

POLK COUNTY FIRE DISTRICT NO.1

Board of Directors

May 13, 2021

6:00pm – Central Station

LOCATION: Meeting will be streamed at the Central Fire Station, 1800 Monmouth St., Independence, OR 97351 where public comment will be allowed. Directors will be remote.

***Join Meeting via Zoom:**

<http://us02web.zoom.us/j/58435388089?pwd=ZSSkvZnVUREczS2JIUG1JdEFuMStMdz09>

Meeting ID: 864 3538 8089 - Passcode: 028710

Board Members:

President Mike Lippsmeyer (Station 90)

Secretary Cord Von Derahe (Station 90)

Director Curtis Cole (Station 90)

Director Freeman Stutzman (Station 90)

ABSENT:

Vice President Jeff Hamilton

Staff:

Fire Chief Ben Stange (at Station 90)

DC Mike Mayfield (remote)

Office Administrator Susan Shepard (Station 90)

Office Administrator Stephanie Hale (Station 90)

Office Assistant Mary Carlson (Station 90)

ABSENT:

DC Neal Olson

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. 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 April 8, 2021 Regular Board Meeting Minutes
- 3) Financials:
 - 3a. Approval of Disbursements for April 1-30, 2021
 - 3b. Finance report for the month of April 2021

President Lippsmeyer – Asked if there were any questions – 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 – Chief Stange

RESPONSE:

- There have been no changes to our COVID-19 response protocol in the past month.
- Since the last Board meeting we've only transported seven known or suspected COVID patients.
- Since the last Board meeting we've had one employee off work due to COVID exposure.

DRILLS AND MEETINGS

- Large classroom drills and meetings are taking place in the bays, socially distanced with members allowed to call in.
- Hands on drills are taking place in person, with masks used, during times when participants are not actively drilling.

- We will continue to offer video conference access for classroom drills and meetings until the mask mandate is lifted.
- Staff is attending in person meetings with outside organizations.

SUPPLIES

- The District feels comfortable with our current inventory of PPE.
- We have been working to restock our surplus inventory of PPE.

FINANCIAL IMPACTS

- SDAO lobbyists are currently working to ensure that the State of Oregon allocates additional money to special districts as a result of the COVID relief bill. We continue to track expenses to submit in the event additional resources are available.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

- P1FFA is currently planning on moving forward with the 4th of July pancake breakfast that will include an in-person option as well as a drive through. We have reached out to the County and offered to use this event as an optional vaccination site.
- We are partnering with the County to do vaccinations for home bound individuals.

NEW BUSINESS:

- a) **Resolution No. 2021-01 Transferring Funds from Gen. Fund to Equipment Reserve Fund – Chief Stange** stated the District maintains a long-range Equipment Replacement Plan that requires funding in order to fulfill the needs of the Plan. The Equipment Replacement Plan is funded for the replacement of vehicles and equipment. The Budget Committee and Board approved the transfer of \$75,000 from the General Fund to the Equipment Reserve Fund during the Fiscal Year 2020-2021. Chief Stange added that the District received approximately \$50,000 in reimbursement for conflagrations as well as a GEMT deposit of approximately \$65,000 - an additional GEMT deposit is currently pending for approx. \$100,000. Based on the one-time deposits and reimbursements the Board has the option to transfer more money than budgeted for this fiscal year. He added that a deposit of \$200,000 with subsequent annual investments of \$75,000 would likely fund the purchase of ambulances, staff vehicles, and equipment through 2029-30, the year the current General Obligation Bond is complete. In order to fund the purchase of fire apparatus, the Board will either need to drastically increase the annual deposits or pursue another General Obligation Bond.

Director Stutzman - Motioned to transfer of \$200,000 from the General Fund to the Equipment Reserve Fund.

President Lippsmeyer – Read aloud Resolution No. 2021-01 Resolution to Transfer Money from the General Fund to the Equipment Reserve Fund.

Director Cole – Second.

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

- b) **Meetings with SW Polk RFPD regarding their future - Chief Stange** stated the he and President Lippsmeyer met with SW Polk RFPD Board President Rod Watson and Chief Hertel, regarding a future of working together through 190 agreements or a merger. Chief Stange reviewed past history of SW Polk merging with Sheridan and West Valley. He stated there is a follow-up meeting scheduled and asked the Board for comments and/or concerns that he and President Lippsmeyer can present at the next meeting. **President Lippsmeyer** commented the meeting went well. He was concerned with the financial status of SW Polk and it seemed like for a merger to work we would have to increase our tax rate, which would be a hard sell to the public. He added that there are concerns on how their finances were allocated in relation to the Bond; there are three new stations still uncompleted. He would like to stay engaged with meeting with SW Polk but to approach cautiously.
- Secretary Von Derahe** - Questioned the ASA with Dallas EMS and SW Polk. He stated he understands we have a signed mutual aid but questioned how that would affect Polk Fire. Secretary Von Derahe spoke of the tax burden, three stations and a fleet of fire trucks and the support of an increase in taxes for the

same level of service. He asked if SW Polk has done any shopping around with other agencies such as Amity Fire, McMinnville, Salem Suburban or Falls City. He feels that we should not walk away but there seems to be many other avenues to explore.

Director Stutzman does not like the idea of taxes increasing for the same level of service.

President Lippsmeyer – Presented scenario – when or if they run out of money, maybe in three to five years, they would become the property of the next larger district, and in this case that would be Polk County Fire.

Secretary Von Derahe – Asked beings SW Polk surrounds Dallas have they talked with Dallas.

Chief Stange – Stated he did not think so.

Secretary Von Derahe – Stated he is apprehensive but doesn't think talks should stop.

President Lippsmeyer – Stated that what he is hearing the board say; is to continue conversations but to not step up and join services, rather go slow, ask questions and express the concerns that were brought up by the board. At this time we are very apprehensive.

All agreed.

CHIEF'S REPORT:

- a) **Notable incidents** – **Chief Stange** stated that on April 13th, 2021 the weather warmed up, humidity was low, winds increased and as a result we had several field fires. He added a burn ban was put into place for approximately two weeks.
- b) **Member of the month** – **Chief Stange** stated that there were three members that were recognized this last month. Rebecca Farrell, Konner Severson and Brandon Ruiz-Remigio.

TOPICS FOLLOWING THE PREPARATION OF THE AGENDA:

Chief Stange reminded the Board that the first Budget Committee Meeting in May 25th, 2021 at 6:30pm.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: – Nothing at this time.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS: - Nothing at this time.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: According to ORS 192.660(2)(d) – to conduct deliberations with persons designated to carry on labor negotiations; and ORS 192.660(2)(a) and ORS 192.660(7) – to consider employment of an officer, employee, staff member, or agent. We may be coming back to regular session with a decision.

ADJOURNMENT

President Lippsmeyer adjourned the regular Board Meeting at 6:35pm and entered into Executive Session.

President Lippsmeyer returned to Regular Session at 8:37pm.

Secretary Von Derahe – Motioned to approve the Fire Chief's contract as discussed in Executive Session. Fire Chief Contract will be as presented and the term is 06/26/2021 thru 06/25/2024.

President Lippsmeyer adjourned the Regular Board Meeting at 8:39pm.

Minutes by Mary Carlson