

POLK COUNTY FIRE DISTRICT NO.1
Board of Directors
September 8th, 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
Vice President Jeff Hamilton
Secretary Cord Von Derahe (ABSENT)
Director Curtis Cole
Director Dan Miller

Chief Ben Stange
DC Neal Olson
DC Frank Ehrmantraut
DC Troy Crafton
Office Admin. Stephanie Hale
Office Assistant Tirzah Romero (ABSENT)

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 August 11, 2022 Regular Board Meeting Minutes
- 3) Financials:
 - 3a. Approval of Disbursements for August 1-31, 2022
 - 3b. Finance report for the month of August 2022

President Lippsmeyer – Asked how the Board would like to take the agenda, and asked about Pacific Power line item and light pole.

Chief Stange – Clarified the meter for the light pole and why that expense takes place every month and is a part of the total light bill.

Vice President Hamilton – 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.) **Employee Recognition** – **Chief Stange called** Engineer Jennifer Wagner to the front of the room, to give her special recognition. Chief Stange stated, 'In early August of 2022, you became aware of a resident in our community who was in poor health and living in an environment that was further complicating her ability to care for herself and her adult son with autism. In the fire service, these scenarios are seen frequently. The result is typically a community member who ends up relying on emergency services regularly due to their inability to navigate other social

services. In this instance, although she knew she was in poor health, she worried about what may happen to her son and apartment if she were to seek medical treatment. As a result, she refused to accept long-term assistance. You were unwilling to accept this cycle. Instead, you reached out to others including Adult Protective Services, Polk County Behavioral Health, the individuals' primary care physician, and her property management company to try and find a solution. On August 17, 2022, with a plan in place, you visited this individual's home and presented the help and assurances she needed in order to seek medical care and improve the living situation she was in. She accepted the services you outlined. Once she was comfortable and trusting of you, you transported her to the hospital to be evaluated. She was admitted and others began the process of mitigating the health hazards in her apartment and providing assistance to her son. The actions you took to assist in this situation go above and beyond expectations. Your dedication and compassion for your patients is remarkable and the time and energy you put to this situation is something everyone in this community and our District are proud of. Thank you for the compassionate care you provided to this resident of our community. Your attention and actions were far more impactful than any other care we could have provided.'

- a.) **Grant for AED Purchase – Chief Stange stated,** Engineer Dalrymple has been working on an AED Tribal Grant for a few months. He suggested working with local law enforcement (i.e. Monmouth Police, Independence Police, etc.) and Central School Districts to see what they need and everyone be on the same page. We have received a grant from the Spirit Mountain Community Foundation which we will be receiving next Tuesday. All groups will get a total of 37 and a trainer. The total cost is \$62,000. We will be reimbursed for 50% of the cost for the AEDs from the tribe, as well as City of Monmouth, City of Independence, and Central School Districts. We will be receiving 9 AEDs, costing \$8,000. Chief Ehrmantraut is working with our local CERT group to train CPR instructors so they can go out to teach those who work for the cities, teachers, bus barns, etc. It is a big group effort that is going very well. Special thanks to Engineer Dalrymple and Chief Ehrmantraut for their hard work.

CHIEFS REPORT:

- a.) **Polk County Task Force Mobilization – Chief Stange stated,** Polk County task force is still mobilized, over a week and a half ago, for the Rum Creek Fire. They were there for just over a week. They were de-mobed from the Rum Creek Fire to Enterprise, Oregon to the Double Creek Fire. They have been there ever since and now that fire has doubled in size. It is over 100,000 acres. The State is short on resources. There are six task forces that may get redeployed in the next couple of days. 3 task forces from state of Washington. One task force is prepositioned at the Columbia River Gorge, another is in Southern Willamette Valley for the fire just outside of Oakridge, and the third is at the Double Creek Fire. Several volunteer and career members have stated they will be available for redeployment to a conflagration if needed without having a huge impact on our operations. Once those resources (engine and water tender) return we will be able to redeploy them, as long as the state continues to look for task forces.
- b.) **Notable Drills – Chief Stange stated,** there were some exceptional drills. There was an EMS drill with Life Flight, landing on the drill grounds. Life Flight now has a 24 hour unit at Salem airport. They have been very active having meetings around. Chief Crafton had them out on a call in Pedee. Late in August there was an evacuation drill, and fire drill at Independence Health and Rehab. This has been taking place yearly, a pause was taken due to Covid-19. It is an opportunity for their staff to train evacuating residents and for us to respond. 27 of our personnel participated in that drill.
- c.) **Notable Incidents – Chief Stange stated,** there were 355 incidents- a new record. 6 years ago in September, there were 191. One was a small ceiling fan fire in a memory care on South 9th St. Their staff did a phenomenal job evacuating the residents. There was a grass fire on Parker Road

and HWY 99 caused by a power line going down and starting a fire. We had a total of 14 crashes, a couple of natural gas calls, a couple codes; and one has the strong possibility of being discharged with mental capacity.

- d.) **Member of the Month – Chief Stange stated**, our member of the month is Brenden Shellito. He is a volunteer captain at the station. He participates a lot and speaks up for volunteers and has become a leader for them. They are more willing to go through chain of command because he gets answers. He was officer of the year last year.

TOPICS FOLLOWING THE PREPARATION OF AGENDA

- a.) **Brief Legislative Update to Report – Chief Stange stated**, initial bills are due on the 17th. There is a possibility for mandatory training for Boards, as long as budgets allow. One of the drafts indemnifies the board members. It will only cover districts with an over a million dollar budget. Training may be a strong possibility for next year. Other than that, Consumer Power says there is still a possibility of turning off the power in some rural areas due to weather. There is a concern about how the weather may affect the athletic events to take place over the weekend. There will be a staff ambulance for the football event, and possibly for the cross country event as well.

President Lippmeyer – asked, D&O insurance. We got it through SDAO? If this passes they would pull that insurance if we don't participate in the training.

Chief Stange – answered, Yes [D&O insurance is through SDAO]. There is a possibility that the district could get fined, if there is no participation in trainings.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: None at this time.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS:

Vice President Hamilton – Congrats to staff. Asked if there is a 9/11 ceremony planned?

Chief Stange - Answered, nothing formal planned. We will park Engine 92 out front with a flag. Couldn't find flags last year but were found recently. Sometimes a few folks stop in to say something.

President Lippmeyer – Asked, what is the percentage of frequent flyers? Concerned that it could over run the budget.

Chief Stange - Can gather actual statistics. Refusal rate is more than transport rate. Can be attributed to Covid-19 and are making sure to properly evaluate the patient.

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

ADJOURNMENT:

President Lippmeyer adjourned the meeting at 6:21 pm

Minutes by Tirzah Romero-Reddick