

POLK COUNTY FIRE DISTRICT NO.1
Board of Directors
December 15th, 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 (Virtual)	Chief Ben Stange
Vice President Jeff Hamilton*	DC Neal Olson
Secretary Cord Von Derahe	DC Frank Ehrmantraut (Virtual)
Director Curtis Cole	DC Troy Crafton
Director Dan Miller (Virtual)	Office Administrator Stephanie Hale
	Office Assistant Tirzah Romero-Reddick

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 November 10th, 2022 Regular Board Meeting Minutes
- 3) Financials:
 - 3a. Approval of Disbursements for November 1-30
 - 3b. Finance report for the month of November 2022

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

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

Secretary Von Derahe – Second.

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

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- a.) **Staffing Grant Applications Update - Chief Stange stated**, as the board is aware the District has applied for three different grants in 2022 for increases in staffing; 2022 Oregon State Fire Marshal's Wild Fire Season Staffing Grant applied for in June, 2021 Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) applied in February (we were notified on the 8th of December we did not receive), and Oregon Fire Service Capacity Program.

NEW BUSINESS:

- a.) **November Meeting Recording Error – Chief Stange stated**, there was a technological error and the November meeting was not recorded on Zoom and cannot be kept for 60 months. This is the first time this dilemma has occurred. However, the meeting minutes are accurate and those will be kept for 60 months.
- b.) **“Substantial Amendment” to Monmouth URA – Chief Stange stated**, these have been discussed many times. The City of Monmouth on December 6th, considered a “Substantial Amendment” to the Urban Renewal Plan. It increased the maximum indebtedness from \$12,000,000 to \$16,359,245. They expanded the dome, and after January 2023 it will now include 23.9% of the City of Monmouth. The projected loss was \$1,000,000 over the next 12 years. With the amendment it will be around \$1,600,000. In my testimony to the Monmouth City Council, I stated, there are “things” money and “people” money. Things are cheap, people are not, and when we are talking about \$1.6M over the next 12 years that is people money. They understood, but still passed it.
- c.) **Tree Removal at Station 90 – Chief Stange stated**, there is no action required by the Board but wanted to give a reminder that we are “Tree Town USA”. There is a large spruce tree in front of the station that members of the public, and ourselves, have observed, is dead. Arborists have driven by and stopped in to offer their services. A tree company came out to take samples and test it. It was determined that it cannot be treated. It has power lines on two sides, it has pedestrians, fire station, and traffic. For safety reasons it will only get worse and it will need to be cut down. We will try working with a non-profit to try to get it cut down, and the wood cut up and distributed to members of the district whom use warming fire wood.
President Lippsmeyer – asked, how much will all that cost?
Chief Stange – answered, around \$2,000 to \$2,500. It isn’t a big ticket item, it’s more public perception.
- d.) **Resolution 2022-04 – Declaring Certain Capital Property Surplus – Chief Stange stated**, we will look into whether or not we are over-doing it as far as the intent of the law. PCFD has sold objects that were bought for the station but are no longer of use anymore. (Reference attachment)
Secretary Von Derahe – stated, motioned that Vice President Hamilton not read the whole [list on the] Resolution, but the beginning sections.
Director Cole – second
Vice President Hamilton – all in favor, none opposed, carried.
Vice President Hamilton reads the Resolution. (See attachment)
Secretary Von Derahe – motions to take the Resolution 2022-04 as read.
Director Cole – second
Vice President Hamilton – all in favor, none opposed, carried – Resolution 2022-04 approved.
- e.) **Employee Pick-up of Paid Leave Oregon - Chief Stange stated**, the tax withdrawals will begin January 1st, 2023. The Board is to decide which option, 1 or 2. (See attachment)
Secretary Von Derahe – motioned to have the Fire District “pick-up” the employee’s portion of Paid Leave Oregon up to 60%.
President Lippsmeyer – second
Director Cole – stated, that changes can be made if the figures change.
Vice President Hamilton – All in favor, none opposed, carried – Fire District to pick-up Paid Leave Oregon approved.

CHIEFS REPORT:

- a.) **New Hires – Andersen and Hoem – Chief Stange stated,** Alex Ovchinnikov who started on C-shift in October of 2016, has left to the City of Portland and started there November 28th. We hired Brady Andersen as Engineer/Paramedic role. He started with us in our recruit academy, went to paramedic school, and has been an active volunteer. He will be on A-shift and we have someone moving to C-shift. We had budgeted to hire some Firefighter/EMT basics. We did the first hire which is Steven Hoem, who is a Lieutenant with us, has been Firefighter of the Year and Officer of the Year, and every year has lead on total responses.
- b.) **PCFD Holiday Party – Chief Stange stated,** last night in the bays were 100 people total for the holiday party. There were many children, Santa Claus came, lots of gifts, ugly sweaters, and a lot of food. There were several volunteers who put a lot of work into it, and did a really good job. It was a nice time.
- c.) **Holiday Lights and Parade – Chief Stange stated,** Chief Crafton led a group of 16 Firefighters, and a couple of Polk families to help decorate. He also got a scissor lift and a ladder truck. They did some ladder drills and got the station decorated. The next Thursday about the same number of people were here putting lights on the ladder truck on Engine 2 for the parade. We also were involved with the tree lighting on WOU's Campus. Santa Claus usually rides in the bucket of the truck, and another 13 Firefighters and a family committed to that event.
- d.) **Chief Brumfield Retirement – Chief Stange stated,** December 29th is Chief Brumfield's retirement. This has been on the agenda frequently because as discussed before, they have a large impact on us. Tomorrow we expect an official announcement on the direction they will go (interim or permanent chief) from the city manager.
- e.) **Active Shooter Training – Chief Stange stated,** we are working with both cities, the police department mostly, on active shooter drills. Previously we did a table top with the City of Monmouth, and it was brought down to 4 steps. First is the First Responder Step and who needs to be involved in that. Second is the Joint Information Center and who needs to be involved, like agency representatives to the district attorney. Third step is the Reunification Step. It is separate from us but the school district is involved and some chaplains. Fourth step is the Recovery Step. This step involves local elected officials on what the expectations for the community would be and how other communities have recovered from that sort of event. All of this is coming together for June at Central High School for a large drill. Chief Olson has been working with both Monmouth and Independence Police on the presentation for the first response part. A representative from all three agencies have been going to each of the organizations and doing a presentation explaining what we do and what are the expectations, so everyone is on the same page. Our last large active shooter drill was in 2015. It was very educational but it is time for a new one.
- f.) **Volunteer Academy Starting in February – Chief Stange stated,** advertising for the academy has begun. We have two people who are certified firefighters (from other organizations) who will be lateraling in at the beginning of the year. We have 2 or 3 others who are interested and have come to a couple drills. We are still trying to recruit a few more to have a good size class. We have announced it on the sign board, and we have posted on social media. The post cards will be delivered to Buena Vista, Airlie, and Pedee communities with pictures of those stations as their focus. There are 675 addresses for recruiting post cards ready for distribution at the end of December.
- g.) **Volunteer Assistance – Chief Stange stated,** one of our volunteers had a baby who has a lot of health conditions, and the family is not in a strong financial place. One of the major issues is that the baby has respiratory problems and can't be around smoke, but the main way they heat their home is with wood. So Chief Crafton led about 18 firefighters on November 19th and 20th. They

spent a total of 150 hours at the volunteer's home. Also some family members and an electrician, donated their time to help put up new siding, a new meter, a new breaker, new windows, the generator was repaired and a new ductless heat pump was installed. We totaled 230 hours donated. Chief Crafton had a heat pump donated for \$7,000. We had private donations over \$1500 from volunteers to help with that project.

h.) Notable Incidents – Chief Stange stated, a fatal crash on Hwy-99 in the Suver area. On Tuesday there was a house fire in Buena Vista. We were short that day. Our first medic was on a call, our Captain was chasing the call, and Chief Olson was on another medical call with a volunteer engine company. In 11 minutes there were 5 people on scene in Buena Vista. The smoke was showing from the attic, and the caller called from outside of the house because of smoke. The total damage was \$10,000.

Not on the agenda but worth mentioning is the divert programs from the hospitals. PCFD now has a standard practice that as medics are going on calls, they are checking to see which hospital is open and which isn't. At one point there was only one hospital that wasn't on divert and didn't have a policy for it. When we got there our turnaround was 2 hours and 57 minutes. Chief Ehrmantraut contacted them to help create a policy to go on divert.

i.) Member of the Month – Chief Stange stated, Jeffery Joles is the Member of the Month for the month of December. Has been with us for two years. He has a job on a transporting ambulance, but in his off time he is very active here (PCFD). He had 21 responses last month, and even transported on the ambulance a couple times. Transports that we wouldn't have been able to do if he hadn't shown up.

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

PUBLIC COMMENTS: None at this time.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS:

President Lippsmeyer – said, Atta boys to everyone for that volunteer system. That is truly amazing that you can rally that many people for that many hours and get donated equipment. So thank you to all the volunteers and staff that helped with that. I do have a question. Since our call volumes have been so high, the numbers show that Dallas keeps coming over more and more. Is this attributed to the trend of us getting overwhelmed?

Chief Stange – answered, yes. Chief Ehrmantraut keeps an ongoing line chart, and it's been interesting that this year has flipped back and forth multiple times. Our staffing has shifted, but if we took it as a year we would still be relatively close. There are just months that are a struggle. Chief Ehrmantraut is working with Chief Storms in Dallas. They have a system that monthly they come to an agreement on what those numbers are so we are all on the same page about it.

Chief Ehrmantraut – stated, overall those numbers for both agencies are decreasing. They peaked in July, and are now coming back down. We can share the entire years' worth of data in the next board packet.

Secretary Von Derahe – said, last week my father-in-law took a spill in the Hi-School Pharmacy parking lot. I don't know the entire crew that was there but Paramedic McIntosh was there and called me. I asked him if he thought he should get transported, he said yes. My father-in-law had an undiagnosed – A-fib. He went to the hospital, and I appreciate the kind care that he got. Taking the time to follow through and work with him. It's nice to see and I appreciate that. And as President Lippsmeyer, the volunteers who take care of our own, that's great. That is the key to this whole place is the family atmosphere.

Vice President Hamilton – stated, great work by staff and volunteers.

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

***- Due to President Lipsmeyer being in recovery and virtual, Vice President Hamilton led the meeting.**

ADJOURNMENT:

Vice President Hamilton adjourned the meeting at 6:41 pm

Minutes by Tirzah Romero-Reddick