

**Sam Owen Fire District
Commissioner's Meeting
August 12, 2026**

Attendance:

Tim Scofield, Chief
Tony Butler, District 1 Commissioner, Treasurer
Lisa Wendle, District 2 Commissioner
Terry Jensen, District 3 Commissioner, Chairman
Sara Knight, CPA
Al Sly, Captain, Media
Kelly Thompson, Captain
Todd Wendle, Trainer, Reporter
Jake Franklin, Volunteer Firefighter
Jack Craemer, Public Attendee
Kevin Timmons, Racom by Zoom
Nick Branham, Racom by Zoom
Kathy Cifu, Admin, by Zoom
Chris Popov, Volunteer Firefighter, by Zoom

Agenda:

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Jensen at 6:00 P.M.

Action item: There are no changes to the posted agenda other than moving item #17 Racom repeater repair forward in the agenda.

There are no public comments at this time.

Kevin from the Racom company is participating in the meeting by Zoom. He asked what questions or concerns did the SOFD have for him at this time.

Racom did come out to Hope last week to review and work on the 2 sites. The Chief would like to know what the best solution/upgrade to the radio communication problems the SOFD is having would be.

Racom is aware that there is another mast available situated at the Clark Fork High School. Racom informed the SOFD that the equipment that is in use is mid-tier equipment. It has a lot of outages. The SOFD can potentially keep the current repeaters but upgrade some of the surrounding support safety systems. The current system could be helped by adding another site on one of the islands or across the lake to bounce the signals without mountain interference.

Racom is suggesting a 4–5-year multi-phase plan of slow upgrading the equipment. The County is also upgrading their equipment. If the SOFD chooses, we could match the county's equipment which would make for more seamless communication with the county. A phased approach would address the current challenges the SOFD faces. Also, having regular professional yearly maintenance performed on the equipment will help. A yearly maintenance program is advised. Our terrain is the biggest problem. The Chief will be speaking to WOW Communications to see if their site at Gold Mountain could be of use to us. Kevin will be running the SOFD's site particulars through a computer software program to get more options suggested and each type digitally tested. Racom could, in the future, be able to remotely access our system to help repair

any issues on the fly. VPN access will help with diagnosing the system. Both sites have access to the internet.

Commissioner Wendle asked what the next step would be. Kevin will run through the software options, pricing & service contracts, etc. He should have rough numbers to present by the end of the month.

> Chief to speak to WOW re Gold Mtn. site

Action Item: The minutes for the July meeting were reviewed by the Commissioners. Commissioner Butler makes a motion to accept the minutes as written. He is seconded by Commissioner Wendle. All in favor.

Treasurer's Report:

Sara Knight reports the SOFD's income is currently over budget by about \$45,000.00. The expenses are currently under budget as we approach the end of our fiscal year.

The Pancake Breakfast came to a total of \$13,351.00. The expenses were \$1,070.00 so a profit of \$12,281.00 was made. The checks that came in, after the breakfast, were posted to their proper accounts. The following bills were presented for payment.

Cesar Ponce	\$1,499.08
Kathy Cifu	\$ 744.65
Tim Sanders	\$ 659.38
Tim Scofield	\$3,353.50
Cody Lofland	\$ 683.39
Fred Smith	\$ 277.05
Jason Lees	\$ 443.28
Kelly Thompson	\$1,131.29
Nicholas Troskey	\$ 129.29
Stillman Berkley	\$ 267.81
Tim Browne	\$ 609.51
Todd Wendle	\$ 572.57
Cesar Ponce	\$ 434.04
EFTPS	\$2,179.20
Alexa Garrison	\$ 120.00
All Surface Coatings	\$1,500.00
Avista	\$ 290.69
Citicard	\$5,068.15
Clark Fork Chevron	\$ 571.45
Co-Op Energy	\$ 508.33
Jason Lees	\$ 236.01
Kelly Thompson	\$ 110.00
Lawn Lizards	\$ 364.00
Lisa Wendle	\$ 424.69
Rivers End LLC	\$ 679.07
Tim Scofield	\$ 23.66
Waterfront Property Mgt.	\$ 230.39

Umpqua Bank checking account as of 8/12/26 \$444,778.16

Umpqua Bank savings account as of 8/12/26 \$36,806.75

Umpqua Bank CD as of 8/12/26 \$4.32

Mountain West Bank CD as of 8/12/26 \$209,391.15
LGIP account as of 8/12/26 \$203,130.81

Action Item: Commissioner Wendle makes a motion to pay the bills as presented. Commissioner Butler seconds the motion. All in favor.

Chief's Report:

So far this month there have been 3 medical calls and 10 fire calls. One of the calls was a severe boat accident. The waters were choppy with debris in it. The SOFD Volunteers responded quickly to the call.

Station 1 is in good working order. There are no issues to report. The paramedics like the new space.

Station 2 is going to start to get painted next week. The asphalt estimate has not come in yet. Nor has the dust control estimate. The inside of the station has been cleaned up. The handrail has been painted. It is looking good.

There are no outstanding issues to report about the equipment. Still clearing up little issues like a short found on #1371, which has been fixed. Engine #1331 also had a ground issue, also already fixed.

Volunteer classes are going well. The class with EMS Bonner County will happen this month. The Idaho State will also do an extrication training class. The new rookie class starts in September. Four people have already signed up. Todd Wendle will forward an article re Recruitment to the paper. He also suggests sending a recruitment letter out to the Hope residents. Maybe a piece of the budget can be used for the mailing to fund this.

Cody Lofland is taking a leave of absence from the Training Officer Instructor position until January.

Community Relations:

A lot of new items have been posted on Facebook. Many calls have come in with questions about the burn restrictions. The public can contact the SOFD through its Facebook account, Website, and Telephones. Station 1 has an Admin Assistant in the office on Tuesdays and Thursdays. The phone numbers are posted online. Nothing else to report. Todd spoke briefly and indicated he felt we are visible in the community.

Grant Status:

Chris Popov reports that the SOFD has made it through the first round of the FEMA Grant process. They have asked, and been provided with more detailed information. The final result should come in October.

Old Business:

Action Item: The deposit to paint Station 2 has been made.

Action Item: Items #13, 14 & #15 on the agenda are tabled until next month due to some clarification on wording being needed. These items are tabled until next month.

> Chris P and Todd W are to re-work wording on Stipend addendum,
Chief and Chris P to re-work wording on Command Structure SOG. Add both to
the August Commissioner's Meeting agenda

Action Item: Executive session not needed at this time.

Public Comments: Jake Franklin asked to add public comments at this time. He is a member of the Ellisport Bay Sewer District, as well as a volunteer firefighter at the SOFD. He was wondering if the SOFD Board of Commissioners was interested in meeting with other Board Commissioners and leaders in our area. If so, he would be willing to try to get everyone together to discuss our community. A special meeting or a workshop could be held. The SOFD Board of Commissioners is in favor of this idea. Jake will reach out to others and get back to the Chief.

> Jake to reach out to other community leaders for a meeting time. He will report back to Chief Scofield

Action Item: Commissioner Butler makes a motion to adjourn at 6:58 P.M. He is seconded by Commissioner Wendle. All in favor. The meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Alexa Garrison, Secretary

Approved 9/9/2026

Terry Jensen
Chairman, Board of Commissioners