

**Cannon Beach Rural Fire Protection District  
Board of Directors  
Regular Meeting May -11th, 2026, at 6:00PM  
Fire Station Board Room – 188 Sunset Boulevard, Cannon Beach, OR  
MINUTES**

- **Call to Order**

- **Presiding:** Robert Heymann – Call to order 6:00pm
- **Recording Secretary:** Karen Paino
- **Directors Present:** Heidi Dethloff, Jenee Pearce-Mushen, Robert Heymann, Dave Pietka, Dave Herman
- **Staff Present:** Marc Reckmann, Jason Smith (zoom), John Jerome

- **Approve Agenda –**

• <b>Motion:</b> Approve Agenda		
<b>Moved:</b> Dave Pietka	<b>Second:</b> Heidi Dethloff	<b>Approved 5-0</b>

- **Public Comments and Correspondence -**

- Reckmann reviewed correspondence from Tim Ramey regarding the controversial video, noting that references to the Fire Department had been removed but replaced with a widely circulated image of “63 in the surf.” He also addressed an email concerning his Facebook comments and offered an apology.

John **Ripey** – Defended Cbfd, said the video was misleading, and felt more than an apology is needed.

**Richard Henery** – Called for accountability and possible resignation over approval of the video.

**Tahea Goossen** – Said she is tired of the ongoing drama and believes the issue has become personal.

**Robin Risley** – Discussed dune grading and supported disciplinary action for those responsible.

**Linda Beck Sweeney** – Said the fire department should stay non-political and focus only on safety.

**Clay Newton** – Criticized board members, called the apology weak, and opposed political involvement in the fire department.

**Diana Turner** – Spoke on behalf of Friends of the Dunes, reading email correspondence between Heyman, Reckmann, Ramey, and Thayer regarding the video and urging the Fire Department to take immediate action to avoid negative community response. Public comment ended at 6:23 p.m.

- **Approve April 13th, meeting minutes –.**

• <b>Motion:</b> Approve April 13 <sup>th</sup> meeting minutes		
<b>Moved:</b> Dave Pietka	<b>Second:</b> Dave Herman	<b>Approved: 5-0</b>

- **Status Reports**

- **Finance** – Attachment A (transition update)
- The funds and deferred report are missing the “ending fund balance” line, and Springbrook will help correct it. Training expenses were slightly above budget due to additional classes this year. PERS issues have been resolved and are now up to date. Reckmann reviewed the contract with Greg Munn, who will spend about six hours per month reviewing PERS and reconciliation statements, which he believes will be sufficient.
- **Call Response** – Attachment B
- Call volume has significantly decreased, particularly in lift assists and fire alarms. John has worked to resolve recurring alarm issues and connect individuals needing frequent lift assists with appropriate support services. Pietka thanked John for his efforts.
- Reckmann reviewed recent incidents in Nehalem, including the truck-in-the-ocean incident involving Smith. Smith transferred command to Anderson during the response, which Reckmann said demonstrated the department’s strong training and teamwork.
- Pietka raised concerns about improving public safety awareness for visitors. Smith stated that lifeguards and staff do everything possible to prevent accidents and share safety information through direct conversations on the beach educating the public and on social media, though not everyone sees it. Pietka commended staff for their continued efforts.
- Herman also praised the department’s professionalism and training following the truck incident.
- Reckmann clarified misinformation surrounding a recent high-angle rescue, noting it involved only one incident, not three, and emphasized that training was key to the successful response.
- Seaside will no longer respond to water rescue calls but will continue assisting with rope rescue calls.
- **Projects** –See Attachment C - Detloff asked about the new lifeguard’s towers. Smith responded, one new lifeguard tower has been completed and a second is currently being built. flag pylons would be installed before Memorial Weekend, and the locations will be adjusted to accommodate the two new towers. The timing of the new tower installation is to be determined / pending final delivery. Dethloff asked if the 'old' tower would be installed while waiting for the two new towers to be delivered / installed. Smith responded Installation timing for the old tower will depend on when the new towers arrive.
- The Arch Cape engine project is delayed due to business backlogs, but the engine is expected to arrive by June.
- **Civil Service** – Attachment D

- **Business Items –**

The board discussion focused on accountability and procedures surrounding the controversial dunes video and the board’s involvement in it. Heyman opened by thanking the public, clarifying he is an engineer and not connected to dune grading efforts, and admitting responsibility for approving a revised safety-focused video clip without realizing it would become political in nature. He apologized, expressed embarrassment, and stated he did not want to resign but would do so if necessary to help the district move forward. Heyman then recused himself and left the meeting. Herman then facilitated the Board Conversation.

Board members discussed the limits of their authority, noting they could not force Heyman to resign from the board, though they could recommend he step down as board president. Much of the conversation centered on the need for future decisions, public outreach, and communications to go through the full board rather than individual members acting independently. Several board members stressed that the board should remain neutral, avoid political involvement, and respect the authority of the fire chief and district staff. The board also discussed issuing a formal public statement, improving documentation and communication procedures, and ensuring accountability moving forward.

During the Board discussion, members of the public were making comment, and Herman agreed to open up for public comments to hear further concerns. Audience members voiced frustration, calling for stronger accountability, criticism of Tim Ramey’s role, and concerns that the district had become involved in political issues. Several speakers urged Heyman to step down as president to rebuild public trust, while others defended his character but agreed changes were needed. Tensions also surfaced regarding whether staff warnings and legal concerns had been ignored. Dethloff cited Heyman's contributions and progress made as a Board to the District, however based upon the facts from public records and concerns raised she recommended that Bob step down from the Board for the District to carry out its mission and responsibilities. Jenee and Herman agreed.

During the discussion, Pietka also resigned from the board after voicing strong disagreement with how the remaining board planned to move forward.

After Heyman returned to the meeting, Herman reinforced that ultimately Heyman needs to make the decision about resigning from the Board and suggested that he should at a minimum step down as President. Heyman was informed of the board’s discussion. It was noted that the board could not formally require him to step down, though doing so could potentially help the district given the ongoing public controversy. Heyman ultimately chose to resign immediately, apologized again, and expressed appreciation for the board and district. The meeting ended with plans to issue a public statement and hold a special meeting to further address the situation.

As a result of the Business discussions, the District has two board vacancies and will take the appropriate steps to fill them. In the meantime, Dave Herman will be acting President of the Board.

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Motion:</b> To acknowledge Heyman’s resignation as board president, submitted during the meeting following discussion of a recommended leadership change amid public controversy, and to note Pietka’s resignation from the board after expressing strong disagreement with how the remaining board intends to move forward. Further, to direct Mushen-Pearce and Detloff to prepare and issue a public statement summarizing the discussion and actions taken during tonight’s meeting.</li> </ul>		
<b>Moved: Dave Herman</b>	<b>Second: Heidi Dethloff</b>	<b>Approved 3-0</b>

• -  
• **Motion:** Declare the 2 vacant board positions

**Moved:** Jenee Pearce-Mushen

**Second:** Heidi Dethloff

**Approved 3-0**

- The board scheduled a Special Meeting for Thursday, May 14th, to continue discussion of the issue and to address additional business items from the agenda that had been tabled during the meeting.

- **Future meeting agenda items –**

- Arch Cape Discussion

- **Director's Comments –**

- Bob Heymann
- Heidi Dethloff
- Jenee Pearce-Mushen – training for earthquake simulation on Wed 5:30-7:00pm
- Dave Herman
- Dave Pietka – Walked out of the meeting

- **Meeting adjourned at – 8:23 pm**

**X**



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Dave Herman  
Interim president