

Sheridan Fire District
Regular Board Meeting
August 12, 2025

Attendance: Tammy Heidt, Gary Giddings, Cory Chrisman, Pete Gutbrod

Absent: Ray Bottenberg

Others present: Chief Roy Hari, Division Chief Phill Riggs, Marguerite Alexander, Dan Heidt, Jose Chavez, Capt. Daniel Cummins, Austin Saucier

Online: Blake Jamison, Steve Warden, Steve Unger (*News-Register*), Bobby Hatch, Nicole Fitzgerald, Jake Gillins, and people identified as Sean, Jason, James, iPhone

Tammy called the meeting to order at 6:38 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance

Approval of minutes

Cory moved to approve the minutes from the July 8, 2025 meeting. Gary seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Approval of the financial report:

Gary made a motion to accept the financials. Pete seconded the motion. The motion carried,

Audience Participation: There were no comments

Old Business:

1. Uncollectables (Write-offs) with Blake Jamison of Tactical Business Group.
 - TBG allows 90 days before turning a bill over to collections.
 - With private insurance companies, standards are set. Typically insurance companies in Oregon are paying more than other places in the US. At any point in time an agency can push for more money from private insurers. (That would take a lawsuit.)
 - Medicare pays \$606/claim. Sheridan has a very high Medicare/Medicaid population. 54.5% were Medicare and 25.35% Medicaid or 80% between the two. As government-based insurers, no one else can negotiate with Medicare/Medicaid. The only room to negotiate is with the private ambulance – just 20 percent of our transports.
 - Sheridan FCI pays the full amount billed for transports of inmates.

- The fire district has done better at collecting by increasing the number of accounts going to collections.
- When asked what the district could do to improve revenue flow Blake said, "I really feel at this point that you are doing everything you can," adding, "I hate to say that because it makes it feel hopeless." Urban areas have a higher percentage of commercial claims.
- GEMT serves as a supplemental payment for Medicare/Medicaid.
- Blake will get more information to Tammy, the Chief and Marguerite regarding what the district receives per call and the highlights of the conversation tonight. (Tammy asked for the information on letterhead so she can take it to a meeting she will be attending.) Blake said he would also request permission to include comparables from a neighboring fire district.

Blake signed off at 7:20 p.m.

Cory Chrisman requested information regarding FireMed. How many members do we have. Marguerite will get that information for the Board.

2. Resolution FY2025-2026-01 District Organizational Procedures.

Gary made a motion to approve Resolution 2025-2026-01. Cory seconded the motion. The motion carried.

3. Bank account access: Chief Riggs still does not have access to bank accounts. Tammy said everything for US Bank is done online. She asked Chief Riggs to contact Les, then let her know if there is something she needs to do. Gary offered to take signed minutes to First Federal and see what needs to be done there. Tammy said she used to have a login for LGIP.

New Business:

Additions to agenda.

Chief Hari would like to discuss selling/leasing our oldest medic unit SW Polk Fire at Fred Hertel's request.

1. Appointment of a fire chief.

Cory made a motion to replace Interim Fire Chief Roy Hari with Fire Chief Phillip Riggs. Pete seconded the motion. The change in leadership will be effective immediately. The motion carried.

2. Chief's Report: Chief Hari had a lengthy concluding report regarding the state of district, participation in conflagrations, staffing, grants and recommendations for the future of the fire district.
3. Community Report
4. Filling Medical Leave and PTE Insurance
 - We are down a medic due to a medical leave that may last 90+ days. Jose Chavez returned and will be here until the end of the month. Our employee is not likely to do light duty and is considering family leave. We will need to carry his insurance. He has short-term disability and long-term kicks in at 90 days.
 - Chief Riggs recommended hiring a Temporary FT employee. That position— someone not already on our roster-- would go to part time once the employee returns. The interested paramedic is retired out of PERS so we would not pay PERS for that person. He would like to have medical insurance even when he is moved to PT. Our paramedics are receiving a lot of OT right now. Tammy recommended that Chief Riggs develop a policy for PT employees working 30+ hours that would make the eligible for health insurance if we aren't paying PERS. As this is operational they asked the Fire Chief to handle it.
5. Sell of surplus items.

According to District policy, the fire chief can sell anything under \$5,000 without the Board's approval.
6. Tammy added another item to the agenda item: SDAO

Gary made a motion for Tammy and Pete to make contact with SDAO and see what help might be available to us per the email that Tammy received. Cory seconded the motion. Tammy wants a 2-member committee. The motion carried.

7. Selling of an ambulance.
 - SW Polk wants to purchase our third-out ambulance.
 - Chief Hari asked if the Board is willing to sell it or rent it out. Our oldest ambulance is a 2018 with 120K miles. The plan was to take that box and remount in another year. "It has good service life."
 - The Board did not want to sell it as we have no money to replace apparatus and won't have anytime in the foreseeable future. A new ambulance would cost \$400,000 and is 2-years from order to delivery. Chief Riggs said he would rather lease it out – a monthly lease with a contract. We would pull out all the equipment, with the exception of the gurney which is an autoloader and Southwest Polk's is not. They would cover insurance and repairs." The Chief

will do some research and make sure we can lease it and see a lease agreement.

Cory made a motion to give authority to Chief Riggs to move forward with negotiating a lease agreement on the 2018 Medic Unit to SW Polk. Pete seconded the motion. Chief Riggs will run it through SDAO since we pay them rather already rather than Eilene. The motion carried.

We have two Chief's vehicle and as of August 15, only one Chief Officer. If it is not used as collateral, Chief Hari recommended selling it. We could get \$27,000 or \$28,000.

Pete moved to adjourn. Gary seconded the motion. The motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Marguerite Alexander

Administrative Assistant

Gary Giddings, Secretary/Treasurer