

SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES

May 15, 2026  
64697 Cook Avenue  
Bend, Oregon 97703

BOARD: Jack Billings, Martin Warbington  
Jeff Stuermer (phone), Yves Teirlynck (zoom), David Hampton (zoom)  
STAFF: Chris Schull, April Harris Spath  
GUESTS: Ed Galazzo. Zoom Attendees: Susie Hart

Chairman Billings called the special board meeting to order at 9:03 a.m. and appointed April Harris Spath scribe.

FIELD STAFF

Manager Schull explained that because we are experiencing a terrible water year, the current field crew has been constantly scrambling to make system adjustments. He would like to either bring back a former employee, or hire a new one, and bring the field staff back to a 4-man crew.

The Board discussed the financial impact since we did not budget for an additional employee this year. Director Teirlynck stated that it should not be an issue this year since we did not include the cell tower or interest income as anticipated revenue in our operating budget, therefore we would have ended the year with a surplus. However, this would be a fixed cost for the district and would affect next year's budget.

Teirlynck stressed the importance of developing a strategic plan (3 to 5 years out) and looking further ahead regarding the district's future needs, both in terms of capital investments and headcount, as we continue to pipe the district.

Director Hampton made a motion to approve the expense of hiring another employee for the field, using operating funds above what was budgeted for personnel in the 2026 budget. Chairman Billings seconded the motion, stating they could re-evaluate the district's needs later if necessary. Vice Chair Warbington, Director Teirlynck, and Director Stuermer all voted in favor, and it passed with a 5-0 vote.

ADJOURN

Vice Chair Warbington made a motion to adjourn the special board meeting at 9:32 a.m. and Chairman Billings seconded the motion. Director Teirlynck, Director Hampton, and Director Stuermer voted in favor, and it passed unanimously with a 5-0 vote.