

**KLAMATH 9-1-1 COMMUNICATIONS DISTRICT  
MINUTES OF DISTRICT BOARD SPECIAL MEETING  
Wednesday, January 7, 2026  
Klamath 9-1-1, 2543 Shasta Way, Klamath Falls OR**

**I. Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 3:07 p.m. by Sandra Fox.

**B. Roll Call**

Board Members Present:     John Ketchum  
                                      Jan Bos  
                                      Adam Yancey  
                                      Sandra Fox  
                                      Mike Cook

Board Members Absent:     Aimee Reichlin

Others Present:             Amanda Rose - Executive Director, Remote  
                                      Joanie Rote - Operations Manager  
                                      Jessica Gibson - Business Manager  
                                      Holly Kessler - Communications Supervisor

**II. Pledge of Allegiance**

**III. New Business**

A. Lakeview User Fees: Sandra reminded everyone the reason for the meeting is to discuss the concern of Klamath County subsidizing the cost to dispatch for Lake County. She said Jessica sent out spreadsheets that they all have a copy of and asked if they wanted Jessica or Amanda to walk them through the documents. The board agreed to have the documents explained and Amanda asked for Jessica to do so.

Jessica reviewed the Lakeview budget, Two Call for Service Rate Schedules and the Five-Year User Fee Schedule. The budget was what Lakeview initially provided, showing the user fees they said they were charging. Invoices were sent out in March 2025 using those rates. Shortly after they began receiving phone calls from the agencies saying they did not have agreements with Lakeview or the district to charge them user fees. They also questioned the fee amount they were being charged versus the districts call for service rate. At that time Joanie pulled and provided the historical actual calls received for the prior four years for Lakeview and Klamath. Those call numbers are shown on the initial call for service rate schedule that was drafted to calculate a call for service rate. The formula takes the calls for service average for three years, divided by the district's 2025-2026 fiscal year budget to derive at the \$43.41 call for service rate. Amanda met with each agency and informed them of their user fees using the call for service rate; most said they could not afford it. The fee using the call for service rate was much higher than the budget amount Lakeview had originally provided. The agencies then said they were willing to pay the original rate because they could not afford the calls for service rate. IGA's were then drafted and

provided to each agency using the original rate. Discussions have been ongoing, a couple agencies have signed their IGA, and they are still waiting on the others. Jessica said John had asked at last month's meeting what the rate would look like if the excise tax dollars were taken out of the equation. The second call for service rate schedule shows this, changing the rate to \$32.57, which would still be higher than the amounts provided originally in the Lakeview budget.

John asked where they came up with their tax rate of 1.5 million on the 2025-2026 budget of \$3,844 million with the excise tax removed. Jessica said what John is referring to is the excise tax amount which is about \$500,000 for Lakeview and \$800,000 for Klamath that the district receives from OEM. It is not property tax dollars received from the permanent rate or operating levy. Discussion followed regarding the amount of income being received on behalf of Lakeview versus the cost to provide service to Lakeview that the district is paying.

Mike said he appreciated what was put together and asked what the actual amount of excise tax received for last year was. Jessica asked for a moment to pull up that information.

Mike asked if the amount of user fees being charged to Lakeview agencies is the same amount as what KIRG charges Klamath agencies. Jessica said KIRG is separate from the district and the district does not charge user fees to those same agencies. There are a few agencies outside of the KIRG group that the district does charge user fees. Joanie said the district receives funding from property taxes in Klamath. John said Klamath agencies pay user fees to KIRG and Lakeview has their own radio system that they pay for. Mike asked if it was correct that the user fees being charged to Lakeview agencies are in lieu of taxes. John said yes. Discussion followed regarding Klamath and Lake County tax rates and the amount the district receives from Klamath versus the amount being received from Lakeview in lieu of taxes.

John said he wanted to ensure that the district is not subsidizing any of the costs they incur providing service to Lakeview. He also would like them to be able to show separately Lakeview income and expenses. John added that the IGA's are contracts, and the board needs to authorize Amanda to be the signer on those so that they see what she is doing and they authorize her to protect her in doing her job. Sandra said she thought that was in her job description already. John said he does not know what that has to do with ORS.

Jessica said the amount of excise tax received last year for Lakeview was \$129,873, which is greater than the expected amount of \$120,000. Discussion continued regarding Lakeview absorption startup costs, costs covered by OEM and future recurring costs to provide service to Lakeview.

Jessica reviewed the five-year user fee schedule and explained the information provided showing the annual 3% increase and the bottom-line net profit based on the inclusion or exclusion of excise tax funds. Discussion followed regarding the sunset of the excise tax. John said he expects the tax to be renewed because historically it has always had a sunset and when that date has come it is renewed. Jessica said this was discussed at an Oregon APCO meeting she attended this week, and they expect it could sunset. Due to this they are putting together a public education committee and are meeting next week on the 15<sup>th</sup> to hold a strategic planning meeting where they will discuss the function and goal of that committee. If it continues that is great but from what they have been told by their lobbyist they should plan as if it will not because it does not look good and OEM has already had some of their funding cut. OEM is changing their program because of this and the impact to the district is less funding to utilize for GIS map work. This means the district will have to reduce the work of pay the difference not being reimbursed by OEM.

Mike confirmed that they are looking at entering IGA's for five years with all the users that are listed on the five-year schedule and asked if they have anything in writing that guarantees they will receive the excise tax funds over the next five years. Jessica said there is no guarantee in writing. Mike asked if they had anything in writing that Lakeview would give their excise tax dollars to Klamath. Jessica said yes OEM agreed to allocate Lakeview funds to Klamath and they are distributed directly to the district. Mike said they are good then to receive the funds until the sunset of the excise tax. Mike said he was happy to discuss the numbers more with everyone but that he was happy with where they were and ready to move forward with the IGA's.

Adam asked for clarification on what the numbers were in the right-side column on the cost per call for service sheet. Jessica said the right column showed the amount users would pay if they were charged for their 2024 calls using the cost per call for service rate. Adam said he thought some of the formulas may be wrong. Discussion followed regarding the information provided on the call for service rate sheet and the formulas that needed correcting for Silver Lake and High Desert. Sandra asked John if he was comfortable with the numbers and them being apples to apples. John said he did not think they could get to them being apples to apples. He wanted to make sure they were not paying for the cost to provide service to Lakeview. Sandra said if someone asked what the amount of taxes Lakeview pays to Klamath the answer would be none so that is why they pay user fees. John informed everyone that they used to be a user fee-based entity before the district started and all the agencies supported it. However, that caused a lot of problems amongst the agencies because they were bearing the whole cost, so they chose to go out and start a Special District. John said his concern is that Lakeview may be in the same situation and they will need to look at other ways to generate funds to pay for their dispatch services.

Mike asked what the 2024 tax income was for the permanent rate and the operating levy. Discussion followed regarding what was received and the value of Klamath vs the value of Lakeview and what taxpayers are paying for service in each county. John asked Jessica to do the math to calculate what Lake County taxpayers would pay at the Klamath rate based on their property assessment of \$9, 787,165.05. Discussion followed regarding rates and being able to look at everything closer to an equivalent of apples to apples. Jessica said the amount would be \$336,776.

Mike asked Sandra what her concern was. Sandra said they pay for it in two different ways, and the variables do not line up. There is the tax rate, user fees and call volume. Klamath is not based on call volume to receive the property tax amount whereas Lakeview is based on the call volume because they do not pay property taxes to Klamath, so the tax rate does not matter. Mike said it does because Lakeview maintains their own radio system that is not part of 911 but for Klamath their radio system is maintained by KIRG and the Klamath agencies pay KIRG user fees based on a call rate and volume. Mike said he wants to be able to say that Lake County is paying their fair share. Sandra agreed. Mike asked how much property tax money the district received last year. Jessica said the total was \$2,317,149. Mike asked this to see that Lakeview is paying their fair share, and it appears they are. John said he is good with the number. His only other concern is the \$30,000 the district is paying a year for the Lakeview Sheriff office connection, and the district does not pay that for any other agency. Jessica said that it has been addressed in their IGA to sunset that obligation at the end of the one year in March. Jessica said the tax amount received year to date through November is \$2,298,231. The majority of property tax funds are received in November and December's distribution has not been deposited yet.

Mike said he is happy with all the information provided and thanked the admin team for putting it together. He appreciates having the forecast to 2030 and is not currently concerned with the excise tax.

He wanted to make sure that what Lakeview is paying is fair and equitable and it appears to be. Mike asked to hear Jan and Adams thoughts.

Jessica informed everyone that the formulas were corrected and there was no change to the call for service rate.

Adam said his take was that if they can show separation of the Lakeview income and expenses then they will be able to adjust accordingly. In the future when they have improvements that are specific to providing service to Lakeview then they can make sure the funds come from Lakeview. Mike clarified that Adam was referring to system improvements. Adam confirmed that was correct. Mike said the way individual agency operations work is that if they need to upgrade their own specific equipment, they pay for that themselves; they would not be coming to the district to pay for that. Discussion followed regarding costs that individual agencies cover and the extra cost the district paid on behalf of their partner agencies that were specific to the Tyler upgrade.

John said that he looked up how much money is paid to special districts in Lake County and it's about half of what Keno fire was getting. They are a tiny population, and he is good with everything now that they have reviewed it. The IGA's are ready to go but they need to authorize Amanda to sign them. John added that he believed this is a requirement under ORS. Mike said that authorizing the CEO as a signer protects the CEO, it protects the district and it is a checks and balance. Checks and balances are huge and authorizing their CEO to sign contracts after being verified by their legal counsel is a check and balance. It prevents errors, protects the district from oversight and is good practice to have. Sandra said she thought they already authorized Amanda to be the signer and understood the reason for doing it.

Sandra asked if they wanted to discuss the IGA's. Amanda said she sent the IGA's to Nathan and he did not see anything concerning but she is working with him on opt-out language to make that clearer. She informed them that there are two IGA's already executed.

Mike made a motion to authorize Amanda to sign the IGA's between Lake County and 911 after verification with legal counsel, John seconded, Sandra asked if there was any further discussion. Adam said his concern is to make sure that the opt-out is very clear. Sandra said Nathan's comment was to add boiler plate language appropriate to the IGA's to allow opt-out each year and not just prior to the first renewal. Adam said he would agree with that. Mike agreed as well. Sandra said Nathan added that if they thought they would have any trouble getting paid they should add an interest provision on the unpaid amount. The board agreed to allow Nathan and Amanda to make the decision on that.

Sandra said there was a motion and a second on the floor and asked for votes. The motion carried.

Yes Votes: John, Jan, Adam, Mike and Sandra

No Votes: None

**IV. Public Comment and Other Matters:** None

Amanda noted that they added Otter AI to allow Jessica to participate more in the meetings.

**V: Adjourn:** Sandra adjourned the meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:00 p.m.

Approved and Adopted January 21, 2026

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Sandra Fox, Board Chair

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Date