

UMATILLA MORROW RADIO & DATA DISTRICT
BOARD of DIRECTORS MEETING
Stafford Hansell Government Center – October 7, 2025 – 1:30pm

Present: Director Pratt Director Primmer
 Director Irons Director Pierotti (telephonically)

Absent: Director Kennedy

In-Person Guest(s): None

Remote Guest(s): Adam Wilkinson, Pendleton Fire Department

Staff: Brett Mueller, Rosanna Brown

I. Call to Order and Recognition of Guests: The meeting was called to order at 1:30pm.

II. Roll Call

Director Pratt

Director Primmer

Director Irons

III. Recognition of Guest(s)

IV. Changes/Additions to the Agenda: None

V. Business from Guests: None

VI. Consent Agenda

A. Minutes of the meetings from September 2, 2025.

B. System Administrator's Report

1. Income Review

2. Expenditures Review

3. Bank Statements/Checks Review

4. LGIP Account Review

A motion to accept the consent agenda was made by Director Irons and seconded by Director Primmer.

Director Pratt: Aye

Director Primmer: Aye

Director Irons: Aye

Director Pierotti joined the meeting telephonically.

VII. Old Business

A. LMR System Project Update

Brett reported that, after his request, Racom submitted the system documentation in an editable document format. He decided that it made more sense for him to correct small issues, like typos and IP addresses, as he reviewed the document. He would send it back to Scott to correct the larger errors. Final system acceptance and final payment were pending.

The console upgrade at Umatilla County was completed the previous Saturday. The audio consistency problem seemed to have been corrected. Brett noted that a setting identified by Chris Sheasley, and reported to Avtec, may have been part of the problem, particularly on high-usage talk groups like LE and EMS Ops. Brett intended to process the invoice for payment.

The upgraded consoles meant that new talkgroups could be added to the Umatilla County consoles, including interoperability groups such as the TAGS radio for Union County, Walla Walla Law and Fire, and ODF RedNet. Brett intended to look at adding more VPGates to enable additional P25 talkgroups on the consoles.

The District upgraded to firmware version 2.30 this week, which had to be done before moving to the next OS. The next upgrades required travel to each site, which needed to be done before the winter weather limited accessibility. The system had remained stable.

Gleason Site Lease: The site lease at Gleason expired over a year ago. Brett has been working with the landowner on a renewal. The previous agreement had a 5% annual increase, originally set during CSEPP days. Brett proposed reducing the increase to 3% as is more typical, and the landowner countered with 4%. Brett said he might suggest tying future increases to CPI as an alternative, as is the case with a few other site agreements. Director Pratt asked whether lease terms are fixed and Brett noted that they vary but typically involve multi-year renewals. He would need to have the District's attorney review the new agreement.

Other users on the Gleason site include ODOT (shared maintenance costs) and the National Weather Service (who do not contribute financially).

B. Fire Portable Radio Committee Update

Brett planned to speak with Nick Ducote, the grant writer previously identified. Ducote, and his team, have a successful track record. The FEMA Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) could not be applied for by the District directly. A fire agency would have to be the lead applicant and retain asset ownership. Director Pierotti referenced a similar structure in Tucson where a lead fire agency distributed equipment under MOUs. Brett noted that a setup like that would require careful consideration of maintenance, insurance, and inventory tracking responsibilities.

Ducote's quote is within Brett's discretionary limit. Directors identified a few smaller departments that might be able to be the lead agency on the grant, such as Irrigon, Lexington, or Pilot Rock, and then working with Nick to apply for the grant.

Director Pratt emphasized the need for collaboration and the group discussed the tight grant timeline (likely November–December) and the need for quick MOUs and decisions on radio models and quantities.

Adam reported that feedback on Kenwood radios was underwhelming, while Harris radios performed better than expected. Testing was ongoing. Brett noted that Bendix King claims to have addressed weak performance issues with new chipsets and encouraged more testing when they became available. In response to Director Primmer's question, Brett estimated about 350 fire and EMS portable radios are currently issued, though not all of them would have to be dual-band. A quote from Bendix King for 200 portables totaled approximately \$1 million, with each unit priced at \$4,347 plus about \$500 for speaker mics and chargers. Motorola radios were easy and reliable, and accessories were widely available, but the units were large and heavy.

Adam planned to compile testing results and present a recommendation at the next board meeting.

C. City of Umatilla Dispatch Center Update: No updates were reported.

D. Annual Audit / Auditor

Brett contacted the firm that Director Pierotti had recommended, but they were not taking new clients, so Brett moved forward with Anderson, Boylen & Ramos.

- E. District Safety Committee Update: Staff reviewed fire safety materials from the Oregon State Fire Marshal's Office.

VIII. New Business

A. City of Umatilla Urban Renewal

Director Pratt reviewed the information on the City of Umatilla's Urban Renewal Agency, which would be created as a way to increase funding for urban renewal projects. Instead of increasing property taxes to raise the funds, the city would freeze any increases of tax revenue to special district at the current levels. The city would then keep the amount of future increases through 2042.

This would impact the District's long-term revenue, while service costs continued to rise.

A meeting with the City Manager was scheduled for October 14 at 1:00pm. Director Pratt planned to attend with Brett and Director Primmer volunteering to attend as well.

The board discussed the negative financial impact of similar urban renewal efforts on neighboring fire districts. Brett noted Umatilla Rural Fire would also be affected and would also be having a conversation with the city.

IX. Open Discussion

ERCES (Emergency Responder Communication Enhancement Systems)

The consulting phase was complete. The District was preparing to publish the documents for building owners and fire marshals. The fee structure associated with the process would encourage accuracy on the first submission, which would reduce errors and the amount of time the District would have to spend on them.

Brett was planning to attend a public safety in-building communications meeting in Spokane.

Regarding the potential Upper Umatilla River Site, Brett was working with a Umatilla County commissioner to approach a property owner regarding a potential conventional repeater site. UEC expressed interest in collaboration, including providing power. The proposed plan would include a two-channel repeater shared between the District and UEC.

Regarding a site at Meacham, Brett was working to reconnect with the landowner.

In response to Director Primmer's inquiry, Brett said he had not started the process of filling the new technician position.

- X. Adjourn: The meeting was adjourned at 2:26pm.

Next Board Meeting

November 4, 2025 - 1:30pm – Boardman City Hall