

POLK COUNTY FIRE DISTRICT NO.1
Board of Directors
January 19th, 2023
6:30pm – Central Station
Location: 1800 Monmouth St., Independence, Or 97351

Also streamed via Zoom at:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82093851404?pwd=NnZWcmhNDdhYVd4YjdiNkFOMFIHdz09>

Meeting ID: 820 9385 1404 Passcode: 644961

President Mike Lippsmeyer
Vice President Jeff Hamilton
Secretary Cord Von Derahe
Director Curtis Cole
Director Dan Miller

Chief Ben Stange
Office Administrator Stephanie Hale
Office Assistant Tirzah Romero-Reddick

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER:

President Lippsmeyer called the meeting to order at 6:32pm.

Meeting minutes will be recorded and kept for 60 months

2. DISCUSSION OF POTENTIAL OPERATING LEVY:

Chief Stange – briefly reviews the charts and graphs (from the previous board meeting on, January 12th) and presents (Board Workshop) to the Board how the levy would be presented on the ballot.

On the graphs the data has been altered slightly to reflect not receiving the OSFM Grant. The ballot would contain 3 parts. First, is the caption which is 10 words. Second, is the question which plainly paraphrases the main purpose of the measure in 20 words. Finally, the summary where only 175 words are allowed. The summary is supposed to be impartial, concise, and state the major effect. The ability to give more background on it has not been an issue for previous levies.

Chief Stange – explained to the Board that part is partially their responsibility and how they want to package it. However, it shouldn't be minimized, it also shouldn't seem disposable, in presenting it.

President Lippsmeyer – stated, the first two [bullet points] are easy for people regarding the 5 or 8 minute response time. However, people who live in more rural areas where the response time is longer, will be more inclined to vote no.

The Board – discussed, the rise in call volume greatly affects the time it takes to get to the more rural locations, as well as the difficulties that arise if PCFD cannot keep up and would have to outsource. Secretary Von Derahe also discusses that the increase in levy isn't to immediately

make major changes, but to be able to maintain our services at a reasonable level so as to not lose Ambulance Service Area (ASA).

Captain Rusher – commented, on his interaction with members in the community about the timing of their arrival or the resources available.

President Lippsmeyer – asked, if anyone has a number in mind based off of the numbers presented and talked about.

Director Miller – stated, he wanted to aim for a number in the early 80s, for the staffing goals that appealed to him the most. He also stated that he understands that if they cannot pass \$.66 cents then no one will be interested in \$.80 cents.

Vice President Hamilton – asked about the Equipment Fund.

Chief Stange – explained, the way we have had to approach it is that the annual deposits will replace ambulances, staff vehicles, monitors, air packs, radios, and gurneys, etc. We are scheduled to replace radios. We are applying for an AFT Grant with other agencies, if not granted, we have to realize every other law enforcement in our county is switching over to digital, and if we want to be able to keep communicating with our dispatcher center then in the next couple of years we will need to make that jump. Chief Stange continued to explain revenue and how the equipment fund is affected by the levy and bond.

The Board – continued to discuss, allocating funds for future equipment replacements. Chief Stange also explains how funds have been allocated in the past and how some proposals are dependent on the success of the levy. The timing of the levy was also discussed and what other government entities are also campaigning for a new levy. Chief Stange assured that there aren't others going for a levy until next spring (2024). The Board also discussed the concern of push back on the number thus delaying the motion of the passing of the levy. The Board members also discussed timing and the urgency to decide on a figure. They all agreed it is about presentation, and put it in "verbiage" that everyone can understand. The also reiterated the importance of educating people on how the levy affects them and the services provided by PCFD.

3. ADJOURN

President Lippsmeyer adjourned the meeting at 7:38pm.

Minutes by Tirzah Romero-Reddick