



Woodburn Fire District
Board of Directors Meeting

Wednesday, May 20, 2026

Attendance: Board Chair Jerry Cotter, Board Vice-Chair Andy Ponce, Director Ed Everts, Director Deb Yager, Director Steve Kufeldt

Staff Present: Fire Chief Jim Walker, Assistant Chief Mike Corless, Finance Officer Korrin Petersen

Community Members: Engineer Dan Agee, Fire Marshal Ortiz (via TEAMS), Captain Jon Koenig, POCV Yaset Carlos, Engineer Jared Redmon, Engineer Marshal Bray, Christian Waters, & friends and family of Christian Waters

Board Chair Cotter opened the meeting at 7:00 p.m. Roll call and the pledge of allegiance were conducted.

Administration:

Approval of Board Minutes from April's Special Meeting – Director Ponce made a motion to approve the meeting minutes from April's special meeting. The motion was seconded by Director Yager. The motion carried unanimously.

Approval of Board Minutes from the April Meeting – Director Yager made a motion to approve the meeting notes. The motion was seconded by Director Ponce. The motion carried unanimously.

Approve Executive Session Minutes from the April Meeting – Director Ponce made a motion to approve the executive session minutes. The motion was seconded by Director Yager. The motion carried unanimously.

Treasurer's report was read by Secretary/Treasurer:

As of April 30, 2026:

Local Government Investment Pool 1:	\$5,365,399.44
Local Government Investment Pool, 2024 GO Bond:	\$317,767.69
Columbia Bank Checking:	\$1,220,875.41
 Total Resources:	 \$6,904,042.54
 Payment of April Net Payables:	 \$139,590.64
Payment of April Bond Payables:	\$857,176.11
Payment of April Net Payroll: (includes SAFER firefighters)	\$371,997.48

Director Kufeldt made a motion to approve the Treasurer's report for April. The motion was seconded by Director Ponce. The motion carried unanimously.

Action Items

Oath of Office-Christian Waters – Chief Walker introduced Firefighter Christian Waters and stated it was his privilege to administer the firefighter oath of office to Christian who will begin working for the District on June 1, 2026. The oath was administered, followed by a short recess.

Information Items

Local Option Levy Update – Chief Walker provided the Board with an update regarding the Local Option Levy campaign that appeared on the May ballot. As of May 20, the measure was trailing by just over 300 votes. Voter turnout was very low and lower than what was seen in 2024. One of the biggest changes from the previous vote was the shift in support, with 85% voting in favor previously, compared to the current results showing 53% voting no and 47% voting yes. Chief Walker has researched the voting outcomes by precinct to better target specific areas in future campaigns. Historically, low voter turnout had benefited the District, with senior living communities contributing strongly to the “yes” vote. Updated vote totals are expected within the next few days, although significant changes are not anticipated before ballots are finalized. Chief Walker will meet with the public affairs consultant next week and is currently redeveloping a plan to return to voters in either November or May. In response to a question about the current levy, Chief Walker stated that it remains in effect through 2029. Although community presentations received positive feedback; however we did not receive the same result as in 2024.

Station 22 & 23 Project Updates – Chief Walker updated the Board on the ongoing station projects.

The Station 23 water filtration system has been installed. The installation took longer than expected and included rerouting some plumbing. The water has been tested and passed as potable.

The windows for the Station 22 remodel project have been ordered. Woodburn Construction is estimating receipt of those windows in about two weeks. In the meantime, staff will be working on moving Station 22 personnel to Station 23 until the remodel project is complete.

Director Ponce asked about the landscaping and the tall grasses in the field at Station 23. Chief Walker stated that we will be following up with the landscapers.

Volunteer Academy 26-01 – Assistant Chief Corless reported that five volunteer recruits currently going through academy 26-01 will graduate on June 3rd. The graduation will take place at Station 21; all are invited to attend the graduation ceremony. Once complete, the 17-week academy provides graduating members with their Firefighter I certification. Over the last year the Northwest Valley Training group has graduated 37 volunteer firefighters; 13 of whom are part of the Woodburn Fire District. There are currently 15 potential volunteers on a wait list for the next academy. Director Everts asked if a list of names for the volunteers and student residing like what was asked by POCV Dale Nelson at a previous board meeting. Finance Officer Petersen stated that the list had been added shortly after POCV Nelson requested it along with photos and an updated volunteer page on the website. The question of how many students we currently have was asked. Assistant Chief Corless stated that we currently have 3

resident volunteers and have a list of students who would like to be part of the project. Director Ponce asked if Chemeketa's program was full. Assistant Chief Corless stated that he believed it was.

Executive Session

None

Miscellaneous Items & Recognitions

Chief Walker presented a list of upcoming community events.

Saturday, May 16th Bike Rodeo, Walmart Parking Lot
Thursday, May 28th Red Cross Community Blood Drive, Station 21
Saturday, May 30th Volunteer Academy 26-01 Live Fire Training
Thursday, June 11th Engine 21 WSD Preschool Year End Celebration
Wednesday, June 17th FM Ortiz NM Adult Center Luncheon
Saturday, June 27th Volunteers to Staff Ladder 21 for Marion County Egg Drop Event
Thursday, July 2nd American Red Cross Blood Drive
Saturday, July 4th St. Paul July 4th Parade
Saturday, July 4th Gervais July 4th Parade
Saturday, July 4th Woodburn Fireworks Staffing
Saturday, July 4th Gervais Fireworks Staffing
Saturday, August 1st Community Connections Day
Tuesday, August 4th National Night Out
Saturday, August 22nd Fiesta Mexicana Parade
Saturday, September 12th Relay for Life

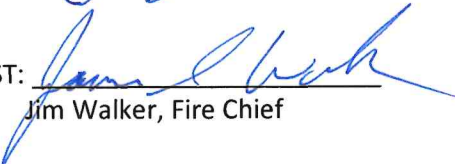
Director Ponce inquired into where the live fire training exercise for the academy would take place. Assistant Chief Corless stated it would be in Molalla. Director Everts asked about the West Salem High School training exercise. Assistant Chief Corless stated that due to safety concerns brought forward, the school district had to cancel the exercise.

Public Comment: There were no comments from the public.

Director Ponce made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:26 p.m. The motion was seconded by Director Yager. The motion carried unanimously.

Next meeting will be held on: Wednesday, June 15, 2026.

APPROVED:  Date: 6-17-2024
Jerry Cotter, Board President

ATTEST: 
Jim Walker, Fire Chief