

NEWMAN LAKE FIRE & RESCUE
Spokane County Fire District No. 13
Minutes for June 18, 2026
BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS MEETING

CALL TO ORDER

The Board of Fire Commissioners of Spokane County Fire Protection District No. 13 met on June 18, 2026, at 1:00 p.m. at Station No. 1, 9324 N Starr Rd., Newman Lake, Washington.

ROLL CALL

Board: Chair Ben Kaiser, Vice Chair Teresa Phelps, and Commissioner Dennis Gleckler
Others Present: Secretary Robin Harbin and Community Members Dave and Kathy Pfeiffer
(*Chief Daron Bement was out on an emergency call; Division Chief Josh Ambach was on a Wildland Mobilization*)

CONSENT AGENDA

The consent agenda consisted of the meeting minutes for May 12, May 14, and May 19, 2026; Financial Reports; Approval of Warrants #13262 - #13323 in the amount of \$67,874.30; Payroll Taxes in the amount of \$7,837.17; and DRS Pension in the amount of \$4,001.85. Secretary Harbin noted an additional accounts payable to My Car Collision Center, in the amount of \$4,662.63, for collision repairs on Squad 13-2, was added just prior to the meeting. Although it was too late to change on the agenda, all financial paperwork, including the Voucher Approval, included the additional accounts payable item. Chair Kaiser motioned to accept the consent agenda; Vice Chair Phelps seconded the motion; Chair Kaiser called for the vote, which passed unanimously.

CORRESPONDENCE

\$500 Donation from Jack & Vicki Carney:

The Carneys donate \$500 to the department every year, to be used wherever needed. They do this in appreciation of our emergency services in time of need. Secretary Harbin sent a thank you note to express our gratitude.

2024 AFG Grant Denial email from FEMA:

Every year, we submit our application for an AFG grant. The 2024 Fiscal Year application submitted last year focused on new sets of turnout gear as did the previous years' application. Each year, our grant application has been denied. We are hopeful that our current AFG Grant application for a new fire engine will be approved.

Enduris Outlook (Insurance Risk Pool Rate and Coverage Projections):

Enduris aims to keep the same excellent coverage with minimal rate increases. Projections are for a rate increase of approximately 5 percent.

FIRE CHIEF'S REPORT by Chief Daron Bement (Presented by Secretary Harbin)

General Message:

- Fire season has officially arrived. Brush 13-2 has gone out on two mobilizations and is now on the Upriver Fire along with Attach 13-1.
- Academy 2026 is ending this month. We will announce the graduation for recruits and their families soon.

Calls, Staffing, Apparatus, Training:

- We had 19 incident responses in May 2026, an increase from 11 in May 2025
- Our year-to-date total calls is 86 as of May 31, 2026, a slight decrease from 2025.
- Two additional local EMTs have been completing their mandatory observations as Community Volunteers. They both live about 10 minutes away from Station 1 in Otis Orchards.
- Several potential new Shift Volunteers have started their observational trainings.
- Two Firefighters have left for full-time positions. We wish these two the very best as they start their academies: Gavin Shoemaker – hired by Kootenai County Fire and Rescue, and Dylan McGillen – hired by Spokane County Fire District 4.
- The dishwasher at Station 13-1 will need replacement as it has reached the end of its life and is no longer functioning.
- May training included: Live Fire; EMS Cardiology; Forcible Entry; Hydrants and Hose Lines; RT-130 Wildland Refresher and Practical; and Pump Operations

DIVISION CHIEF'S REPORT by Chief Josh Ambach (Reported by Secretary Harbin)

Chief Josh Ambach was deployed to the Twin Sisters Wildland Mobilization on June 14, along with crew members Connor Hunnel, Rylee Stangel, and Angus Daves. Apparatus deployed included: Brush 13-2 and Attack 13-1. On June 16, they were transferred from the Twin Sisters Fire to the Upriver Fire and remain deployed at this time.

AUXILIARY REPORT

No information or report was available. Secretary Harbin confirmed the annual T-Shirt and Hot Dog Sale will be held on July 4th from 9AM to 1PM. The event was posted on the Newman Lake Grange readerboard, in the Smoke Signals Newsletter, on our website, and sent out for mass email through the Newman Lake Property Owners Association.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS**June 2026 Smoke Signals Newsletter:**

The newsletter was sent to Brand Boost Prints on June 17, to be mailed out by Walts Mailing before the end of the month.

WSRB Final Report:

As reported in our Smoke Signals Newsletter, we have officially improved our district's WSRB rating, from a 6 to a 5 in hydranted areas. This improvement will be beneficial for homeowners as they shop for or renew their homeowners insurance.

Transfer 2025 Mobilization Equipment Revenue to Capital Apparatus Fund:

Secretary Harbin presented a Resolution 2026-8 to transfer the 2025 Wildland Mobilization Equipment Revenue, a total of \$87,886.50, from Fund 32 Operations to the Capital Apparatus Fund 361 as discussed during the November 17, 2025 Public Budget Meeting.

- **RESOLUTION 2026-8 Transfer Funds from F32 to F361**

After reviewing the resolution, Vice Chair Phelps motioned to approve Resolution 2026-8 as written, to transfer the 2025 Wildland Mobilization Equipment Revenue, in the amount of \$87,886.50 from Fund 32 Operations to Fund 361 Capital Apparatus; Commissioner Gleckler seconded the motion; Chair Kaiser called for the vote, which passed unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

Dave Pfeiffer of Moab Irrigation – Hydrant Testing Discussion

Dave Pfeiffer, a board member of Moab Irrigation, discussed hydrant testing within the district. Hydrant testing is not current, and questions have arisen regarding who is responsible for the testing. According to documents recorded by previous Chief Yamane, the responsibility is not upon the Fire District. Upon review of records and finances, Moab Irrigation plans to utilize approximately \$5000 for hydrant testing and repair this year. Moab hydrant testing records will now reflect test dates. After talking with Chief Bement, Dave Pfeiffer reported that permission has been granted to utilize assistance from Volunteer Firefighters when completing hydrant testing next year as the ability to communicate from hydrant to hydrant with firefighter radios will enhance the ability to test flow rates. In the future, hydrants may be color-coded to indicate flow rate. Vice Chair Phelps asked if a contract between the Fire District and Moab Irrigation was needed regarding hydrant testing. Dave Pfeiffer stated no contract is needed at this time. Next year we will need to look at developing an official plan to have the Fire District assist Moab Irrigation with hydrant testing.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Dave Pfeiffer related an incident of spotting smoke within the district. He asked if it is appropriate to call the fire station for reporting smoke or if 9-1-1 should be called. Chair Kaiser said it is appropriate to call the fire station to ask for a smoke investigation. If it is after office hours, 9-1-1 should be called. Medical emergencies should always be activated by calling 9-1-1.

GOOD OF THE ORDER

Plan Community Meeting:

Chair Kaiser proposed scheduling a Community Meeting on Tuesday, July 21, at 6:30 p.m. to discuss and explore the possibility of improving our marine response capabilities with an adequate rescue boat. All commissioners agreed to schedule the Community Meeting as proposed.

ADJOURNMENT

As there was no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:39 p.m.



Ben Kaiser, Chairperson

7/16/26

Date



Robin Harbin, District Secretary

7/16/2026

Date