**WAMIC RURAL FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT**

**BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

**August 16, 2025**

The board meeting was called to order by President Greg Weast at 10:08am.

Board Members present were Greg Weast, Neil Senger, John Creel, John Ickes and Cindy Koch.

Members of the Audience were: Connie Hatfield, George Hatfield, Merle Hlvaka, Shayne Bower and Larry Magill.

Minutes of the July 19, 2025 meeting were approved.

Correspondence: None

Treasurer’s Report: According to Chief Magill, there were no unusual costs or expenses for July on either the Profit and Loss Statement or the Balance Sheet. Copies of these reports were available to all those in attendance at this meeting.

CHIEF’S REPORT

Status of vehicles in for repair or sale: Nothing new.

Donuts with the Chief: A community meeting has been established by Chief Magill. This will be an open meeting to discuss whatever issues the community might want more information on. Donuts with the Chief will be held on the 2nd Monday of each month at the Fire Department from 9-11 am.

EMS: As of this meeting, the fire department has gone out on 91 calls.

Training: No further summer training. Beginning September 1st, training will begin again and dinner will be provided at 6pm.

Communications: New batteries were installed in equipment.

Safety: No meetings held. Strong safety measures are always present at every call, and at that time, someone there is appointed to watch that safety measures are performed.

OLD BUSINESS:

Grants pending or open:

* Oregon State Fire Marshall – active
* FEMA- building grant – active
* Wildlife Mitigation- approved
* CWDG- active

The Grant period has just begun and staffing, capacity and building grants are in progress. The need for a bay sleeping area and a shower room will first be installed in the Rock Creek location, then to the Wamic Community Center location, if the grant is approved.

Preparedness for emergencies, high wind wildfire, Starlink, comms, evac routes, communication with residents and visitors (how do we get the word out and how fast can we get the information out?) was not addressed at this meeting.

NEW BUSINESS:

We were each given a proposed Wasco County Ambulance Service Plan and also a proposed Wasco County Ambulance Service Ordinance 2025 at this board meeting. According to Chief Magill, these plans will not benefit our community but would harm our access to speedy medical attention. The chief talked to all three commissioners, and they were unaware how this proposal would affect our fire district, and all 6 surrounding volunteer fire districts. We can no longer go through the normal channels to challenge these proposals; there is a possible criminal intention if the commissioners do pass these proposals. We must attack these new proposals by getting the word out to everyone in our community and gain force with our surrounding neighbors affected by this possible AMS change, so that it is NOT approved. If these measures go through, it will destroy South County EMS and we no longer have a Wamic Fire Department. Our community would no longer have local EMS available as we do now. Our local EMS saves lives!

It was proposed that we use the Wildland Mitigation Grant fund to put a roof top sprinkler on top of every resident’s home in our district. These sprinklers would cost about $100 each and would be installed by our Wamic fire department at no charge. These sprinklers would turn on when embers are seen, then turned off when there is no longer a threat for fire for these structures. The implementation of these sprinklers would not only protect the homes in our community but would demonstrate the Fire Department’s passion for protecting our properties with this defensive fire protection measure. With the way these roof top sprinklers work, water usage, volume and pressure would be limited and should not affect our current water systems by much. They would only be activated during fire season and would need to be drained in the winter. We could be proactive by installing roof sprinklers to be used during fire season since yard sprinklers has not been very effective in protecting property.

Meeting was adjourned at 10:48am.

Minutes prepared and submitted by Cindy Koch