**POLK COUNTY FIRE DISTRICT NO.1**

**Board of Directors**

**June 12, 2025**

**6:00pm – Central Station**

**Location: 1800 Monmouth St., Independence, Or 97351**

**Also Virtually at:**

[**https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83280363029?pwd=NGRDbTVmOHJNMIRQR3ZSV055Um1wZz09**](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83280363029?pwd=NGRDbTVmOHJNMIRQR3ZSV055Um1wZz09)

**Meeting ID: 832 8036 3029 - Passcode: 801072**

President Jeff Hamilton (Absent) Chief Ben Stange

Vice President Cord Von Derahe DC Neal Olson

Secretary Mike Lippsmeyer DC Frank Ehrmantraut (Virtual)

Director Curtis Cole (Virtual) DC Troy Crafton

Director Dan Miller  Office Administrator Stephanie Hale

Office Assistant Maliyah Thompson

**CALL MEETING TO ORDER, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Anyone wishing to address the Board please sign the sheet on the back table with your name and topic that you would like to discuss. If you are online, please use the raise hand feature when it comes time for public comment. Comments are limited to three minutes but the Board welcomes additional information in writing. Typically, a speaker’s comment is taken under advisement to allow time for the Board to review an issue, however, the Board may ask a speaker for additional information or may convey to the speaker some information that addresses their comment.

Meeting minutes will be recorded and kept for 60 months.

**Open for public comment on any of the agenda items.**

**CONSENT AGENDA:**

1. Board Agenda
2. Approve May 13, 2025 Regular Board Meeting Minutes
3. Approve May 13, 2025 Budget Committee Minutes
4. Financials:

3a. Approval of Disbursements for May 1-31, 2025

3b. Finance report for the month of May 2025

**Vice President Von Derahe** – Asked how the Board would like to take the agenda.

**Director Miller** – Stated to take the Agenda as a whole.

**Secretary Lippsmeyer** – Second.

**Vice President Von Derahe** – All in favor, none opposed, carried – Agenda approved.

**LIFESAVING RECOGNITION:**

Chief Stange told a brief story about an incident that happened on April 5th. He then recognized all that were involved in the incident: Bryce Estabrook, Seth Waller, Jeremiah Gerber, Andy Samantha (Dallas), Justin Brown, Ruben Verdugo (SW Polk), Harmony Alvarez, Garrett Hardwick (PCFD), Teresa Broyles, Mags Holloway, Dave Catton and Gina Baker (WVCC). Those that were recognized received a Lifesaving Coin from Chief Stange.

**Vice President Von Derahe adjourns the meeting for a break at 6:11PM.**

**Vice President resumes the meeting at 6:23PM**

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

**Mike Rusher – Captain at PFCD No.1 and President of Local 4196:** Would like the Board to prioritize the staffing when adopting the budget to ensure a safe community. After the first budget meeting, he received many calls from members worried about job security. He assured them they will have job security for at least another year if this budget gets adopted. He wants to make sure the Board realizes that our members need a safe place to work with adequate staffing levels because the community deserves that.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None at this time.**

**NEW BUSINESS:**

1. **Resolution 2025-02: Adopt FY 25-26 Budget**

**Chief Stange** read off some highlights of the budget and explained that this reflects the changes that were discussed during the previous budget meeting.

**Secretary Lippsmeyer** – Motion to take Resolution 2025-02 as read.

**Director Miller** – Second.

**Vice President Von Derahe** – Any discussion?

**Secretary Lippsmeyer** – It is a challenging budget, but we have done the best we can with what the cards that were dealt to us.

**Vice President Von Derahe** – It is a good budget, we have met our staffing goals from our levy. Confident in our Fire Chief that we will do good over the next year.

**Director Miller** – Asked about our staffing on the engine and how often the engine goes out with 3 people on it (a few meetings back) but never got a number.

**Chief Stange** – Apologized and made a note for next meeting.

**Secretary Lippsmeyer** – PERS costs a lot. If GEMT falls apart, we will be in some real challenging situations.

**The Board** voted to pass Resolution 2025-02. All in favor, none opposed, carried – Fiscal Year 2025-26 Budget Adopted.

1. **Resolution 2025-03: Transfer Funds to Equipment Reserve Fund**

**Chief Stange explained** this is a transfer of $150,000 from the General Fund to the Equipment Reserve Fund, as budgeted in the 2024-2025 budget.

**Secretary Lippsmeyer** – Motion to accept Resolution 2025-03 as read on the corrected version ($150,000).

**Director Miller** – Second.

**Vice President Von Derahe** – All in favor, none opposed, carried – Resolution 2025-03 approved.

1. **Resolution 2025-04: Transfer Funds to Grant Fund**

**Chief Stange explained** that we can’t bring money into the Grant Fund and spend it from there. It has to be brought into the General Fund, and then moved into the Grant Fund in order to be spent. However, it can’t be spent on personnel from the Grant Fund, so it has to be moved into the General Fund – These Resolutions are trying to square this all out.

**This will be a transfer of two grants: $6,848.11 from OHA for the Oregon Healthcare Preparedness Program & $2050 from the SDAO for a Safety and Security Grant. Total transfer of $8,898.11 from General Fund into the Grant Fund.**

**Secretary Lippsmeyer** – Motion to accept Resolution 2025-04 as read for the total amount of $8,898.11.

**Director Miller** – Second.

**Vice President Von Derahe** – All in favor, none opposed, carried – Resolution 2024-04 approved.

1. **Resolution 2025-05: Transfer Funds to the General Fund**

**Chief Stange explained** that this Resolution is to transfer funds from the Grant Fund back into the General Fund because we received a defensible space grant that is being carried in the Grant Fund but some of these (defensible space) funds are for personnel costs, therefore they can’t be spent out of the Grant Fund. We have already paid these personnel costs and essentially are now reimbursing ourselves for those expenditures. **Transfer of $1544.56 from Grant Fund to the General Fund.**

**Secretary Lippsmeyer** – Motion to approve Resolution 2025-05 as read.

**Director Miller** – Second.

**Vice President Von Derahe** – All in favor, none opposed, carried – Resolution 2025-05

1. **State and Local Cybersecurity Grant Program (OEM – Round 2)**

- We submitted an application for a State grant that is just over $4,000 (Received). The grant provides 24/7 monitoring of some of our cyber security stuff.

**Secretary Lippsmeyer** – Is IS housed here?

**Chief Stange** - We are still contracted with the County.

1. **Local Alcohol and Drug Policy Committee (LADPC) Grant**

- Chief Ehrmantraut has been working with the County and they approved the purchase of two items. 1: Reality 360 simulation systems. 2: Airway mannequin.

1. **Safe Streets for All (SS4A) Grant**

- $2.4 million federal grant. Our members have been coming up with several ideas on how to improve the safety of our streets.

- Community Paramedic

- System that gets installed in our engines that alerts drivers through Google and other things about upcoming emergency response vehicles. This is something we are partnering with several other agencies in the County. This system can be installed in their vehicles as well.

- We have not signed a contract or put any money in so far. Hopefully next month we can go over the contract with the Board.

- We will be working with Legal on this.

- Working with Lucid Technologies.

- We will know about costs before incurring any costs. We have been very cautious with this process.

**CHIEFS REPORT:**

1. **Wildfire Seasonal Staffing**

- Started on Monday. We have six part time employees. We have two on duty, seven days a week. For the next biennium this was funded at $5,000,000 and that number was increased to $6,000,000 but only for the first year. The second year, this program is no longer in the OSFM budget, but could be included in the Wildfire Bill.

1. **Employee Health Insurance**

- We have Regence, which is no longer in network with Salem Health. SDIS found another provider for health insurance that is willing to offer the same benefits at the same cost that includes Salem Health.

**Secretary Lippsmeyer** – Does this require any negotiations with the Union Contract?

**Chief Stange** – It is the same cost with the same benefits.

1. **Community Events**

- Touch-A-Truck in Independence (annual)

- Western Oregon University Block Party

- We sent Engine 2 over to SPAAMFAA (Society for the Preservation and Appreciation of Antique Motor Fire Apparatus in America) in Aurora.

- Thoughts and Gifts Competition (local fundraiser)

- Several end of the year school events

1. **DPSST Accreditation**

- This is done every three years. Congratulations to Chief Olson for having all of our paperwork and making it a quick and easy process. Chief Olson is a District Liaison Officer and does accreditation reviews for other agencies.

1. **Fallen Fire Fighter’s Memorial DPSST, (June 17th)**

- Chief Stange got asked to be the keynote speaker.

1. **Swearing In Ceremony July 2nd**

- Our new Recruits will be getting sworn in, as well as a few career staff that have not been sworn into their new positions, and we have two volunteers being promoted to a Lieutenant position. 7PM.

1. **Notable Incidents**

- Monday, May 19th (Tractor Fire on Mistletoe Rd)

- Sunday, June 8th (Shed Fire on Oakhill Rd)

- Explosives items in the shed

- Very long scene, crews were out there for hours

- Wednesday, June 12th (Low Risk Grass Fire upgraded to High Risk)

- Updated address dispatched a lot of Salem units

- Did a great job working with their agency on that side of the River.

1. **Member of the Month**

- **Caleb Taylor** has been a member of our organization for over 15 years. He is an EMT on A-Shift and is currently in paramedic school. He has been consistently helping out with the Recruit Academy, attending drill and making sure the Recruits are getting their reps in.

**TOPICS FOLLOWING THE PREPARATION OF THE AGENDA:**

**Chief Stange** – We sent a crew over to the Rowena Fire in a Type 3 Engine (Chief Ehrmantraut, Engineer Wooldridge, and Firefighter Biggs). This is the earliest we have sent people out on a conflagration.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

**Captain Rusher**:

- Caleb Taylor got through probation quickly and has been doing a great job. He is leaving to Boston for two weeks for a required portion of Paramedic school.

- We were invited by Dallas to participate in a campaign for MDA Fill the Boot. We are going a competition to see which side of town can raise more money.

**BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS:**

**Director Miller** – Always happy to see the Lifesaving Recognitions and seeing the challenge coins be given out. Good job to everyone involved.

**Secretary Lippsmeyer** – Good job to the challenge coins, to Caleb, and to everyone putting in all the time for the recruits.

**Vice President Von Derahe** – He was made aware that the fire from June 12th went super smooth. That side of the river is an area of concern. Working with our partners and helping our community is great, and thanks for the work on the budget.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:** According to ORS 192.660. If necessitated by business. None anticipated.

**ADJOURNMENT: President Hamilton adjourned the meeting at 7:03pm**

**Minutes by Maliyah Thompson**