmer: Aye, Secretary-Treasurer Mengucci: Aye, Director Bledsoe: Aye, Director Sowa: Aye)

VIII. CHIEF'S REPORT

a) Monthly Report

Chief Miles provided the Board with a brief update on the monthly report, highlighting the annual servicing of L408 and recent repairs to the Station 1 sprinkler system. He also informed the Board of the delivery of a Can-Am unit awarded to the Silverton Fire District through a grant secured by Assistant Chief Veit. This unit will be valuable for extricating patients in remote areas, such as Abiqua Falls. Chief Miles noted there has been no new information regarding the Marion County radio project; however, a new radio tower has been installed in Scotts Mills to support the 800 MHz system.

President Von Flue asked about filling the current firefighter vacancy. Chief Miles reviewed the Civil Service process, explaining that once all candidates have had the opportunity to contest their testing results, Civil Service will certify the eligibility list. From that list, candidates will be selected to move forward to the Chief's Interview.

Chief Miles formally notified the Board of his intent to retire. President Von Flue discussed scheduling a future meeting to address the Chief's retirement, including compensation, a work-back period, and the process for filling the position. The Board reached consensus to take up this discussion at the June meeting.

b) Staffing and Benefit Update

Chief Miles provided an update to the Board regarding staff benefits. OA Cantu reported a 10% increase in insurance costs and reviewed the District's current coverage. OA Cantu also informed the Board that Regence is no longer contracted with Legacy and, over the past year, has also discontinued contracts with Salem Health and OHSU. A meeting has been scheduled with Kim Nichol森 from WHA Insurance to meet with staff and discuss potential options. Unfortunately, available insurance options remain limited, and many agencies are facing similar challenges. Vice President Bledsoe asked if Silverton Fire District is looking to switch carriers or if there is another plan. OA Cantu stated that the upcoming meeting will allow staff to gather appropriate information and educate themselves prior to making that decision, but that a decision will be presented at the next board meeting.

c) Staff Salary Comparison

OA Cantu provided a Staff Salary Comparison to the Board, discussing the comparisons and information in the comparison provided. Vice President Palmer questioned the agencies that were compared based on population. OA Cantu stated that she selected agencies that were comparable in budget and call numbers. Vice President Palmer requested a salary comparison that included large agencies in the region.

d) SDAO Best Practice Checklist

Chief Miles discussed the Best Practice trainings with the Board, letting them know that this needs to be completed by November of 2026. OA Cantu will investigate what trainings would count toward this educational requirement and report back to the Board. President Von Flue clarified that this is for a 2% discount on insurance through SDAO, not the training for Oregon Public Meetings Law required by ORS 192.700.

IX. NEW BUSINESS:

a) Resolution 26-368 Close Fund 30

Vice President Palmer made a motion to adopt Resolution 26-368. Director Bledsoe seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

(President Von Flue: Aye, Vice President Palmer: Aye, Secretary-Treasurer Mengucci: Aye, Director Bledsoe: Aye, Director Sowa: Aye)

b) Resolution 26-369 Reviewing Fund 31

Vice President Palmer made a motion to adopt Resolution 26-369. Secretary-Treasurer Mengucci seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Vice President Palmer asked if adopting this fund will allow it to be reinstated for the next ten years. OA Cantu confirmed. Director Sowa asked for clarification about what Fund 31 covers, specifically about unemployment. Chief Miles confirmed that this fund could assist paying for unemployment claims filed through the state. OA Cantu clarified how unemployment claims work, including rates being set by the state. Chief Miles discussed how this fund assists with paying for grant funded positions, vacation buy-out, and other incendiary expenses. Discussion ensued about possible applications of this fund.

(President Von Flue: Aye, Vice President Palmer: Aye, Secretary-Treasurer Mengucci: Aye, Director Bledsoe: Aye, Director Sowa: Aye)

c) Adopt Revised 2026-2027 Budget Calendar

Director Bledsoe moved to rescind the previously adopted 2026-2027 Budget Calendar. Director Sowa seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

(President Von Flue: Aye, Vice President Palmer: Aye, Secretary-Treasurer Mengucci: Aye, Director Bledsoe: Aye, Director Sowa: Aye)

Director Bledsoe moved to adopt the revised 2026-2027 Budget Calendar. Vice President Palmer seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

(President Von Flue: Aye, Vice President Palmer: Aye, Secretary-Treasurer Mengucci: Aye, Director Bledsoe: Aye, Director Sowa: Aye)

d) Adopt Fire Chief Evaluation

Vice President Palmer moved to adopt the Fire Chief Evaluation. Director Bledsoe seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

(President Von Flue: Aye, Vice President Palmer: Aye, Secretary-Treasurer Mengucci: Aye, Director Bledsoe: Aye, Director Sowa: Aye)

X. EXECUTIVE SESSION:

a) ORS 192.660,(2),(i)

President Von Flue called the Executive Session to order at 8:03 p.m.

The Board reviewed and evaluated the employment-related performance of Chief Miles.

President Von Flue adjourned the executive session at 8:57 p.m.

President Von Flue reconvened the regular board meeting at 8:57 p.m.

XI. ITEMS PENDING:

XII. ADJOURNMENT:

With no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 8:59 p.m.

Approved this 14th day of April, 2026.

Les Vand...

President

Minutes recorded and prepared by Kaylee Spencer