

POLK COUNTY FIRE DISTRICT NO.1

Board of Directors

November 12, 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 Sta. 90)

Vice President Jeff Hamilton (at Sta.90)

Secretary Cord Von Derahe (at Sta.90)

Director Curtis Cole (at Sta.90)

ABSENT:

Director Freeman Stutzman (at Sta.90)

Fire Chief Ben Stange (at Sta.90)

DC Mike Mayfield (remote)

Office Admin. Susan Shepard (at Sta.90)

Office Assistant Mary Carlson (remote)

DC Neal Olson

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 October 8, 2020 Regular Board Meeting Minutes
- 3) Financials:
 - 3a. Approval of Disbursements for October 1-31, 2020
 - 3b. Finance report for the month of October 2020

President Lippsmeyer – Asked if there were any questions.

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

Secretary Von Derahe – Stated to take the Agenda as a whole.

Director Cole – 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.
- **FINANCIAL IMPACTS** – **Chief Stange** stated the District has received the maximum amount possible from the Coronavirus Relief Fund (CRF). We continue to track expenses in the event the maximum allowable amount is increased.
Chief Stange added we planned on submitting additional projects through the 2nd round of the AFG-S grants (we were successful in the first round). Unfortunately, the

allowances of the 2nd round are basically limited to disposable goods (gloves, gowns, etc.).

- **COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT – Chief Stange** stated we will be participating in holiday festivities by decorating the station this year since there will not be in-person events.
- **OTHER – Chief Stange** stated we have spent a considerable number of hours working toward compliance with the new Oregon OSHA COVID-19 Temporary Rule. He added it is a very lengthy document.

B) Urban Renewal Districts

Chief Stange stated that in the October Board Meeting a question was asked whether or not the construction of a new city hall for Monmouth was a part of the initial URD (Urban Renewal District) Plan. Chief Stange stated that it was, and the Plan clearly proposes that monies from the URD will be used to partially fund the construction.

He explained in brief how a URD works: A District has their permanent tax rate that was set and receives taxes based off that rate. Then when a URD is established they do not receive the additional tax revenue from the normal yearly property value increases until the URD has expired. This also has a compounding effect. Cities use URD's for faster growth and to add value and infrastructure to their area. The assumption is that at the end of the URD the taxing districts will be able to more than make up for the money they missed out on because the assessed value to these properties will have significantly increased. This would then bring in more revenue than it would have from the low property value before it was developed through the URD. Districts are not always in favor of URD's due to the lost revenue for current needs.

He presented a map for both cities showing where the URD's are located.

Chief Stange – Stated it's a large sum of money and you think about the life span of a ladder truck that will be needed to handle the large buildings that are being built on these properties and none of the tax dollars go to the Fire District to better their protection. Chief Stange stated it is very frustrating.

Secretary Von Derahe – Stated that by the City using these tax dollars to build a new City Hall it eases up the stress of having to go out for a bond for the project which is nice for residents of the City of Monmouth. He added that the Fire District also has needs.

Chief Stange – Agreed it's important to pay close attention right now since URD's in both towns are coming up on their 20 year mark. He stated he would be willing to talk to the URD agency and let them know what the Fire District is in need of to protect this development.

General Discussion – The Board decided that they believe they should write a letter to the Urban Renewal Agency in Monmouth to remind them of the impact URD's have on the Fire District.

NEW BUSINESS:

A) Alyrica Internet 'Micro Pop' at Station 70

Chief Stange stated Polk County has signed a contract with Alyrica Networks to provide high speed internet to rural areas of Polk County including Pedee. They are supposed to have internet by the end of this year. Alyrica Internet wants to put a tower on top of Station 70. Chief Stange added that there are some advantages to people who put them up; first advantage would be that an upgrade to the next higher plan, next advantage is

subscribers have better internet since they can plug directly into the internet feed and the last advantage is that when there are network outages, these sites get same day attention since they are vital to multiple customers. Chief Stange stated the cost of electricity is minimal and he has asked for a draft of an agreement. He stated Alyrica Internet is willing to present at a Board meeting if needed or he can get answer for Board Members if there are specific questions or concerns.

CHIEF'S REPORT:

- A) **Recruit graduation** – **Chief Stange** stated Recruits graduated last Wednesday. This was an academy that started in February but was continually delayed due to COVID. He added it went well.
- B) **Notable incidents** – **Chief Stange** stated we responded to a field fire out towards Buena Vista and another from a neighboring agency. He added we have had several motor vehicle crashes. Chief Stange was pleased with the turnout.
- C) **Member of the Month** – **Chief Stange** stated that FF/P Alex Ovhinnikov was Member of the Month.

TOPICS FOLLOWING THE PREPARATION OF THE AGENDA: None at this time.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: None at this time.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS:

Secretary Von Derahe – Nothing at this time.

Vice President Hamilton – Wished all veterans a Happy Veterans Day.

Chief Stange – Stated we have 5 veterans here at the District.

President Lippsmeyer – Nothing at this time.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: According to ORS 192.660 (If necessitated by business)
Nothing at this time.

ADJOURNMENT:

President Lippsmeyer adjourned the meeting at 6:33pm.

Minutes by Mary Carlson.