

POLK COUNTY FIRE DISTRICT NO.1

Board of Directors

October 14, 2021

6:00pm – Central Station

LOCATION: Central Fire Station – 1800 Monmouth St. Independence, OR 97351

Also streamed via Zoom at:

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

Meeting ID: 885 0155 8202 - Passcode: 707682

President Mike Lippsmeyer (at Station 90)

Secretary Cord Von Derahe (at Station 90)

Director Dan Miller (at Station 90)

Director Curtis Cole (at Station 90)

ABSENT:

Vice President Jeff Hamilton

Chief Ben Stange (at Station 90)

DC Neal Olson (at Station 90)

Office Admin. Stephanie Hale (at Station 90)

Office Assistant Mary Carlson (at Station 90)

ABSENT:

DC Mike Mayfield

President Lippsmeyer called the meeting to order at 6:02 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.

He 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 9, 2021 Regular Board Meeting Minutes
- 3) Financials:
 - 3a. Approval of Disbursements for September 1-30, 2021
 - 3b. Finance report for the month of September 2021

President Lippsmeyer – Asked if there were any questions. None at this time.

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:

- a) **Mandatory Vaccinations** – **Chief Stange** stated the mandatory vaccination requirement for all healthcare workers in Oregon goes into effect October 18th. Chief Stange added that on the OHA's website it explains that if a firefighter is licensed by the Oregon Health Authority as an emergency medical service provider (EMSP) at any level, and a fundamental part of their job is responding to medical emergencies and providing medical care at the scene of a medical emergency, then yes that firefighter is subject to the healthcare provider vaccination rule. Chief Stange stated the District has a total of forty-five EMSPs. Forty of them are fully vaccinated. Of the five remaining three EMSPs requested religious

exceptions, and two will have their vaccinations completed prior to the 18th. He added all three who requested religious exceptions have been accepted. Chief Stange stated the District currently has five suppression volunteers who have indicated that they will not be getting vaccinated. He added we are awaiting the final Federal Rule and will see if Oregon OSHA adopts it or expands upon it. Chief Stange stated the mandate will have no immediate impact on our District's response.

NEW BUSINESS:

a) **Financial Update/Outlook:** Chief Stange presented a PowerPoint explaining the Districts financial update and outlook. He reviewed revenue: taxes, levy, EMS billing and other forms of income; Expenditures: materials, capital outlay transfers and personnel. Chief Stange put together an outlook for the fire district.

- A levy will need to pass in 2024-25 in order to maintain current services. With no staffing increases, that number looks to be around .25 cents per thousand (it is currently .19)
- This is a very good time to consider staffing and apparatus replacement.
- At the November meeting he would like to discuss future staffing opportunities.
- At the December meeting he would like to discuss future options for apparatus replacement.

Chief Stange asked for any questions.

President Lippsmeyer – Stated if the Levy of 0.19 increases to 0.25 per \$1,000, we need to check on how much of an increase the public will have to pay.

Director Miller – Stated if there is a raise in the rate we would see more value.

Secretary Von Derahe – Stated the number of calls determines the service we provide. He added that rural tax payers have seen savings in the form of a better ISO rating and thus a decrease in their home owners insurance.

Director Miller – Stated we need to educate the public to make them see the value of what we do and what is needed to continue the services we provide.

b) **Use of Station 40 by the Hilltop Cemetery District:** Chief Stange stated the Hilltop Cemetery District has made an informal request to the Fire District to use Station 40 (Buena Vista) to hold their monthly meetings. Chief Stange added that if the Board grants access to the Cemetery District, Polk County Fire District will work to establish an Agreement with the Cemetery District for use of the facility.

Chief Stange presented two options:

- 1 – Grant the Hilltop Cemetery District access to Station 40 for their regular Board meetings.
- 2 – Deny Hilltop Cemetery District access to Station 40.

Director Cole – Asked if equipment would have to be moved to have these meetings.

Chief Stange – No. Station 40 has a community room that holds 8 tables and has chairs.

Secretary Von Derahe – Stated as long as it is not a burden on staff and a Liability Agreement is written up between the Cemetery District and the Fire District he did not have an issue.

Chief Stange – Agreed and stated he would attend the first board meeting to review the use of the community room.

The Board of Directors were ok with the Hilltop Cemetery District meeting at Station 40 and having an Agreement written up.

CHIEF'S REPORT:

- a) **FireMed Renewals – Chief Stange** stated we made changes to our FireMed program due to COVID. We added an electronic renewal service through our web site and this year we installed a drop box for customers to make their payments in the foyer at the front entrance. Customers paying for their membership with cash can still come inside for a receipt. Chief Stange presented Mary Carlson with a Challenge Coin for keeping up with the changes and addressing customers with the changes too.
- b) **Changing November meeting date (2nd Thursday is Veterans Day) – Chief Stange** asked the Board to change the November meeting date and the Board Members agreed to Tuesday, November 16th 2021.
- c) **Completion of course on Leadership and Ethics – Chief Stange** stated he finish the leadership and ethics class. He presented a short review of the class.
- d) **Notable incidents – Chief Stange** stated we had 2 fires; one on South 7th in the garage, the homeowner extinguished the fire. The 2nd fire was on the back porch of a residence and the homeowner extinguished it as well.
- e) **Member of the month – Chief Stange** stated that Stuart Edgar was the member of the month.

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

PUBLIC COMMENTS: None at this time.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS: None at this time

EXECUTIVE SESSION: According to ORS 192.660(2)(d) – to conduct deliberations with persons designated to carry on labor negotiations. The Board will come back with a decision.

ADJOURNMENT: President Lippsmeyer closed the regular meeting at 7:00 to go to Executive Session.

Regular Session Resumed: 7:26 p.m.

Secretary Von Derahe – Motioned for the Collective Bargaining Agreement and that the Board support and sign the tentatively agreed upon CBA.

Director Miller – Second.

All in agreement, Motion passes.

ADJOURNMENT: President Lippsmeyer adjourned the meeting at 7:28 p.m.