

Sam Owen Fire District Commissioner's Meeting January 14, 2026

Attendance:

Tim Scofield, Chief
Sarah Knight, CPA
Al Sly, Captain, Media
Terry Jensen, District 3 Commissioner, Chairman
Lisa Wendle, District 2 Commissioner
Tony Butler, District 1 Commissioner, Treasurer
Todd Wendle, Newsletter, Reporter
Chris Popov, Volunteer Fire Fighter
Kelly Thompson, Captain
Cody Lofland, Captain, Trainer
Mike Schacht, Clark Fork Fire Chief

Agenda:

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Jensen at 6:01 P.M.

Action Item: There are no changes to the posted agenda.

Both Commissioners Jensen and Butler were nominated for the Chairman position. Commissioner Jensen was awarded the position.

Action Item: Re-elected Commissioner Jensen, Re-elected Commissioner Wendle and Secretary Alexa Garrison were sworn in.

There are no public comments at this time.

Action Item: The Commissioners reviewed the minutes from the 12/10/25 meeting. Commissioner Jensen steps down to make a motion to accept the minutes as written, He is seconded by Commissioner Wendle. All in favor.

Chief's Report:

There have been 6 medical calls and 8 fire calls so far this month.

All is in good working order at Station 1.

At Station 2, the cabinets have been installed. There are very few minor tasks that need to be done to complete the renovation.

As far as equipment, the new Engine #1301 is now having the brush guard installed along with back up lights and fog lights. The electronics are being checked to make sure that the fuses work. The radio is potentially going bad and is being inspected. Chris Popov suggests checking the battery. He has

experienced a similar issue and a load test could solve the problem quickly. The decals have been applied and are looking good.

While this work is being done on #1301, the Chief has been driving Engine #1302. He has found that the back of the truck is not keeping the equipment dry. The Chief suggests looking for a commercial grade insulated canopy. The estimated cost for a used canopy goes up to \$9,000.00. He is even considering replacing this vehicle. Engine #1302 is a year 2021 with only 26,000 miles on it. It has 4 doors and a slide in the back; it has a brush guard and lights and radio. This vehicle is loaded with equipment. It holds a lot. If the SOFD sells it now it will have some monetary value that could be put towards a different vehicle that would be of more value and use to the SOFD. If this vehicle is kept, it could be used as a rescue/support vehicle. Perhaps the on-duty officer could drive it. Kelly Thompson mentions that this vehicle is not well liked. On a hill the slide is dangerous to use. The wet equipment is not good, and it drives like a tank. Cody Lofland suggests getting a different vehicle and maybe getting a technical rescue trailer to be towed to scenes as needed. At this time there is no consensus as to what to do with this vehicle. The subject is tabled and will be brought up in the future.

Engine #1362 is getting new rotors and brake pads. Then Engine #1321 will be serviced.

At the Officers meeting the Volunteer Training was discussed. Two new positions are to be created, Trainer and Coordinator. It was determined that the new training process has been successful. Cody Lofland reports that overall, the training went well. The Rookie training was successful and many have advanced on and can now operate many of the trucks and pumpers. By the end of the year ALL volunteers will be able to operate all vehicles. Everyone will be on the same level.

Tim. Sanders has created a checklist for every vehicle. Todd Wendle reports that the Level 2 Vehicle Training was created using these check lists. This training is taught individually, or in groups of two. Todd has also created a draft of next year's training classes. During the fourth quarter, "extra's" will be addressed. That would be advanced learning of subjects, specialty subjects, or a review of subjects that the volunteer struggled with. This fourth quarter will help all volunteers to be on the same level.

The SOFD will only be training a new volunteer status class once a year starting in September. There will be an opening of 6 slots for training. If a volunteer already has firefighting training, their skills will be assessed and they can start sooner.

The Chief has received the Idaho Survey and Ratings Report. There are new standard in place as of 2018. Rating grades are done every 5 years. The Chief will be meeting with them next month to discuss the report. The SOFD is rated at a level 5. Level 5 is considered to be close to the top of the ratings. In order for the SOFD to go to a level 4, an additional 10 points would need to be awarded to us. This would be difficult for us to achieve. Station 2 would have to have 10-12 volunteers. More equipment would be needed. More fire hydrants in our service area would be needed. The Hope area would have to upgrade (make larger) the water piping to the hydrants. More code enforcement would have to occur. Public safety education would have to ramp up. Chris Popov says that an additional 4 points could be added by adding an inspection program. Any additional points could help the SOFD with future ratings.

Community Relations:

Todd Wendle reports that articles will be created and sent in to the newspaper soon.

Chris Popov reports that the AFG grant is now based on priority / non priority. It is believed that the SOFD was not awarded the FG Grant for the boat.

He has located a grant writing company in the area that would write a future AFG grant for \$4,000.00 or if the SOFD does the writing the company would look up information about successfully winning the grant and also assist with one other grant for a sum of \$2,000.00. Chris found that a boat grant would probably not be awarded, but at tender could be. The opening for the new AFG Grant is in January. He also found that you can apply for 2 AFG Grants each year. He suggests going in for a Tender, and also doing one for supplies.

The Waterways Grant has been forwarded to the State at this time. Chris is in need of two more cost estimates before the end of the month for this grant. He suggests that the boat gets as much work done as possible, (prioritizing the work of course) to keep it serviceable. The Grant response is in March and it is for matching funds. Chris Popov would like to use the Grant Writing Company he located at the \$2,000.00 price point. He will keep an eye on them with this.

- > Get Chris Popov the cost estimates for the boat repairs before the end of the month.

The Idaho Rural Grant form is due next month. The SOFD was awarded \$4,700.00 worth of equipment.

- > Complete Idaho Rural Grant form and send it in.

Treasurer's Report:

Sara Knight says that the contract invoices will be going out this coming week. The SOFD is in budget and the bills were as expected. The following bills were presented for payment.

Kathy Cifu	\$ 490.38
Tim Sanders	\$ 956.75
Tim Scofield	\$2,139.90
EFTPS	\$2,037.24
Alexa Garrison	\$ 120.00
Citi Card	\$5,718.79
AED Superstore	\$ 680.52
Avista	\$ 279.04
Big Brand Tire	\$2,854.08
Bonner County Fire	\$ 50.00
Clark Fork Chevron	\$ 327.85
Co-Op Energy	\$ 276.21
Fenton Fire Equip.	\$1,800.00
Jack Craemer	\$8,200.00
Kelly Thompson	\$ 400.00
Magnuson Mchug.	\$5,000.00
Scotchman Electric	\$2,130.00
Visa	\$1,477.58
Waterfront Prop.	\$ 156.26

Umpqua Bank Savings Account as of 1/14/26 \$236,802.85

Umpqua Bank Checking Account as of 1/14/26 \$207,306.05

Umpqua CD as of 1/14/26 \$207,529.96

Mountain West Cd as of 1/14/26 \$-4,899.49

Action Item: Commissioner Wendle makes a motion to accept the Treasurer's report and to pay the bills presented. She is seconded by Commissioner Butler. All in favor

Old Business: Kelly Thompson reports that the Station 1 renovation is going well. The bathroom fans and venting are installed. The outside walls are not penetrated. The electrician starts Monday. The mini splits are in. The floor is open for both plumbing and electrical wiring.

New Business:

Action item: The funds from the Columbia Bank CD need to be allocated.

Commissioner Jensen has done some research and found an investment fund with a return of 4% to 5%. It is called the Local Government Investment Pool. It

is similar to a savings account or a money market account except that there is no penalty for early withdrawal or partial withdrawal, The only issue is that the Fund is not FDIC insured. It is run by an investment manager. The Local Government Investment Pool is through the State of Idaho. It only deals with public funds. It is a government investment fund.

Action Item: Commissioner Butler makes a motion to move the money into the Local Government Investment Pool He is seconded by Commissioner Wendle. All in favor. Motion carried.

Action Item: Some changes to the SOG 3.13 are the addition of the Training Officer Position and the Training Coordinator position. Removing the suspension and disciplinary section because it is mentioned elsewhere. This discussion of the SOG is tabled until next month.

There is no executive session at this time.

Action Item: Commissioner Butler makes a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:25 P.M. he is seconded by Commissioner Wendle. All in favor Motion carried. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Alexa Garrison, Secretary