

HOODLAND FIRE DISTRICT #74
BOARD MEETING MINUTES
SEPTEMBER 8, 2026

Board Members: Terry Niedermeyer, Cliff Fortune, and Kirk Peterson. [Nora Gambee (Absent) and John Drake (Absent)] 3 voting members in attendance.

Staff and Volunteers: Jim Price; Fire Chief, Scott Kline; Division Chief, and Kelli Ewing; Office Administrator.

Guests: Nancy Padberg [Zoom]

1. Call to Order: By Terry Niedermeyer at 7:00 PM

2. Roll Call

3. Pledge of Allegiance: Led by Cliff Fortune

4. Persons to be Heard. None.

5. Fire Station Project

A. Station Project Update

i. Framing has begun, with wood walls starting to go up. Work is also underway to place conduit for under-grounding the PGE overhead power line. The sprinkler line was largely installed, with the double-check valve being added; an underground flush will be completed once the system is connected. Concrete masonry work is expected to resume soon.

ii. Schedule for next month will be emailed to the Board.

iii. The full building permit was obtained after payment. The Quitclaim deed was delivered to county counsel for recording, with full transfer of the property to the District anticipated shortly.

iv. Phase 2 planning will require another land-use meeting for the training tower and radio tower.

v. The project is approximately 14 days behind schedule due to delays in receiving the building permit. Inline is working to recover some of that time. Current projection is for final completion around the first week of August 2027.

- vi. Budget performance remains favorable with additional savings being identified. The second Guaranteed Maximum Price (GMP) was reduced, and additional savings may be realized through unused contingency funds.

6. Approval of Minutes

A. Board of Directors Meeting Minutes on August 11, 2026

MOTION MADE: By Kirk Peterson
2ND: By Terry Niedermeyer
DISCUSSION: Cliff Fortune was absent during this meeting.
VOTE: Motion Passed 3 Ayes [2 Absent]. Cliff Fortune (Aye), Kirk Peterson (Aye), and Terry Niedermeyer (Aye) [Nora Gambia (Absent) and John Drake (Absent)]

B. Special Board Meeting Minutes on August 24, 2026

MOTION MADE: By Kirk Peterson
2ND: By Terry Neidermeyer
DISCUSSION: None.
VOTE: Motion Passed 3 Ayes [2 Absent]. Cliff Fortune (Aye), Kirk Peterson (Aye), and Terry Niedermeyer (Aye) [Nora Gambia (Absent) and John Drake (Absent)]

7. Communications

A. Board Upcoming Reminders

- i. Hoodland Fire Picnic – Saturday, September 12, 2026, ~ 11:00 AM
ii. Special Board Meeting – Tuesday, September 28, 2026, ~ 7:00 PM
iii. Hoodland Fire Open House – Saturday, October 10, 2026
iv. Board Meeting – Tuesday, October 13, 2026, ~ 7:00 PM
v. OFDDA Conference [Hood River] – November 5 – 7, 2026

B. Safety Meeting Minutes – July 16, 2026

8. Reports

A. Chiefs Report: Fire Chief Jim Price

- i. The Fire Chief background investigation process is taking longer than anticipated but remains on track. Similar comprehensive background investigations are being used by other Oregon Fire agencies. This is due to a new law passed in 2023. The anticipated start date has been moved to November 1, 2026, subject to completion of the process and contract approval.
 - ii. The District responded to 83 calls in August, bringing the year-to-date total to 623 calls. The average turnout time was 1:15, with an average response time to arrival of 10:26.
 - iii. August activity included Hood to Coast and the Fire Chief hiring process.
 - iv. Next Civil Service meeting is October 2026.
 - v. Fire Season remains active. The Wildfire Partnership meeting is tomorrow.
 - vi. The District has an older set of Hurst tools that is no longer used by the District and has little or no trade-in value. Rather than selling the equipment through GovDeals, staff proposed possibly donating to a small fire department who could use them. Staff will identify a potential recipient and determine whether formal Board action should be by motion or resolution, then return to the Board for approval.
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B. Staff Report: DC Brian Henrichs. None.

C. Staff Report: DC Scott Kline

- i. DC Scott Kline reported on access, water supply, and land-use planning matters, including a new subdivision going in.
 - ii. Three company inspections are planned for September 2026.
 - iii. Planning is underway for the October 10th Open House and 60th anniversary.
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iv. Fire Prevention Week messaging will focus on battery-charging safety, including risks with e-bikes, electric vehicles, phones, and other rechargeable devices.

v. DC Scott Kline is coordinating with the principal at Welches School regarding future team teaching, tentatively planned for late winter or early spring. CERT volunteers may also be engaged to assist with public education programs using lesson plans already developed.

9. Finance

A. Financial Memo

i. The year-to-date budget report and transactions since the last Board meeting have been completed.

ii. The District participated in nine fire deployments, with anticipated reimbursement totaling nearly \$300,000 compared with \$175,000 budgeted. Overtime was approximately 54% expended after three payrolls, largely due to deployment activity. Staff noted a supplemental budget may be needed later in the fiscal year if overtime remains elevated.

B. HFD Fire Station Project Costs

i. Fire Station Project expenses and reimbursements were reviewed.

10. Unfinished Business

A. Volunteer Relations Update.

i. The District has received significant interest in the next volunteer firefighter academy, with approximately 19 applicants. The class may be capped at 10 this year. Staff has reported that retention from the previous academy remains favorable and the interest in volunteering with Hoodland Fire continues to be strong.

B. Board Liaison Update.

i. The Support Group was recognized for its work during Hood to Coast. 87 meals were served, which was down from the prior year. Board members expressed appreciation for the many volunteers who assisted and reported positive feedback.

ii. Volunteers were described as pleased with the current district operations and excited about the new station and DC Scott Kline being offered the Fire Chief position.

iii. The volunteer representative update is provided quarterly. The next update is expected in November.

11. New Business

A. Agenda Suggestions for Next Month's Meeting

i. The purpose of the Special Board meeting on September 28, 2026, is to discuss the New Fire Chief contract.

12. Motion to Pay Bills

MOTION MADE: By Kirk Peterson

2ND: By Cliff Fortune

DISCUSSION: None.

VOTE: Motion Passed 3 Ayes [2 Absent]. Cliff Fortune (Aye), Kirk Peterson (Aye), and Terry Niedermeyer (Aye) [Nora Gambia (Absent) and John Drake (Absent)]

13. Board Member Comments

A. Cliff Fortune – Thanked District personnel and volunteers for their work during the Hood to Coast and noted positive feedback from law enforcement and other participants. The event was described as well organized, with volunteers available to respond while supporting the event. Congratulations to DC Scott Kline on being selected for the Fire Chief position.

14. Executive Session. None

15. Other New Business. None

16. Adjournment

MOTION MADE: By Cliff Fortune

ADJOURNMENT: By Terry Niedermeyer at 7:41 PM

Respectfully Submitted,

Kelli Ewing

Kelli Ewing, Office Administrator

Notes Typed By: Christina Harris, Administrative Assistant

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