

NEWMAN LAKE FIRE & RESCUE
Spokane County Fire District No. 13

Minutes for May 19, 2026
BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS SPECIAL MEETING
COMMUNITY MEETING

CALL TO ORDER

The Board of Fire Commissioners of Spokane County Fire Protection District No. 13 met on May 19, 2026, at 6:30 p.m. at Station No. 1, 9324 N Starr Rd., Newman Lake, Washington.

ROLL CALL AND INTRODUCTIONS

Board: Commissioners Ben Kaiser, Teresa Phelps, and Dennis Gleckler

Department Members: Division Chief Josh Ambach, Lieutenant Carleen Beauchene, and Secretary Robin Harbin

Others in attendance include: Sue Gleckler, Jerry LeGrand, Dan and Julia Conrath, Mark and Debbie Wisher, Lynn Haugh, and Dave and Kathy Pfeiffer

WILDLAND FIRE SEASON REPORT:

Robin discussed resources for fire prevention and protection as well as district preparedness for fighting wildfires. Two of our department members, Division Chief Josh Ambach and Community Liaison Kelli Lemley, are specially trained and authorized to conduct property surveys through the Washington Department of Natural Resources, DNR Wildfire Ready Neighbors program. Community members were encouraged to call the station for further information.

BRUSH 13-2 UPFIT:

DC Ambach highlighted the upgrade of Brush Truck B13-2. The B13-2 box was placed on a new 2025 Dodge 5500 chassis. Funds generated by going out on wildland mobilizations funded the purchase of the new chassis. The upfitted brush truck was completed and put in service two weeks ago. Along with Brush 13-1 and Brush 13-3, the green brush truck, we now have three fully equipped brush trucks ready to deploy on wildland fires in and out of district. Robin assured the community that with three brush trucks and nearly 50 staff and volunteers, we have adequate resources to quickly address in-district brush fires even while we are mobilized on a wildland fire outside the district.

WSRB RATING IMPROVED:

DC Ambach reported we have received a draft of our rating from the Washington Survey and Rating Bureau WSRB, which is Washington state's version of an ISO rating for insurance purposes. The district will meet with WSRB May 28th for final evaluation. Actions taken by the fire department since the last review have yielded an improvement from a rating of 6 to 5 for homes within 1000 feet of a fire hydrant. Although we have not yet received a ratings map from WSRB, the rating improvement achieved may also be a benefit to those whose homes are more than 1000 feet from a hydrant.

BUDGET POSITION REPORT:

Robin presented a bar graph showing our 2026 Operating Budget and how much we have spent year to date. Our total operating budget, which is based on the General Levy and the EMS Levy, is \$1,176,116. Year-to-date we have spent \$404,609, roughly 34% of the budget. Per category, the largest amount spent was toward Administrative and Volunteer Wages and Benefits. This includes

items such as physicals, background checks, and driving records as well as wages, stipends, taxes, and benefits. The category with the largest percentage of budget spent so far this year is Fire Suppression, primarily due to the necessary purchase of more bunker gear and SCBA supplies.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Fire Auxiliary Annual Hot Dog & T-Shirt Sale will be on the 4th of July, Station 1, 11AM-2PM. Attendees mentioned this coincides with the annual Poker Run on the lake. Chair Kaiser is hopeful the Auxiliary may be able to sell T-Shirts at the dock but stated it is unlikely due to the need for extra people to handle it.

QUESTIONS & COMMENTS:

Dave Pfeiffer stated he has been making his property wildfire ready by clearing out problem saplings. He has 10 large bull pine trees that need to be removed. He's willing to fell them and cut them up but does not know what to do with them from there. Robin said she would explore resources and let Dave know.

ADJOURNMENT

As there was no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:49 p.m.



Ben Kaiser, Chairperson

6/18/26

Date



Robin Harbin, District Secretary

6-18-2026

Date