

Okanogan County Fire District No. 6
Board of Fire Commissioners Regular Meeting Minutes
September 14, 2026

PRESENT

Chief Acord, Assistant Chief Stamps, Commissioners Lindsey and Heller and Secretary Gollen.

ABSENT

Commissioner Milliken participated via phone call.

OPENING OF MEETING

Commissioner Lindsey calls the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

CORRESPONDENCE

None

CHIEF'S REPORT

- Hydrostatic testing for air bottles was completed by LN Curtis in one day and they are now good for another 5 years.
- B651 is back from the Little Giant fire. The truck along with Keith Comstock and David Norris were out for 7-8 days. Commissioner Heller asks how they are paid. Chief Acord says that the apparatus is paid on a daily rate and people are paid separately. Norris is paid by the State.
- The flow tester is out for calibration as it is its anniversary date and this full refurbishing costs about \$10,000 and it will be out for about 6 weeks. This is done every 10 years.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

- **Winthrop Wildfire Group**-Commissioner Milliken shares that Winthrop has been awarded a grant for wildfire preparation. This includes a toolbox for rural communities. The hope is that this will result in improved community awareness in and around Winthrop. It is not exclusive to just Winthrop. For more information regarding the grant, people can refer to a Methow Valley News article that was published. Before moving on Commissioner Milliken suggests the idea of beginning future executive sessions at 6:00 pm. There is some interest shown by Commissioner Lindsey. Chief Acord states that there may be procedures to follow depending on if it is a special meeting or a permanent change in time to the Board meetings. The topic will be revisited.

*moved to
Good at
the order →
per
Commissioner
Milliken*



GOOD OF THE ORDER

None

NEW/OLD BUSINESS

- **2027 Budget-** Chief Acord will get the budget to the Board during the first week of October for review. He goes on to say that there will be both a public hearing and a special meeting scheduled. During the hearing he will go over the budget and during the special meeting the budget will be approved. The public hearing will need to be posted in the newspaper with a 2 weeks' notice.
Commissioner Milliken makes a motion to hold the 2027 Public Budget Hearing on October 26, 2026 at 7:00 pm at the Winthrop Station, followed by a Special Meeting to directly follow. The topic will be approval of the 2027 budget. Commissioner Heller seconds the motion. **Motion carried.**
- **Strategic Planning-** Commissioner Heller explains that at the last special meeting the Board spent their time defining the goals of the District and defining the priorities of the District. The next step will be scheduling another special meeting. He wants the focus of the next special meeting to be. 1. Approve the draft goals. 2. Jump into the first two goals, as stated: Volunteer recruitment and retention (Commissioner Milliken assigned to). Culture and community engagement (Commissioner Lindsey assigned to). Commissioner Heller comments that he liked the broad structure of the Yakima business plan that Chief Acord provided.
Commissioner Heller makes a motion to schedule a special meeting on September 29th from 12:00-3:00 pm. The topic will be the strategic plan. Commissioner Lindsey seconds the motion. **Motion carried.**
- **OIC Visit-** Commissioner Milliken shares that there will be a public forum at The Barn on October 19 hosted by the OIC (Washington State Office of the Insurance Commissioner). There will be a pre-meeting that day and Commissioner Milliken would like to be present at that meeting. He states that the insurance commissioner acts as a bridge between insurance companies and the insured. Commissioner Heller states that he approves of sending Commissioner Milliken as a representative of the District. Commissioner Lindsey would like more information. This topic will be added to the agenda for the next regular Board meeting.
- **AAR Policy-** Commissioner Lindsey refers to an AAR document that he handed out at the meeting. He states that the purpose of the document is to solicit thoughts. He reads the document in which the topics stated are purpose, informal AAR vs formal AAR, topics to review, formal AAR, questions to consider and final thoughts. The topics are highlighted. The AAR is a formal process to provide more learning opportunities for firefighter safety and customer service. An informal AAR is for the

majority of daily operations. A formal AAR is to be reserved for incidents involving personnel or property where safety or liability concerns are involved. Commissioner Lindsey comments that in his experience the current AAR's are impromptu and unstructured and he asks Chief Acord how this gets translated into training. Chief Acord states that an informal AAR covers what happened, what went wrong and what could be improved. It is reviewed with Assistant Chief Stamps and/or staff where they discuss issues to improve through training. Each leader has their own way of doing it. Commissioner Lindsey suggests a form to include with incident reports that would include multiple choice questions or short answer opportunities and a process to incorporate into SOP's or SOG's. Chief Acord comments he would like time to review the document that has just been provided. Commissioner Lindsey addresses Assistant Chief Stamps and asks him to give thought as a safety officer regarding what system would be beneficial along with Captain Fosness as head of training. Commissioner Heller adds that he would like visibility, more on exposing the items rather than how do we demonstrate the learnings. Commissioner Milliken refers to the protocol that the Board has implemented regarding submission of documents- documents to be in before Thursday so that the packet comes out on the Thursday deadline. His feedback on the AAR. The function is a simple practice to capture work being done in emergency response and to share. This can help the Board make better decisions and have better cohesion and show tactical opportunities both where we are doing well and where more time needs to be spent. He adds that this could aid the Commissioners when talking to the community to communicate both what we are doing well and what we need more of. Commissioner Heller states that there will be more discussion at the next meeting.

- **Notification Policy-** Commissioner Heller begins by acknowledging the Chief's Board notification efforts and poses the question: Do we need a policy? In reference to the draft document Board Notification Policy-Chief Acord gives feedback that there is nothing wrong with having had the attorney review the document and highlights the attorney's additions/changes to the policy. Commissioners Lindsey and Milliken thank the Chief for his efforts. Commissioner Heller makes a motion to approve the policy titled "Board Notifications". Commissioner Milliken seconds the motion. **Motion carried.**
- **Agenda Change-Addition of Action Log-** Commissioner Heller seeks clarification on whether the Board needs to make a motion for this item. Secretary Gollen provides a copy of the last meeting's Board minutes showing the Action Log motion that the Board approved at the August meeting. No further action is needed on this.

- E641 Report-** Chief Acord gives an overview of the E641 update document that he provided to the Board in the meeting packet. The update is as of today as presented by the dealer and before change orders. Change orders can occur at the midpoint or final inspection. The final inspection should be around the middle of December. Rosanbauer will be removing the tariff charge from July 2025 of +\$55,242.00. Pre-payment of chassis (being paid this week) saves \$15,563. Original bid was \$853,421 pre-tax. With these reductions new pre-tax total is \$840,259. Additionally, he states that the District has \$55,000 in this year's budget due to holding off on replacing a command vehicle that could be used towards E641 costs.
 Commissioner Milliken requests that in January a focused conversation be had regarding the planning of the next set of apparatus. The Chief adds that we cannot get another apparatus started until funded. The new E641 loan will be paid off in 7 years and currently the District sets aside \$55,000 in the budget annually towards new apparatus.
- Hamilton Fire Report-** Commissioner Heller states that this report was requested from the Chief and has been provided. Commissioner Lindsey questions if this should be required for every incident and/or what defines a major incident. Commissioner Heller adds that the AAR will help refine definitions.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

EXECUTIVE SESSIONS

- RCW 42.30.110(1)(g)- Review performance of a Public Employee-** At 8:22 pm Commissioner Lindsey announces the beginning of an executive session for the purpose of RCW 42.30.110(1)(g)- Review performance of a Public Employee. This session was requested by Chief Acord. The session will last for 23 minutes and end at 8:45 pm. The Chief, Assistant Chief and Board attending. At 8:45 pm Commissioner Lindsey brings the meeting back into session. Commissioner Lindsey makes a motion to accept Chief Acord's recommendations of up to 3 days suspension without pay. Commissioner Heller seconds the motion. Commissioner Milliken ^{per Commissioner Milliken} ~~constrains~~ ^{abstains} from comment. **Motion carried.**
- RCW 42.30.110(1)(g)- Review performance of a Public Employee-** At 8:45 pm Commissioner Lindsey announces the beginning of an executive session for the purpose of RCW 42.30.110(1)(g)- Review performance of a Public Employee. The session will last for 20 minutes and end at 9:05 pm. Chief Acord, Commissioners Lindsey, Heller and Milliken attending. At 9:05 Commissioner Lindsey brings the meeting back into session and states that the Chief and the Chair will review the final draft and bring it to public session at the next meeting for approval.

CONSENT AGENDA

Commissioner Lindsey moves to approve the consent agenda, Commissioner Heller seconds the motion. **Motion carried.**

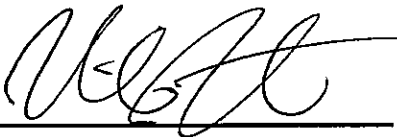
ACTION LOG

As stated by Commissioner Heller:

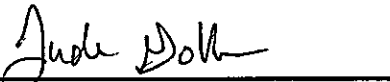
- Chief employment agreement. Needs to be completed by December 31, 2026. Decision needs to be reviewed. Item open.
- Review AAR document provided by Commissioner Lindsey. Agenda item for October meeting. Item open.
- Performance review. Commissioner Milliken will meet with Chief Acord. Item open.
- 2027 Budget-Meeting scheduled for October 26. Item open.
- Hamilton Fire Report delivered. Item complete.
- E641 Report delivered. Item complete.
- Notification policy. Document approved. Item complete.
- Strategic plan. Special meeting scheduled for September 29. Item open.

ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Lindsey adjourns the meeting at 9:14 pm.

X 

Miles Milliken
OCFD6 Board of Commissioners Chair

X 

Jade Gollen
OCFD6 Secretary



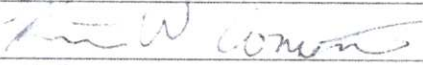
Okanogan County Fire District #6

Board of Fire Commissioners

Monthly Meeting Sign in Sheet

Meeting Date: 09/14/2026

Location: Winthrop Station

1.		D. DODGE
2.		K. COMSTOCK
3.		JOES FILER
4.		JOHN CRAVEN
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