

Okanogan County Fire District No. 6

Board of Fire Commissioners Special Meeting Minutes

September 29, 2026

PRESENT

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

CALL TO ORDER

Commissioner Milliken brings the meeting to order at 12:00 noon.

Commissioner Milliken begins with stating the purpose of the meeting, the strategic plan and that there are two sections being discussed today, the volunteer program and culture and community. He would like to spend 45 minutes on each section.

Topic 1 OCFD6 Goals: Commissioner Heller references his OCFD6 five-year goals, 2031 document and begins discussion on the topics here: Wildfire Surge, Wildfire Surge by Station, Structure Fire Surge and Structure Fire Immediate Response.

- **Wildfire Surge**
 - Commissioner Milliken requests specific framing and hard numbers regarding surge capacity.
 - Commissioner Heller emphasizes setting a high standard, tracking data, committing to explicit timelines, and ensuring community clarity.
- **Staffing & Capacity Standards:**
 - Commissioner Heller reviews documentation on how to staff stations to reach a target of 70. Chief Acord asks for clarification as to whether the numbers include paid staff. Commissioner Heller answers that these numbers include captains assigned to their respective stations.
 - Commissioner Heller questions a proposed 20-minute timeline for response time, stating that it is "not yet measurable". He pushes for strict tracking of "first on scene" times relative to district size.
 - Commissioner Milliken notes public perception matters: community members want to know, *"Is that my home being protected?"*
- **Operations & "2 In, 2 Out" Rule:**
 - Commissioner Milliken asks Chief Acord if the District aims to strictly adhere to the "2 in, 2 out" interior attack standard.
 - Chief Acord clarified that while interior attacks require this standard, exterior tactics can be deployed immediately based on situational awareness. If

human life is at risk, firefighters can make entry with 3 personnel. Chief Acord re-emphasizes the District's priorities: **1) Protect Life, 2) Protect Property.**

- Commissioner Lindsey suggests staging the standard: setting an initial baseline of 3 personnel on scene, with a working goal to move toward 4.
- **Data Tracking & Logistics:**
 - Commissioner Heller highlights a major gap: over the last 1.5 years, data shows an average 10-minute turnout time and 10-minute arrival time for incidents within 10 miles. Currently, an incident occurring in Mazama can face a minimum 40-minute wait for an interior attack.
 - Chief Acord and Commissioner Heller discuss tracking logistics, suggesting the use of apparatus iPads or transposing recorded radio traffic. Chief Acord notes that County dispatch changes are heavily advocated for by Assistant Chief Stamps.
 - **Legal Note:** Chief Acord mentions that counsel confirmed volunteer departments like ours are not legally required to have goals for response times .

The Board makes a couple edits for the OCFD6 five-year goals, 2031 document and moves it from draft to proposed status.

OCFD6 five-year goals, 2031 Ranked by community impact, with the expectation that district priorities follow this order.

1 Wildfire

- A. Surge 17 apparatus staffed, 37 firefighters: 12 homes protected at once.
- B. Immediate* Each station on scene within 20 minutes for events within 10 miles.

2 Structure fire

- A. Surge 15 firefighters inside the hour: a working structure fire fully staffed.
- B. Immediate* Two in, two out from the nearest station within 20 minutes, to minimize loss.

3 Auto

Capability to respond to two incidents or a multi-auto incident.

4 Hazmat and alarms

We respond as they come and call for hazmat support

Topic 1 Outcomes:

- The Board agreed on the top-level goals.
- The process of approving the Strategic Plan draft will be as stated: *Draft* → *Proposed* → *Approved*.

Topic 2: Volunteer Program Outline

The Board transitions to reviewing Commissioner Milliken's volunteer program document, focusing on minimum qualifications and safety standards.

- **Training & Minimum Requirements:**
 - Commissioner Lindsey states he does not view the 75% training attendance standard as a barrier. However, Commissioner Heller argued that treating a rigid 75% attendance rule as a generic guideline acts as a barrier to recruitment.
 - Commissioner Milliken initially argues that "any training is good training," but Commissioner Heller counters that safety requires clear definitions.
- **Pathways & Accountability:**
 - Commissioner Lindsey asks Chief Acord how tasks are assigned on incidents and whether volunteers have clearly laid-out advancement pathways.
 - Chief Acord reiterates that the District does have these and they are spelled out. Specifically, they are spelled out during orientation.
 - Commissioner Heller states that the District must: 1) Define minimum requirements, and 2) Provide monthly or quarterly compliance reports to the Board. Chief Acord adds a third necessary step if the board choose to go that direction: deciding if an administrative action is required if a volunteer fails to meet the bar. Example: formal restrictions from responding to calls if annual exams are not completed.
 - Commissioner Heller suggests that the Board should direct the Chief to create minimum requirements and the Board enforces.
 - Assistant Chief Stamps provides feedback, emphasizing that yes, there are standards that are law and Districts also have a right to choose their path. WSRB restricts that as well as NFPA 1403. Volunteers must remain capable of their assigned tasks even if they haven't been seen in a month. He notes that camaraderie built through training and completing skills is an important component of personnel competency.

Commissioner Milliken at 1:30 announces a 5 minute break and brings the meeting back into session at 1:36 pm.

- **Public Outreach & Recruitment Barriers:**

- Rewards, getting our logo out into the community to promote community awareness along with creating a pocket size reference guide and/or flyer that defines our volunteer program and what the training pathways look like are topics added.

Topic 2 Outcomes:

- The Volunteer Program document is moved to "Proposed" status and Commissioner Milliken will make a few suggested edits before the next Board meeting.

Topic 3: Culture and Community

- Commissioner Lindsey presents an overview of his Culture and Community document and begins discussion on the topics here: Introduction, 10 goals are stated each one having an objective, tasks and measures of success. Lastly, there is a detailed section on how healthy fire department culture benefits the community. The Board decides that Commissioner Lindsey will use this document as an appendix to create a one-page outline. The three remaining sections of the strategic plan are stated as: career staffing and wages, Equipment and Stations and Funding. The Board decides that each Commissioner will take their documents presented at this meeting and make their edits and they will be brought to the next regular meeting for review only. Additionally, each Commissioner will begin to prepare documents for the next special meeting instead of the Chief working on the last 2 of the 3 sections. Commissioner Heller-equipment and stations. Commissioner Milliken-career staffing and wages. Commissioner Lindsey-volunteer and public safety.

Documents to be submitted by next Thursday (10/8) for the next regular meeting.

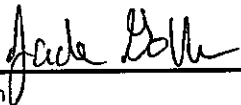
Special meeting schedule- The next special meeting will be scheduled at the next regular Board meeting (10/12).

ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Milliken adjourns the meeting at 2:44 pm.

X 

Myles Milliken
OCFD6 Board of Fire Commissioners Chair

X 

Jade Gollen
OCFD6 District Secretary



Okanogan County Fire District #6

Board of Fire Commissioners

Special Meeting Sign in Sheet

Meeting Date: 09/29/2026

Location: Winthrop Station

1.	John Owen
2.	Ralph Schwartz
3.	Paul Sissen
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