



METCOM 9-1-1

Governing Board Meeting Minutes

January 13, 2026

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Jay Alley
Sherry Bensema
Mike Corless
Mark Daniel
Jordan Donat
Levi Eckhardt
Todd Engstrom
Damian Flowers
Brandon Hamilton
Alan Hume
Paul Iverson
Gwen Johns
Jason Millican

Michael Kahrmann
Bill Miles
Dan Mullen
Don Parise
Don Taylor
Keith Veit

METCOM:

Wendy Patterson
John Thompson

Others in Attendance:

Danny Freitag, Santiam Hospital

METCOM regular Governing Board meeting called to order at 10:03 AM by Mark Daniel.

The October 28, 2025, Board meeting minutes were provided to Board members via email and available in hard copy form or by request at the meeting. One absentee ballot was received by: Chief Damian Flowers. Board Chair, Mark Daniel, asked members if there were any changes to the minutes provided. None were voiced. The motion to accept the minutes was made as follows:

- Motion to accept the October 28, 2025, Board Meeting minutes; Levi Eckhardt
- Second by Bill Miles
- Absentee ballots: Chief Flowers, in favor.
- Discussion: None. Motion passed all in favor, no opposition.

METCOM Annual Audit:

Director John Thompson provided the Board of Directors that the METCOM annual audit ending June 30, 2025, is complete. For the June 30, 2025, audit year, METCOM moved to a new auditing company, Accuity. There were two items the auditors identified that needed correction; METCOM did not have a specific general ledger line item specific to grant dollars (the Beachie Creek fires being the first FEMA dollars received by METCOM) and the establishment of a report that addressed any journal entry changes to a general ledger account. Both items have been put in place and the proper reports submitted to the state. All other items reviewed with no further areas of concern identified. A copy of the complete annual report is available upon request.

Budget Committee:

The 2026-2027 fiscal year budget committee met last week. A draft budget was proposed for review. Levi Eckhardt was elected as the budget committee chair. The committee reviewed the draft budget with no substantial changes identified. The committee did state they would like to have a Board

discussion regarding the funds collected for the radio project savings. The current draft budget shows a user fee increase of 3.044%. There were two draft budgets originally prepared, however the focus was on the budget without the collection of the Hubbard Police Department user fees and the 3rd dispatch supervisor position left unfunded.

Opened for questions:

Q: Isn't Hubbard Police Department leaving METCOM already a "done deal" as they have provided notice?

A: We will be having further discussion regarding this shortly.

Q: Clarification that the 3rd Supervisor position was proposed to be left unfunded for the 2026-2027 fiscal year budget but not eliminated.

No further questions or comments were stated.

Hubbard Police Department Notice to Terminate:

On December 31, 2025, METCOM received formal notice from the City of Hubbard Police Department on their intent to withdraw from the ORS190 Agreement and move to the City of Newberg for dispatching services. There have been a number of discussions with METCOM users and between METCOM and OEM. This specific situation is unique to METCOM and to OEM. OEM provided METCOM with a copy of Oregon law, ORS 403.130. This ORS is regarding an organization leaving a 911 jurisdiction. John read ORS 403.130 (9) to the board. A copy of ORS 403.130 will be attached to these meeting minutes for reference. Director Thompson would like to make sure that METCOM is following law and proposed to send a document to all METCOM user agencies to either approve or deny the request of Hubbard Police Department to leave the METCOM 911 jurisdiction. After such vote, Director Thompson will respond to OEM with the jurisdictional boundary and voting results as per ORS 403.130 (9).

Should Hubbard Police Department leave METCOM 911, METCOM will still receive all 911 calls for the Hubbard, Aurora and Donald areas. This could be a serious issue if the call for service is a law enforcement call. METCOM is concerned with information inadvertently being lost when calls are transferred and time lost transferring calls between centers. This may result in a possible increase in risk to public safety and the safety of responding officers. Hubbard Police Department does have a valid concern regarding the current radio systems.

The City of Hubbard has about (rough estimate) 3,000 calls per year with about 2,000 of them being 911 calls. These calls often involve multiple phone calls. A CAD2CAD system is not in place between METCOM and Newberg.

During the meeting between METCOM and OEM, there was discussion regarding METCOM seeking legal council and the liability that would remain with METCOM should Hubbard leave the 190 Agreement. Board Chair, Mark Daniel, believes this may cause significant safety liability to METCOM with Hubbard Police Department leaving METCOM. There is a question as to whether State Law (ORS 403.130) would "trump" a 190 Agreement or not. Some items that came out of the meeting between METCOM and OEM are as follows:

1. METCOM should seek legal counsel.
2. Should there be an agreement between Hubbard Police Department and METCOM regarding liability and cost if METCOM is still handling all initial 911 calls for the area.
3. METCOM should put the notice to leave METCOM 911 to a vote and follow the State of Oregon statute and send a clear message.

Open discussion:

Q: If you recoup costs from Hubbard Police Department, will you do the same with Aurora Fire Department?

A: We would have to look into this.

Statement: It is the citizens of Hubbard who lose. The time delay is very real and could become a life-or-death situation.

Statement: When you have a mixed response call in that area, you are adding another layer to a difficult communication situation with the number of dispatch centers involved.

Q: Can Hubbard Police Department talk to Woodburn Police Department?

A: Only if Hubbard Police keep their existing radios in the car.

Q: If METCOM votes "No", what does that process look like?

- A: I don't know what it would look like. This is a new area. We will provide the ORS and see what happens.
- Q: How does this look like between METCOM and Gervais?
- A: We don't take 911 calls for the Gervais area so this would not be comparing apples-to-apples.
- Q: Has METCOM had the option to address Hubbard Police Department and their concerns?
- A: This comes down to a radio system.
- Q: When would Hubbard Police Department start dispatching services with Newberg?
- A: Chief Parise was unsure and would need to check.
- Q: When is the vote going to be on the Hubbard Police Department issue?
- A: John will send out a "ballot" by the end of the week.

Open Agenda:

Please contact John or Wendy if you are interested in hosting a METCOM Board Meeting.
Chair Mark Daniel closed the meeting and adjourned at 10:49 am.

Future Meeting Dates: Location to be determined. Please contact John or Wendy if you are interested in hosting a Board Meeting.

March 10, 2026 @ 10:00 am (anticipating presenting the 2026-2027 FY budget for review & discussion)

April 14, 2026 @ 10:00 am (anticipating the review of the 2026-2027 FY proposed budget for adoption)

May 19, 2026 @ 10:00 am (anticipating adoption of 2026-2027 FY Budget)

September 8, 2026 @ 10:00 am

November 10, 2026 @ 10:00 am