

**POLK COUNTY FIRE DISTRICT NO.1**

**Board of Directors**

**October 8, 2020**

**6:00pm – Central Station**

**LOCATION: The meeting will be streamed at the Central Fire Station where public comment will be allowed with social distancing observed. Some of the Directors will be remote.**

President Mike Lippsmeyer (at Station 90)  
Vice President Jeff Hamilton (at Station 90)  
Secretary Cord Von Derahe (at Station 90)  
Director Curtis Cole (at St 90)  
Director Freeman Stutzman (at St 90)

Fire Chief Ben Stange (at Station 90)  
DC Neal Olson (remote)  
DC Mike Mayfield (remote)  
Office Admin. Susan Shepard (remote)

**ABSENT:**

Office Assistant Mary Carlson

**President Lippsmeyer** called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

**President Lippsmeyer** stated anyone wishing to address the Board to please sign the sheet on the back table with your name and topic that you would like to discuss.

**President Lippsmeyer** added the 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 September 10, 2020 Regular Board Meeting Minutes
- 3) Financials:
  - 3a. Approval of Disbursements for September 1-30, 2020
  - 3b. Finance report for the month of September 2020

**President Lippsmeyer** – Asked if there were any questions. President Lippsmeyer questioned the large dollar amount for Vehicle Maintenance and Repairs.

**Chief Stange** – Stated it was a result of the NFPA Inspections on 4 of the apparatus.

**President Lippsmeyer** – Asked how the Board would like to take the Agenda.

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

**Director Stutzman** – Second.

**President Lippsmeyer** – All in favor, none opposed, carried – Agenda approved.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

**A) COVID-19 Update**

- **RESPONSE** – **Chief Stange** stated there has been no change in our response protocol in the past month.
- **DRILLS AND MEETINGS** – **Chief Stange** stated we continue to allow in person skills drilling but monthly business meetings are either done virtually or outdoors with social distancing and masks.
- **SUPPLIES** – **Chief Stange** stated the District feels comfortable with our current inventory of PPE.

**Chief Stange** added that we received an additional 1,600 N-95 masks from FEMA and have been offered around 3,200 KN-95's.

**Chief Stange** stated we received an AeroClave misting decontaminating unit at no cost to the District through HPP.

- **FINANCIAL IMPACTS – Chief Stange** stated the District has received the maximum amount possible from the Coronavirus Relief Fund, a total of \$281,250.55. Round 4 of the CRF just concluded. He added we submitted additional expenses In the event the maximum allowable amount is increased.
- **COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT – Chief Stange** stated we are doing pre-recorded as well as live virtual Fire Prevention Month education for elementary schools.
- **OTHER – Chief Stange** stated initially it looked as if fire agencies would be excluded from OSHA’s COVID guidelines. It appears increasingly as though the fire service will not be excluded. Chief Stange stated the staff and volunteers are being encouraged to get flu shots. If there is a cost to volunteers to get the vaccine due to a lack of insurance, the District is making the payment. Last but not least, Chief Stange stated we have started routine fire inspections at some of our higher hazard and larger employers.

**B) Standard of Cover 2020 – Chief Stange** stated the 2020 Standard of Cover Update is complete with updates to all sections including:

- Introduction
- Mission, Vision, Values & Strategic Planning
- Risk Assessment
- Distribution of Resources
- Time & On Scene Performance
- On-Scene Operations, Critical Tasks, & Establishing an Effective Response Force
- Stand of Cover Goals & Service Objectives

**Chief Stange** added with all the sections having been updated at this point, he would like to ask the Board to entertain a motion to adopt the updated 2020 Standard of Cover.

**President Lippsmeyer** - Asked if there were any questions or comments.

**Vice President Hamilton** – Said he would support the version presented but noted that it is important for people to understand the limitations of our staffing.

**President Lippsmeyer** - Asked for a motion.

**Vice President Hamilton** – Motion to accept the Standard of Cover 2020 as written.

**Director Stutzman** – Second.

**President Lippsmeyer** - All in favor, none opposed, motion carried.

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

**a) Summary of September Conflagrations – Chief Stange** reported to the Board that on September 7<sup>th</sup>, 2020, the State of Oregon saw an unprecedented number of wildfires across the State. He added during that week there were multiple fires that burned nearly one million acres, destroying thousands of structures and causing multiple fatalities. Polk County Fire District No.1 provided the following assistance:

- **Holiday Farm Fire (Lane Co):**  
September 8<sup>th</sup> – September 19<sup>th</sup>  
Apparatus: 1 engine  
Personnel: 1 career firefighter, 3 volunteer firefighters
- **Echo Mountain Complex (Lincoln Co):**  
September 9<sup>th</sup> – September 10<sup>th</sup>  
Apparatus: 1 engine  
Personnel: 3 volunteer firefighters
- **Slater Fire (Josephine Co):**  
September 9<sup>th</sup> – September 21<sup>st</sup>  
Apparatus: 1 engine  
Personnel: 1 career firefighter
- **Brattain Fire (Lake Co):**  
September 14<sup>th</sup> – September 19<sup>th</sup>

Apparatus: 1 water tender

Personnel: 1 volunteer firefighter

**Chief Stange** added we had a total of one career firefighter under level 2 evacuation and three under level 3 evacuation orders. One of our volunteers lost his camping trailer that was parked near Gates. Chief Stange stated he had the opportunity to shadow the North Lincoln Fire Chief for a day during the second week of the Echo Mountain Complex.

**Vice President Hamilton** – Stated he had been working with the firefighter’s labor union to support their members for 12 days. He shared his experience and how well the teams worked together.

#### **CHIEF’S REPORT:**

- a) **FireMed Online** – **Chief Stange** stated that members of FireMed can now sign up or renew their membership online through our web site. Payments from members are made through PayPal, which is a secure site. Chief Stange stated the online procedure is two parts, the first is name, address, birthdate and email. The second step is debit/credit card payment. Chief Stange added he may find a better software rather than the current two-step method. Chief Stange extended his thanks to Susan and Mary for all their work.
- b) **Retirement of Engineer Calabrese** – **Chief Stange** announced that Engineer Calabrese has retired from the volunteers after 25 years with Polk Fire. He added that Carlo is moving out of the area.
- c) **Notable Incidents** – **Chief Stange** stated on Friday the 25<sup>th</sup> there were fires along Hwy 99. This was a result of the owner of several fields burning bad hay bales on his fields along the highway. The crew also responded to a water rescue, which was not life threatening. Chief Stange stated there was a crash on Riverside Drive that resulted in a 28 minute extrication. He added that with the condition of the vehicle he was impressed how well the extrication went.
- d) **Member of the Month** – **Chief Stange** stated Bo Camaro was the Member of the Month showing excellent dedication and involvement.

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

**Chief Stange** – Stated he had two items to discuss. The first item is in regards to “Making Spirits Bright”. He added the volunteers participated in the chili cook-off and this year the program will not be available. Chief Stange stated that the Fire District has been asked to decorate for the Holidays. The Board had no issues with decorating the station.

**Chief Stange** – Stated he attended the City Hall meeting Tuesday night. The meeting addressed the URD in Monmouth. The City is in need of a new City Hall and wants to use the funds from the URD to partially pay for it. Due to recent legislation changes, it is now possible for taxing districts to object to this type of usage. If the Fire District and one other taxing district objected, the City would not be able to use URD money for this project.

A discussion continued about these taxes and how they are used.

**Chief Stange** – Stated he will contact the County to see if they intend to object to the project.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:** None at this time.

#### **BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS:**

**Secretary Von Derahe** – Stated he appreciates the sacrifice the firefighters and volunteers made during the fire season. He extended his thanks.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION: According to ORS 192.660 (If necessitated by business)**

**Nothing at this time.**

#### **ADJOURNMENT:**

**President Lippsmeyer** adjourned the meeting at 7:06 p.m.

Minutes by Mary Carlson