

BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Rachel Fellis-President
Wayne (Dusty) Kuhl
Odas Coleman
Vanessa Swenson
Nic Schrock



FIRE CHIEF
Rob Garrison

ASSISTANT CHIEF
Brett Swenson

OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR
Jamie Chamberlin

BOARD OF DIRECTORS WORK SESSION MINUTES

490 Church Street, Aumsville
April 6, 2026

Call to order: Meeting called to order by President Fellis at 18:49 (6:49 pm)

Attendance:

Board members: President Rachel Fellis, Wayne (Dusty) Kuhl (telephone) Odas Coleman, Vanessa Swenson

Staff: Chief Robert Garrison, Office Administrator Jamie Chamberlin

4th Street property fence discussion:

Director Coleman questioned whether the fence decision could negatively impact volunteers or reduce the likelihood of passing a future bond levy. The consensus was that the district cannot pursue another levy for four years, allowing sufficient time to address any related concerns should they arise. Chief Garrison stated that he did not believe the fence decision would affect the community's overall perception of the volunteers.

Directors Swenson and Fellis worked on the draft board statement with input from the other members present. It was agreed that President Fellis would read the statement following the public comment period.

It was also agreed that Jamie would post the project timeline on the district website but would not share it on social media at this time.

Strategic Planning:

Director Swenson questioned what the goals were for the district in the foreseeable future. 3-year goals and 5-year goals.

1. How are our finances looking? Do we have funding other than tax money. What is the status of grants.
 - a. Chief Garrison stated that he is planning on asking the State for dedicated funds. This would go towards the remodel of the main station.
 - b. Airpicks and Lifepicks are the main concern at the moment for equipment. Airpicks are going to cost approximately \$400,000 and Lifepicks another \$50,000. Assistant Chief Swenson is actively pursuing grants and funding ideas to go towards these items.

2. Can we sell the 4th street property? Or how can we use it to make money? What are the main fundraisers for the district?
 - a. We could sell the property, but it would have to be re-zoned from public use. Chief Garrison believes it is doable but difficult.
 - b. The main fundraising efforts benefit the volunteer association and not the district. The volunteer association is a 501C3 nonprofit organization. Their main fundraising efforts are the pancake breakfast, the Turkey shoot and the Cruise in. The volunteer association then donates back to the community via scholarships etc.
 - c. CPR classes: The District is actively pursuing getting CPR classes back for the public.
3. Operations: Response times are phenomenal. There are no issues with getting enough people to respond to calls. Mainly part-time and residents, but also volunteers are responding.
4. Remodel of the station: The remodel is in the very beginning stages. There have been 3 bid packets sent to architectural firms. We are waiting for responses. Director Fellis asked if this cost the district money. There is no money involved until we accept a bid. If we can get state funding for the remodel, it will be worded so that the money is specifically used for the remodel and maintenance of both stations.
5. Staffing and retention: It is of the belief that staffing is at a good level. Chief Garrison does not believe that the district needs to hire any more full-time staff. If the seasonal staffing grant is awarded, the district will hire 3 part-time staff to help cover during the summer months. Volunteers numbers are high. There is one application that is being reviewed as he is a 2nd year student at Chemeketa.
6. What are the goals for the district?
 - a. Chief Garrison will address this in a future meeting.
7. Conflagration: A list of volunteers and part-time employees will be made available. Do we have to keep conflagration levels at 25% or less for equipment and staff? Is the conflagration policy up to date. Jamie will prepare the policy for review at the next meeting.

Adjourn: **President Fellis** *adjourned the meeting at 20:50 hours (8:50 p.m.).*

Rachel Fellis, President _____ Date: _____

Vanessa Swenson, Secretary _____ Date: _____