

IRRIGON RURAL FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS SPECIAL MEETING
DATE: 04/23/2026

A special meeting of the Board of Directors of Irrigon Rural Fire Protection District to discuss employment of full time staff.

The following directors were present:

Robert Vandecar
Scott Ezell
Tom Arbuckle
Paul Martin

Others present were:

Casey Zellars, Interim Chief
Charlene Cooley, Recordkeeper

Guests present were:

Online Guests:

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Vandecar at 5:00 PM.

New Business:

Discussion about hiring a full-time employee, hired from our volunteer staff.

Chief Zellars had a conversation with Lt. Jensen about his thoughts on working full time for IRFPD and shared with the Board what their conversation entailed. Items to think about are disability insurance, life insurance, health and retirement.

Director Ezell asked what this position would consist of: Chief Zellars explained what Lt. Jensen's duties would consist of – all the day to day activities required to operate our department.

Charlene is reaching out to SDAO to learn more about the insurance options they can offer us as members.

Discussion on salary; a safety award was granted from CREZ II in 2025 for \$100,000, and another was granted in 2026, this money will be what is used to pay this salary.

Discussion was also had on hiring all firefighters as W2'd employees for paying them minimum wage for monthly "paid on call" moving forward.

Director Ezell moved to offer Training Officer, LT Jensen. Director Arbuckle seconded the motion:

- a. Those voting yes, Directors, Ezell, Vandecar, Arbuckle, and Martin.
- b. Those voting no, none.
- c. All in favor, nomination carried.

Meeting adjourned at 7:32

Next Regular Meeting May 18, 2026– 6:30 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Charlene Cooley
Recordkeeper