

POLK COUNTY FIRE DISTRICT NO.1
Board of Directors
April 14, 2022
6:00pm – Central Station
Location: 1800 Monmouth St., Independence, Or 97351

Also Virtually at:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88501558202?pwd=NWdWOWx6SWdYbHQ0MUZ5TVJidTj4QT09>

Meeting ID: 885 0155 8202 - Passcode: 707682

President Mike Lippsmeyer	Chief Ben Stange
Vice President Jeff Hamilton (Absent)	DC Mike Mayfield (Remote)
Secretary Cord Von Derahe (Remote)	DC Neal Olson
Director Curtis Cole	Office Admin. Stephanie Hale
Director Dan Miller	Office Assistant Mary Carlson

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 March 10, 2022 Regular Board Meeting Minutes
- 3) Financials:
 - 3a. Approval of Disbursements for March 1-31, 2022
 - 3b. Finance report for the month of March 2022

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

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

Director Miller – Second.

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

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: Nothing at this time.

NEW BUSINESS:

- a) **City of Independence Vertical Housing Zone** – **Chief Stange** stated the City of Independence intends on creating a Vertical Housing Zone in downtown Independence. The area roughly matches the “historic district” (map attached). The zone allows for the following tax exemptions for ten years:
 - 20% exemption for one floor of residential housing
 - 40% exemption for two floors of residential housing
 - 60% exemption for three floors of residential housing
 - 80% exemption for four or more floors of residential housing

He added taxing districts may elect not to participate in the Vertical Housing Development zone by submitting a letter to the City by May 9th stating they wish not to participate. A completed letter is attached.

Secretary Von Derahe – Asked if the City of Independence reached out to the Chief before any decisions were made?

Chief Stange – Stated there was no conversation, but he added he was at a meeting and it was announced to watch for letter in your mailbox regarding the Housing Zone. Chief added that this Vertical Housing Development zone would result in taller buildings, less revenue for the District and more coverage.

Options:

1. Elect not to participate in the Vertical Housing Development zone.
2. Take no action and be included in the Vertical Housing Development zone.

Recommendation:

Staff recommends Option 1.

Motion, “I move that Polk County Fire District No.1 elect not to participate in the City of Independence’s Vertical Housing Development zone.”

President Lippsmeyer – Asked for a Motion.

Director Miller - I move that Polk County Fire District No.1 elect not to participate in the City of Independence’s Vertical Housing Development zone.

Director Cole – Second.

President Lippsmeyer – All in favor, none opposed, motion carried.

CHIEF’S REPORT:

- a) **Hiring Update: Chief Stange reviewed upcoming changes.**
 - 1 **Office Assistant** – Offer has been made and accepted. Tentative start date of April 26, 2022.
 - 2 **EMS Chief** – Offer has been made and accepted. Tentative start date of May 16, 2022.
 - 3 **Fire Marshal** – Effective July 1, 2022, next budget year, we will dissolve the Fire Inspector position and change to Fire Marshal. We received one internal applicant, who will be promoted to the Fire Marshal position.
 - 4 **Captain** – Chief Stange stated we have 6 qualified internal applicants for Captain. The Assessment Center is scheduled for April 26th, 2022.
 - 5 **Firefighter/Paramedic** we have 8 applicants. **Firefighter/EMT** we have 48 applicants. Chief Stange stated though we have never had such a large number of applicants before in regards Firefighter/EMT; many are from out of state and he’s not sure how many will travel for the assessment testing. He added the testing dates are May 9th and 10th.
- b) **Regional Cooperative Project Award: Chief Stange** stated that Polk County Fire District has been recognized by the Mid-Willamette Council of Government for this project award.
- c) **Easter Festivities: Chief Stange** stated that Stephanie and Marie have worked hard in putting together an Easter Egg Hunt and games for Saturday, April 16th starting at 10:30am. Chief invited the Board Members and families to come.
- d) **Notable Incidents: Chief Stange** stated we had a couple CPR calls, a suspicious car fire, a cooking fire on a stove and a business with several fire alarms that kept going off. Chief Stange mentioned that this afternoon we had 7 EMS calls in 2 ½ hours. He added that all of our ambulances and Dallas ambulances were running the calls. Chief Stange also stated that over 51% of the calls were overlapping calls. Chief Stange also stated on Chief Olson’s training report there were 847 drill hours. He added that Stuart Edgar headed up a 24-hour drill over a weekend.

President Lippsmeyer – Stated that Salem Fire has established an SOP where the police are to be present when responding to a homeless camp. He added he has seen several homeless camps popping up in the area and was wondering if we had an SOP established like Salem.

Chief Stange – Stated that we do not have an SOP established. Chief Stange added he will be meeting with City of Monmouth, Independence, and the County to discuss the homeless population in our community. He added that the students from the high school, WOU and CCC are all a part of this situation along with the East side of the bridge.

- e) **Member of the Month: Chief Stange** member of the month was John Frost from Pedee, Station 70.

TOPICS FOLLOWING THE PREPARATION OF THE AGENDA: Nothing at this time.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: None at this time.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS: None at this time.

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

ADJOURNMENT:

President Lippsmeyer adjourned the meeting at 6:35 pm

Minutes by Mary Carlson