

Sheridan Fire District  
Regular Board Meeting  
January 13, 2026

Board Attendance: Gary Giddings, Cory Chrisman, Tammy Heidt, Ray Bottenberg

Absent: Pete Gutbrod

Others Present: Chief Riggs, Marguerite Alexander, Rob Foster. (No one online)

Tammy called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance

**Approval of meeting minutes: Ray moved and Cory seconded a motion to approve the minutes from the December meeting. Tammy pointed out typos. The motion to approve the minutes as corrected carried.**

Financials:

1. Tammy noted that the money from the sale of the pickup should have gone into the equipment reserve fund. We have only \$11K in there. Before the truck sold, the Board voted on putting the money there for future use. It was unknown how much we would get from the sale of the vehicle. The board discussed earmarking \$25K of the sale for the general fund and amending the decision to put \$25K in the Equipment Reserve Fund. Tammy wants to have the matter resolved by next month's meeting.
2. **Cory moved to amend the original vote to allot 50% of the revenue received from selling C-9 to the General Fund and the other 50% going to the Equipment Reserve Fund with the action completed by February's meeting. Gary seconded the motion. The motion carried.**

**Approval of the Financials: Cory moved to approve the financials for Dec.9, 2025. Ray seconded the motion. The motion carried.**

Audience participation: Rob requested a joint workshop with the Board, union and volunteers to discuss a potential bond levy. Dates suggested: Jan. 26 or Feb. 2. Tammy recommended appointing a committee to represent the board. The board was okay with that. (Mondays or Tuesday work the best for the volunteers.) Cory is willing to serve on the committee. Gary will also serve on the committee.

**Consensus: The Board agreed to appoint Cory and Gary to serve on the committee to start preparing for a serial levy. The first meeting will be held at 5:30 p.m. on Jan. 26.**

## Old Business:

1. AFG grant: Safer Grant for three additional personnel. Chief said we must accept the grant before applying for modifications.
2. ODF: \$2500 for HB. We pay everything and they send back \$2500
3. Security Grant: We don't have all the tools to install the new equipment. We need to upgrade the system at the Buell station and change the locks. We can move the smart locks out there.
4. Ambulance billing and service billing for non-transport with ALS evaluation. It would meet the car crash fee which is \$450. 40% of our calls are BLS. The board is okay with Chief Riggs coming up with a resolution to bill for non-transport. We would bill insurance. A lot of the insurance companies are paying for them. Gary asked if our residents are billed for car crashes. Most agencies around are billing for car crashes. Ray asked about Medicare and Medicaid Chief said one will pay and the other won't.

**Consensus: The Board is okay with billing for non-transport that involve ALS evaluation. Chief will come up with a resolution for next month. A question was asked: How do we get the insurance information if we don't transport? 40% of our calls are non-transport. The billing company charges \$15 per bill**

5. Board training. Everyone has completed it This is annual training.
6. SDAO Conference. None of the board members will go. Marguerite to see about attending.

## New Business

1. Chief's Report : We had 169 calls in December. Chief Riggs asked if the Board wanted an annual report. The Board said it was not necessary due to the decrease for the year in move-ups to McMinnville and the elimination of the second ambulance.
2. Updates on vehicles
  - HB9 is getting its annual servicing to DOT specs.
  - The brush rigs were serviced and the 2008 Brush Rig is running.
  - The tender is slated to go in next. It will be expensive. Waiting to get all the parts in house. Driver's seat is a reclining rocking chair. It will be kept in Ballston but it is currently in Buell. Bill is almost signed off to drive it, but it is not fair to ask him to use it in its current condition.
  - The Heavy Brush belongs to the federal government. We keep it up but when we don't want/need it we must give it back.

3. Glenn's Retirement: Glenn, our in-house mechanic, turns 70 in January. Do we want to do our own oil changes? Chief okay with that but not brakes. It will be an added cost.
4. Budget Overview: The goal is to pull less than \$100K per month from LGIP. Most of our big ticket contracts—except loan payments in June—have been paid off. Chief's goal is to make it to November as he doesn't want to take out a TAN loan. Anastasia from Columbia Bank is looking into merging our two Umpqua/Columbia loans with an interest rate of 4%+ (Lower than the current rates) with a due date in November. Expenses run \$130-150K per month. We are still waiting for GEMT money. If we make \$30K per month in ambulance revenue Chief thinks we can make August and September. The next couple of months while working on the budget should help us learn more. We still have one employee out on FMLA leave. The extra employee for 4 months is less expensive than overtime. Chief is looking at insurance. The line item in the budget is/was not accurate, and the price increased 10%. We would need our cost to be below \$18K per month to work out, and we haven't been.

For the Good of the Order

From Tammy:

1. Last month Chief Rigg's brought up the need for a contract now that he has been named fire chief. Tammy said she was hesitant because in the past they had contracts the District could not get out of. SDAO had advised not getting a contract right away. They sent a template. Tammy recommended appointing a committee of two to work with Chief on a contract that will take effect upon his retirement on July 1. Ray and Tammy will serve on that committee to work with Chief Riggs.
2. Tammy thanked the Chief for handling the day when we had two fire calls at the same time at different ends of the fire district. She recommended not calling for mutual aid from the district to our south as they are planning to bill other fire districts if their services are cancelled. Tammy will not be here for the March board meeting.

**Cory moved to adjourn the meeting and Ray seconded the motion. The motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 7:45 p.m.**

Respectfully submitted:

Marguerite Alexander, Administrative Assistant