

**POLK COUNTY FIRE DISTRICT NO.1**  
**REGULAR BOARD MEETING**  
**October 11, 2018**  
**6:00pm – Central Station**

**BOARD MEMBERS:**

President Tom Snair  
Vice President Mike Lippsmeyer  
Secretary Joe Franko  
Director Freeman Stutzman  
Director: (open position)

**STAFF:**

Fire Chief Ben Stange  
DC Neal Olson  
DC Mike Mayfield  
Office Administrator Susan Shepard  
Office Assistant Mary Carlson

**MEETING CALLED TO ORDER**

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

**Note:** Minutes will be recorded and kept for 60 months.

**AUDIENCE REQUESTING TO ADDRESS THE BOARD**

Please sign Request List to address the Board.

**OPEN FOR PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS**

None at this time.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

- A) Approval of Disbursements for September 1-30 2018.
- B) Finance report for the month of September 2018.
- C) Approve September 13, 2018 Regular Board Meeting Minutes.

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

**Secretary Franko** – Stated to take the Agenda as a whole.

**Vice President Lippsmeyer** – Second.

**President Snair** – All in favor, none opposed, motion carried.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

- A) **DEQ Meeting Update – Chief Stange** stated he attended an informal meeting on Monday with DEQ and our attorney. He added there were three arguments discussed to justify reducing the civil penalty.
  - 1) In addition to the failure to have a test performed, there was also a fine for having uncertified people do the demolition. They argued that this is a cascading violation since one only happens because of the other. Cascading violations are supposed to be avoided by DEQ staff.
  - 2) Errors corrected and steps taken. Chief Stange stated evidence was provided showing we immediately suspended all burn-to-learns, had consultations with our insurance company and meetings with building officials, other Districts and OSHA.
  - 3) The last argument had to do with a factor called mental state. Chief Stange stated evidence was provided explaining our process and showed that even with holes in the process, testing was not consciously disregarded.Chief Stange felt the meeting went well and that hopefully there will be a decision by next week.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

- A) **Audit for 2017-18 – Tom Glogau**, District Auditor, reviewed the annual audit and presented to the Board a sheet that showed the last 3 years financials. Mr. Glogau stated the Fire District is in a sound position and his smiley faces on the sheet represent the fact that the District is meeting the benchmarks established. Mr. Glogau reviewed the General Fund and in summary, the dollars are slowly increasing, which means the District is living within the budget. He added the dollars for the ending balances have been increasing slightly through the years.

**Mr. Glogau** – Asked for questions. There were none.

**President Snair** – Thanked Mr. Glogau for his time and report.

- B) **Resolution No. 2018-05 - Rescinding of Resolution 2003-06 Re: Burn Bans – Chief Stange** explained Resolution 2003-06 states Polk County Fire will follow the Burn Ban set by Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF). Chief Stange explained that a lot of the land in our Fire District is not within ODF's protection. He also explained the burning rules for ODF. Chief Stange stated on a few occasions he has gone out to check the burn piles for farmers in our area during the burn ban and has given them the okay to burn.

**Secretary Franko** – Asked the Chief if the District has the manpower to be checking out the burn requests.

**Chief Stange** – Stated no but if it is a legitimate agricultural burn and has financial needs for the farmer, he will go out and check.

**President Snair** – Stated Roger Fitts had signed in for Public Comments and he would like to have Mr. Fitts speak at this time. He is wishing to talk to the Board regarding the Burn Ban.

**Mr. Fitts** introduced himself and stated he has a farm south of Independence. He stated he would like more local control for the farmers and landowners within the Fire District. He feels that now with the new Resolution No. 2018-05 it would allow the District to have this control.

**Chief Stange** – Stated that within fire season the local Fire Defense Board tries to follow the Oregon Department of Forestry decision on the burn ban. He added outside of fire season the DEQ sets the days and times burning is allowed due to the air quality.

**Mr. Fitts** – Stated he is in favor of local control and thanked the board for listening.

**Vice President Lippsmeyer** – Asked that even with local control of burning we will still follow the DEQ for days and times set for burning.

**Chief Stange** – Answered yes.

**Chief Stange** - Read loud Resolution No. 2018-05 regarding Burn Bans.

**President Snair** – Asked for a motion on Resolution No. 2018-05.

**Vice President Lippsmeyer** – Stated to accept Resolution No. 2018-05 as read.

**Secretary Franko** – Second.

**President Snair** – All in favor, none opposed, motion carried.

- C) **Board Member Resignation – President Snair** – Notified the Board the Director King had turned in a written resignation.

**Chief Stange** stated he spoke to George Dunkle from SDAO, and he recommended that if someone is interested in being on the Fire Board to have that individual write of letter of interest. After the Board has received letters they can move forward however they would like

which may include interviews with candidates. He added it is important that this individual understands the position will expire in May. They will need to rerun in the elections, which will be to have someone complete the term.

**Vice President Lippsmeyer** – Asked how we let the people know of this vacant position.

**Chief Stange** – Stated the Board needs to decide whether to advertise, word of mouth, or however they wish.

**President Snair** – Stated that might be better to go with word of mouth, Board agreed.

## **CHIEF'S REPORT**

- A) Parking lot Resurfacing - Chief Stange** stated the parking lot and striping will be completed this weekend.
- B) Station painting – Chief Mayfield** stated both Station 80 & 70 have been repainted, they look good.
- C) Notable Incidents – Chief Stange** stated it has been a steady month. There was a field fire at Wigrich and Wells Landing Road. Chief Stange stated this fire was lit, we put it out and the next day it was relit and we were called out again. He stated in situations like this where the fires were purposely lit we may need to look into fines for the individuals that do this intentionally.  
Another incident we had this month was a student from Central High School who was on his bicycle and hit by a car.
- D) Member of the Month – Chief Stange** stated Tiffany Sigl, a new resident with us, has responded on more calls and has a drill attendance of 177%. She was deservedly awarded Member of the Month.
- E) Staffing Update – Chief Stange** stated on Monday, October 15<sup>th</sup>, our new Firefighter/Paramedic Austin Champ will be starting. Chief stated that Austin comes to us from Dallas Fire and was previously a resident here at Polk County Fire. Chief Stated added we will also be bringing on two part-time employees who just completed the resident program with us.
- F) Mission Vision Values meeting – Chief Stange** stated he spoke to Bill Anderson, from SDAO, about coming to help with our Mission, Vision and Values. He will get the date and time confirmed and be sharing it with everyone, including the Board Members.
- G) OFDDA Conference Oct. 25-27 – Chief Stange** reminded the Board about the OFDDA Conference and added that Director Freeman and himself would be attending.

**TOPICS FOLLOWING THE PREPARATION OF THE AGENDA – Chief Stange** stated he had a couple announcements. He stated on October 19 & 20 the Fill-the-Boot campaign will be happening. Chief Stange stated pink shirts should be arriving soon and plan to wear them for one week in October.

## **BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS**

**Director Stutzman** – Nothing at this time.

**Secretary Franko** – Thanked everyone for the good audit and appreciates how things are run in the District.

**Vice President Lippsmeyer** – Nothing at this time.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:** According or ORS 192.660 (If necessitated by business) Not at this time.

**ADJOURNMENT:** President Snair adjourned the meeting at 6:47pm.

Minutes by Mary Carlson