

NEWMAN LAKE FIRE & RESCUE
Spokane County Fire District No. 13
Minutes for July 16, 2026
BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS MEETING

CALL TO ORDER

The Board of Fire Commissioners of Spokane County Fire Protection District No. 13 met on July 16, 2026, at 1:00 p.m. at Station No. 1, 9324 N Starr Rd., Newman Lake, Washington.

ROLL CALL

Board: Chair Ben Kaiser, Vice Chair Teresa Phelps, and Commissioner Dennis Gleckler
Others Present: Chief Daron Bement, Division Chief Josh Ambach, Training Officer Carleen Beauchene, Secretary Robin Harbin and Community Members Dave and Kathy Pfeiffer

CONSENT AGENDA

The consent agenda consisted of the meeting minutes for June 18, 2026; Financial Reports; Approval of Warrants #13324 - #13392 in the amount of \$55,109.02; Payroll Taxes in the amount of \$8,245.50; and DRS Pension in the amount of \$4,418.22. Vice Chair Phelps moved to accept the consent agenda; Commissioner Gleckler seconded the motion; Chair Kaiser called for the vote, which passed unanimously.

CORRESPONDENCE

BPA Health – EAP Renewal Information:

Emails were received from BPA Health regarding renewal of our Employee Assistance Program (EAP). The one year agreement ends in August. The renewal rate will remain the same at \$3.18 per volunteer per month. Vice Chair Phelps moved to renew our EAP with BPA Health; Commissioner Gleckler seconded the motion; Chair Kaiser called for the vote, which passed unanimously.

Medic One Foundation – Grant Award Letter:

We applied for, and received, a \$3,800 charitable grant through the Medic One Foundation for the purchase of much needed CPR training manikins.

Thank you for Cougar Fire Community Support:

A community member, who wishes to remain anonymous, stepped in and contributed an abundant amount of food and beverages for our firefighters during the Cougar Lane Fire. Our appreciation has been expressed on our Facebook page and a thank you note will be mailed once signed by the commissioners.

FIRE CHIEF'S REPORT by Chief Daron Bement

General Message:

- Our units have been out to multiple fires in the region. Brush 13-2 just returned from Omak and Attack 13-1 with Brush 13-2 were in Chelan for several days. Units may be mobilized again soon.
- The Cougar Lane fire was contained quickly and held at two acres. Volunteer Firefighter Rich Peplinski, with his dozer, was instrumental in helping to contain the fire. Chief Bement's radio/antenna has been fixed, and we are working with SREC on communication issues. Our

thanks go out to partner agencies WA DNR, SCSO, KCFR, HLFD, SVFD, and SCFD9 who supported our efforts on quick containment and rapid evacuation.

- Academy 2026 is ending this month. Graduation is set for Saturday, August 8, at 11:00 a.m.

Calls, Staffing, Apparatus, Training:

- We had 19 incident responses in June 2026 which included two State MOBES and one 3rd Alarm Initial Attack on Upriver Drive. This is an increase from 18 in June 2025.
- Our year-to-date total calls is 105 as of June 30, 2026, a slight decrease from 2025.
- Two Community Volunteers and one Shift Volunteer joined the department this month. They include Ross Hartmann, John Reed, and Ben Andrews. Two Shift Volunteers, Jake Graves and Ben Wilson, joined the department in May.
- The dishwasher at Station 13-1 has been replaced as the old one was no longer functioning.
- June training included: Tender Shuttle/Water Supply & Tender Prep for WSRB Test; EMS Burns; EMS Cardiology; and Forcible Entry.

DIVISION CHIEF'S REPORT by Chief Josh Ambach

- We are scheduled to test for WSRB Tender Credit on August 13. An extra training is scheduled with the four participating in the test. They must complete the Tender Shuttle/Water Supply test in under five minutes to obtain the Tender Credit. Obtaining the WSRB Tender Credit may help improve fire protection ratings for homeowners located outside hydrant service areas, potentially improving their rating from an 8 to a 6.
- We continue to receive positive feedback regarding our mobilization deployments. Brush 13-2 is doing great. Both Brush 13-2 and Attack 13-1 were deployed on the Chelan Hills fire, and we recently returned from the B and O fire in Okanogan. We will be back on MOBE rotation next week.
- So far, we have generated approximately \$45,000 for the use of our apparatus on MOBES. Division Chief Josh has achieved Engine Boss, which qualifies him to be a Strike Team Leader.

AUXILIARY REPORT

Per Kelli Lemley, as reported by Division Chief Josh, the Fire Auxiliary made enough money at the annual Hot Dog/T-Shirt sale to pay off the cost of the T-Shirts and other supplies. There were a few late attendees. About 380 hot dogs were sold. A few more hot dogs may have been sold if the grill had remained in operation longer.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

July 21st Community Meeting:

A draft handout and PowerPoint were presented regarding the proposed purchase of an adequate rescue boat. Our current Zodiac inflatable boat is inadequate for our needs. Division Chief Josh reported we only had four emergency events requiring a boat in the six years prior to the purchase of the Zodiac. However, just in the last two years, we have needed an adequate boat 12 times:

- 6 patient transports
- 3 rescue/search incidents
- 3 shoreline fires

The department will have trained personnel qualified for water rescue and a new boat will be built or modified to ensure the ability to get a patient out of the water and onto the boat. A 300-600gpm portable pump with a blitz fire or 2 ½" nozzle with handlines will be placed on the boat for shoreline fires. An aluminum boat with an outboard motor is proposed for longevity and reduced maintenance

cost. The boat would be secured at a slip on the lake for quick response May through September. The slip location and cost is being explored. The department would not need to winterize the boat as it would be stored inside in a heated building at Station 1, saving approximately \$2,000 per year. Chief Bement recently visited Northern Lakes Fire District in Rathdrum, who said the type of boat we are looking at would be ideal for a lake our size.

NEW BUSINESS

Transfer Funds to Capital Apparatus, Capital Construction, and Operating Reserves:

Secretary Harbin presented Resolution 2026-9 after illustrating average monthly operating expenses, estimated remaining 2026 operating expenses, projected 2026 tax revenues yet to be collected, and the projected carryover balance needed to cover the first 6 months of 2027 operating expenses. Estimates and projections show sufficient funds to transfer a total of \$100,000 from the operating fund as follows: \$40,000 to Capital Apparatus; \$40,000 to Capital Construction; and \$20,000 to Emergency Operations Reserves.

- **RESOLUTION 2026-9 Transfer Funds from F32 to F361, F363, and F33**

After reviewing the resolution, Vice Chair Phelps moved to approve Resolution 2026-9 to transfer \$40,000 from Fund 32 Operations to Fund 361 Capital Apparatus, \$40,000 from Fund 32 Operations to Fund 363 Capital Construction, and \$20,000 from Fund 32 Operations to Fund 33 Operating Reserves; Commissioner Gleckler seconded the motion; Chair Kaiser called for the vote, which passed unanimously.

Budget Adjustment for Medic One Grant:

Secretary Harbin presented Resolution 2026-10 to amend the 2026 budget to reflect the \$3,800.00 Medic One Grant received for the purchase of new CPR Manikins. The budget should be adjusted to reflect the revenue received and an equal expenditure amount for EMS Equipment to be purchased.

- **RESOLUTION 2026-10 Authorize Budget Adjustment for Medic One Grant**

After reviewing the resolution, Vice Chair Phelps moved to approve Resolution 2026-10, authorizing the 2026 Operating Budget to be adjusted by \$3,800.00 in revenues and expenditures; Commissioner Gleckler seconded the motion; Chair Kaiser called for the vote, which passed unanimously.

Budget Adjustment for Enduris Claim C11291 – Squad 13-2/Command 13-3:

Secretary Harbin presented Resolution 2026-11 to amend the 2026 budget to reflect \$5,610.29 received from Enduris for Claim C11291 toward expenses incurred from the May 30, 2026 accident involving Squad 13-2 and Command 13-3. The operating budget should be adjusted to reflect the revenue received and an equal expenditure amount for the vehicle repairs.

- **RESOLUTION 2026-11 Authorize Budget Adjustment for Enduris Claim C11291**

After reviewing the resolution, Vice Chair Phelps moved to approve Resolution 2026-11, authorizing the 2026 Operating Budget to be adjusted by \$5,610.29 in revenues and expenditures (\$4,163.01 for Squad 13-2 and \$1,447.28 for Command 13-3). Commissioner Gleckler seconded the motion; Chair Kaiser called for the vote, which passed unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Dave Pfeiffer, with marine knowledge and experience, offered comments and asked questions regarding the proposed rescue boat. His questions and concerns focused on the ability to retrieve and safely load persons onto the boat and the ability to sufficiently fight shoreline fires. Commissioner

Gleckler and Chief Bement explained some safe methods of retrieving individuals which may include the proper approach, cutting the engine, and the use of a modified marine life sling or hard plastic floating stokes basket. Chief Bement described the portable pump we have to use on the rescue boat. It weighs about 100 pounds and pumps approximately 350 gallons per minute. The portable pump will enable both hand lines and water tender operations.

GOOD OF THE ORDER

2026 WFCA Annual Conference:

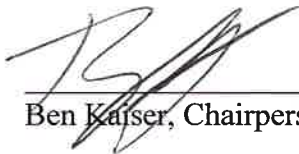
Secretary Harbin asked who will be going to the 2026 WFCA Annual Conference scheduled for October 21-24, 2026 in Spokane. When registration opens, she will register Chair Kaiser, Vice Chair Phelps, and Chief Bement for the entire conference. Division Chief Ambach will be registered for the dinner only; Chair Kaiser, Chief Bement, and Division Chief Ambach will need plus one guests registered for the dinner. Secretary Harbin will register to attend the Snure Legal Conference only.

NW Leadership Seminar 2027

Secretary Harbin will reserve 5 rooms in Portland, Oregon for the 2027 NW Leadership Seminar, scheduled for March 3-5, 2027. Rooms fill up quickly so must be reserved now; conference registration can be made at a later date.

ADJOURNMENT

As there was no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:26 p.m.


Ben Kaiser, Chairperson

8/20/26
Date


Robin Harbin, District Secretary

8-20-2026
Date