

NEWMAN LAKE FIRE & RESCUE
Spokane County Fire District No. 13

Minutes for July 21, 2026
BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS SPECIAL MEETING
COMMUNITY MEETING

CALL TO ORDER

The Board of Fire Commissioners of Spokane County Fire Protection District No. 13 met on July 21, 2026, at 6:30 p.m. at Station No. 1, 9324 N Starr Rd., Newman Lake, Washington.

ROLL CALL AND INTRODUCTIONS

Board Members: Commissioners Ben Kaiser, Teresa Phelps, and Dennis Gleckler

Department Members: Chief Daron Bement, Lieutenant Carleen Beauchene, Lieutenant Jim Stephenson, Community Liaison Kelli Lemley, and Secretary Robin Harbin

Others in Attendance Include: John Black, Jerry LeGrand, Sue Gleckler, Gloria Fraser, Ken Seymour, Deb Davis, Paul Teags, Mark and Debbie Wisher, and Dave and Kathy Pfeiffer

WILDLAND FIRE SEASON REPORT:

Chief Bement reported we have been deployed on six wildland mobilizations so far this year and currently have crews deployed with Brush 13-2 and Command C13-3 on the Kaiser Canyon fire. Wildland MOBES have generated roughly \$67,000 in equipment reimbursements year to date, which does not include the current Kaiser Canyon MOBE.

BUDGET POSITION REPORT:

Secretary Harbin reported the district has spent approximately \$645,000 of the Operating Budget year-to-date, which is roughly 55% of the total budget. This is slightly under the expected 58% budget expenditure rate for this time in the year. Calculations show a sufficient balance in the Operating Budget, Fund 32, to cover remaining 2026 operating expenses. The second half of 2026 tax receipts to come in November will be sufficient to cover the first six months of operating expenses in 2027. This enables the district to transfer \$40,000 into each of the two capital funds, Apparatus and Facilities, as well as \$20,000 into the emergency operating reserve fund for a total transfer of \$100,000.

PROPOSED MARINE RESCUE PURCHASE:

Chief Bement presented information regarding the need to replace the District's current Zodiac inflatable water rescue boat. The existing 4-meter (approximately 12-foot) inflatable vessel has limited capacity and stability and cannot safely transport patients. It also lacks weather protection, has limited range, is not suitable for night or rough-water operations, and cannot provide the capabilities necessary for drafting water or supporting shoreline fire suppression. These limitations create safety concerns for both rescuers and patients.

Chief Bement explained that Newman Lake has approximately nine miles of shoreline, increasing recreational boating activity, and residences that are accessible primarily by water. Potential emergencies include drownings, watercraft collisions, medical emergencies, fire suppression support, ice rescues, and severe-weather incidents. A modern marine rescue vessel would improve the District's ability to provide year-round emergency response, search and rescue, EMS access, safe patient transport, and shoreline fire suppression. Several vessels were evaluated, with delivered purchase prices ranging from approximately \$70,000 to \$95,000 for the primary options. Chief Bement identified the 2026 ThunderJet Luxor Pro 200, at approximately \$94,995 delivered, as the preferred option because of its enclosed aluminum cabin, rear access for patient

loading, usable workspace, crew protection, and ability to operate in most conditions and seasons. Approximately \$16,000–\$20,000 in additional upfitting would be required. The 2026 Alumaweld Stryker X202, at approximately \$91,819, delivered, and the 2025 Alumaweld Stryker 202, at approximately \$70,199 delivered, were presented as alternative options. The proposed purchase would be funded from the District's existing capital reserve/apparatus funds, with the presentation indicating that the funds could be replenished through the District's wildland mobilization program. No additional cost to District citizens and taxpayers was anticipated. Chief Bement concluded that replacing the current inflatable vessel with a modern marine rescue platform would significantly improve firefighter and patient safety, rescue capabilities, and access to water-dependent areas of the community. The proposed vessels were estimated to have a useful service life of approximately 25 years or more.

QUESTIONS & COMMENTS:

Questions, comments, and discussion highlights include the following:

It would be wisest to purchase a new boat to avoid inheriting potential problems that may come with a used vessel. Purchasing a new boat also allows the boat to be customized for a design that will meet our community's water/shoreline emergency needs. A new boat would come with a warranty. However, the warranty would need to be confirmed for commercial use. Enduris will be contacted regarding insurance coverage on a new boat.

We have needed an adequate boat 12 times just in the past two years: 6 patient transports, 3 rescue/search incidents, and 3 shoreline fires. The proposed boat with a portable pump could be used as a tender and reach roughly 100 feet of shoreline elevation with a water stream. If we purchase a new boat, the old boat would be surplus and sold.

The boat could be secured at a slip two minutes away at Silverbeard's for roughly \$2000 per season, (May through September), drastically improving response time to lake emergencies. There is a security gate at the dock at Silverbeard's. There is a good landing zone near the public boat launch which will be an advantage for medical evacuations. Winterization would not be necessary as it would be stored in a heated building. A boat could be launched in ten minutes or less, but it can take nearly 45 minutes to drive fire apparatus to access the peninsula.

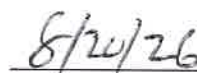
The boat purchase price presented earlier included the trailer, tax, license and motor. It would cost approximately \$16-\$20K to equip with lights, radios, hoses/nozzles, and insignias. Firefighters would be properly trained for marine rescue operations. The district already owns thermal insulated rescue suits.

Northern Lakes has two boats, one for Hayden Lake and a smaller 18 foot boat for Twin Lakes. If they were to purchase a rescue boat, the Northern Lakes Fire Chiefs and personnel stated they would purchase an aluminum boat similar in size to the one we are proposing.

ADJOURNMENT

As there was no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:38 p.m.


Ben Kaiser, Chairperson


Date


Robin Harbin, District Secretary


Date