

NEWMAN LAKE FIRE & RESCUE
Spokane County Fire District No. 13
Minutes for March 19, 2026
BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS MEETING

CALL TO ORDER

The Board of Fire Commissioners of Spokane County Fire Protection District No. 13 met on March 19, 2026, at 1:00 p.m. at Station No. 1, 9324 N Starr Rd., Newman Lake, Washington.

ROLL CALL

Board: Commissioners Ben Kaiser, Teresa Phelps, and Dennis Gleckler
Others Present: Chief Daron Bement, Division Chief Josh Ambach, Training Officer Carleen Beauchene, Secretary Robin Harbin, and Community Members Dave and Kathy Pfeiffer

CONSENT AGENDA

The consent agenda consisted of the meeting minutes for February 19, 2026; Financial Reports; Approval of Warrants #13078 - #13132 in the amount of \$43,370.25; Payroll Taxes in the amount of \$7,620.25; and DRS Pension in the amount of \$3,726.91. Commissioner Phelps motioned to accept the consent agenda; Commissioner Gleckler seconded the motion; Chair Kaiser called for the vote, which passed unanimously.

CORRESPONDENCE

Donation from Garrett Mullaney:

In appreciation of the Neighbor Ready Wildfire Prevention Survey we conducted, which helped in obtaining insurance, Garrett Mullaney brought in a \$1000 donation to the fire department.

Barb Busch/Bill Jackman emails:

Bill Jackman brought in a copy of an email exchange between himself and Barb Busch, pointing out that Barb indicated Secretary Harbin would help her group regarding Moab Irrigation. Secretary Harbin stated for record that she is responsible for providing Spokane County Fire District 13 public records only and will not delve into the records of any other entity, such as Moab Irrigation.

Inland Power & Light Rate Increases April 1, 2026:

Station 2 is on Inland Power and Light. We use an average of 160 kWh per month for an average annual cost of around \$930.00. Rate increases beginning April 1, 2026 will result in an increase of approximately \$300.00 per year to an average annual cost of around \$1,230.00 per year. Although the heater at Station 2 runs off propane, the trucks must be plugged in to be charged and ready to go at all times.

2026 Property Tax and Other Assessment Charges Statement:

Station 1 property taxes increased over \$2,095, up from \$3,077.94 in 2025 to \$5,173.46 in 2026; Station 2 property taxes increased from \$23.50 to \$211.37. The dramatic unexpected increases are due to the new Stormwater fee, which is assessed at \$1,646.35 on Station 1 and \$187.87 on Station 2. Whereas residential properties are assessed a \$48.00 Stormwater fee in 2026, the fire district is assessed the equivalent of over 32 residential properties, or roughly 121,000 square feet of hard, impervious surface area. It appears there is nothing we can do but pay this

unexpected fee that will put us over budget, but we should pursue Stormwater fee changes as this puts undue strain on our budget which will continue to increase each year, going from approximately \$1,834 in 2026 to \$3,210 in 2029.

FIRE CHIEF'S REPORT by Chief Daron Bement

General Message:

- The 2026 Northwest Leadership Seminar in Portland, Oregon was attended by all commissioners, Chief Bement, and Lieutenant Carleen.
- Our district is hosting an area officer course in April, to be led by one of our volunteers, Michael Stussy.

Calls, Staffing, Apparatus, Training:

- We had 18 incident responses in February 2026 for 36 year to date calls as of February 28.
- We have two additional Resident Firefighters: Jonathan Kendrick and Angus Daves. Jonathan has moved in; Angus will move in April 1st.
- Two Community Volunteers have joined the department as Apparatus Operators: Rich Peplinski and Scott Lasher. Chair Kaiser asked if we have an Apparatus Operators SOP. Chief Bement replied this will be defined under the current Support Firefighter SOP.
- Brush Truck 13-2 has been returned to the district from Racom. We are finalizing the electrical wiring and remounting of the pump. Estimated time to completing and being ready for testing to put in service by the end of March or early April is still on target.
- February training included: CPR Annual Refresher; EVIP Refresher; OSHA/WISHA Annual Refresher; Bloodborne Pathogens Annual Refresher.

DIVISION CHIEF'S REPORT by Captain Josh Ambach

B13-2 Upfit Update:

Brush 13-2 is in the final stages of preparation before being put in service. Volunteer Jim Stevenson will be wiring in the pump. We will be ready to put equipment on the upfitted brush truck soon.

Operations Report:

We are preparing for wildland fire season. A meeting will be held this next month for all interested in committing to mobe deployment teams. Division Chief Ambach and Lieutenant Carleen have achieved Engine Boss status. Plans are in place to bring on two more Engine Bosses which requires being signed off on helicopter operations. When mobe teams are assigned to nights, as they have in the past, they cannot be signed off on helicopters, since they don't operate at night.

Training Division Report:

Fire Academy 2026 starts April 13th with at least seven new recruits. IFSTA Resource 1 online will be utilized in classroom instruction. District 4 will be involved in Academy Hazmat training. Chief Bement, Division Chief Ambach, Lieutenant Carleen, and 15 of our volunteers have passed the IFSAC test to be Firefighter 1 certified. Chief Bement and Lieutenant Carleen have passed the written exam for Firefighter 2. Captain Jake Ambach has achieved Instructor 2.

AUXILIARY REPORT

Division Chief Ambach relayed Auxiliary President, Kelli Lemley's report: The Auxiliary balance remains the same as last month at approximately \$2,300. This month's meeting had a small turnout. As the 4th of July is on a Saturday this year, the Auxiliary is deciding whether to hold the annual hot dog and t-shirt sale on Saturday or Sunday. Chair Kaiser suggested incorporating it with the annual poker run on the lake. All interested are welcome to attend the Auxiliary meetings held at the fire station the first Monday of each month, at 6:30 p.m.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

2025 Wildland Equipment & Personnel Reimbursements:

Division Chief Ambach requested the board approve establishing a separate BARS code for wildland boot reimbursements and increasing the reimbursement amount from \$250 to \$300, which is about half the cost of the average pair of boots. Firefighters will be eligible for the reimbursement after one year of service. Commissioner unanimously agreed to these requests and requirements. Division Chief Ambach will ensure the changes are reflected in district policies/procedures.

Secretary Harbin reported we received a total of \$87,886.50 in equipment reimbursement for 2025 wildland mobilizations. To date, none of this revenue has been transferred to the capital apparatus fund as planned. As we have had some unexpected expenses, such as the stormwater fees, and must have adequate operating funds until the first half of our tax revenues are posted by the county, it will be best to review and transfer funds into the capital apparatus fund in July. Total 2025 wildland personnel costs were approximately \$59,000. We are waiting for personnel reimbursements of approximately \$39,000. Chief Ambach is researching personnel reimbursement for the Crescent Fire and stated we should be receiving personnel reimbursements for the Sugarloaf Fires next week.

NEW BUSINESS

Regular Meeting Dates in May, November, and December 2026:

Holidays in the months of May, November, and December 2026 would delay check processing by the county and late payments by the district if regular commissioner meetings in those months are held on the usual third Thursday. To ensure timely voucher approval and check printing, the regular meeting date in May, November, and December 2026 will be moved to the second Thursday, to be held at the same place and time of 1:00 p.m.

- **RESOLUTION 2026-3 Authorizing One-Time Changes to the Regular Meeting Times**
After reviewing the resolution draft, Commissioner Phelps motioned to approve Resolution 2026-3 as written; Commissioner Gleckler seconded the motion; Chair Kaiser called for the vote, which passed unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENTS - None


GOOD OF THE ORDER

Robin shared the updated bank reconciliation process that will now be followed to coordinate with monthly reports from the county treasurer. The county's Trial Balance report does not show the detailed entries necessary to reconcile; detailed entries are only shown on the county's monthly Allocation Account Activity report. Although the Allocation Account Activity report

does not include the taxes collected, the tax activity will now be entered into our accounting system as received the last day of the previous month. Certification adjustments shown on the Property Tax/Special Assessment Fund Activity report from the county will not be entered. This is the only way the district's Trial Balance report can match the county's Trial Balance report for funds F32, F36, and F265.

ADJOURNMENT

As there was no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:32 p.m.



Ben Kaiser, Chairperson

4/16/26

Date



Robin Harbin, District Secretary

4-16-2026

Date