

POLK COUNTY FIRE DISTRICT NO.1
Board of Directors
August 13, 2024
6:00pm – Central Station
Location: 1800 Monmouth St., Independence, Or 97351

Also Virtually at:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83280363029?pwd=NGRDbTVmOHJNMIRQR3ZSV055Um1wZz09>

Meeting ID: 832 8036 3029 - Passcode: 801072

President Jeff Hamilton	Chief Ben Stange
Vice President Cord Von Derahe	DC Neal Olson
Secretary Mike Lippsmeyer	DC Frank Ehrmantraut
Director Curtis Cole	DC Troy Crafton (Absent)
Director Dan Miller	Office Administrator Stephanie Hale
	Office Assistant Maliyah Thompson

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 July 11th, 2024 Budget Hearing Minutes
- 3) Approve July 11th, 2024 Regular Board Meeting Minutes
- 4) Financials:
 - 3a. Approval of Disbursements for July 1-31, 2024
 - 3b. Finance report for the month of July 2024

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

President Hamilton – Stated to take the Agenda as a whole.

Director Miller– Second.

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

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None at this time.

NEW BUSINESS:

a.) Auditor Contract

- Same company we've been using (Grove, Mueller, & Swank) however, they are changing their name to REDW Advisors & CPAs.
- No significant changes with this contract. This company rotates their auditors around, allowing for a fresh set of eyes, and every couple of years we learn what a new auditor likes different than the last. This helps us do better each year.

Director Cole – Motion to accept the Service Agreement with Grove, Mueller, & Swank P.C.

Vice President Von Derahe – Second.

President Hamilton – All in favor, none opposed, passes unanimously.

b.) Resolution 2024-06: Declaring Certain Capital Property Surplus

- Currently we have a water tender placed at each of our stations. The tender that is housed at the Buena Vista station is a 1988 Kenworth and is not the safest to operate, which made us a great candidate for the OSFM Grant (which we received). Once the new tender from OSFM is in service, the rig at Buena Vista will not be of any use, which is why we would like to surplus it.

Secretary Lippsmeyer asked what the tender is worth.

Vice President Von Derahe said probably more than \$5000, can likely get \$10,000 to \$20,000.

Chief Stange agreed and said probably closer to \$10,000 from what he has seen on sites.

President Hamilton read Resolution 2024-06.

Vice President Von Derahe – Motion to Surplus the 1988 Kenworth Water Tender.

Secretary Lippsmeyer – Second.

President Hamilton – All in favor, none opposed, passes unanimously.

c.) Purchase of New Extrication Tools

Chief Stange stated extrication is one of our specialties. Our old extrication tools were functioning well but almost all of them required hydraulic pumps and hydraulic hoses which ultimately leads to more maintenance. Now we have E-tools that have just as much force as the hydraulic tools, are a lot lower maintenance, operate faster, and they take up a lot less space. By getting this many tools, we can compliment some of the other vehicles to be able to also do extrication. The reason we were able to get these E-tools in the last budget at a reasonable cost is because the manufacturer had some demo units.

Director Miller asked how these E-tools function in freezing temperatures.

Chief Stange said these tools will not be kept in cold temperatures and will all be housed inside so there should be no function issues when they are used in the colder temperatures.

Vice President Von Derahe asked if these tools will replace all traditional hydraulic tools, and Chief Stange said yes.

President Hamilton asked if they were under warranty since they are demos, and Chief Stange said yes.

Secretary Lippsmeyer – Motion to approve the spending of \$124,624 on new extrication tools.

Director Cole – Second.

President Hamilton – All in favor, none opposed, passes unanimously.

d.) Civil Service Rules – Proposed Hearing to Amend Rules

Chief Stange stated we had a meeting with Civil Service where we discussed the problems we are having, what we are trying to do and how we want to make sure things are fair.

We have two Firefighter EMT-B that have applied and been accepted into paramedic school that will start in a few months which will increase our capacity for our paramedics. With the Contract, we are able to compensate them, but we need a way with the Civil Service to be able to recognize them at that level.

- There is a hearing scheduled for September 17th 2024.

Discussion was ensued about the proposed changes to the rules.

Chief Stange stated we are making good progress and that there hasn't been updates to the Civil Service Rules in quite some time.

Secretary Lippsmeyer explained that his experience sitting through Civil Service meetings had been more difficult in the past and he is impressed that things are going so well.

CHIEFS REPORT:

a.) Conflagration and Pre-Positioning Update

- Our record number of conflagrations in a summer is 14 and we are at 13 so far.
- We have had a good makeup of people that have been deployed. We have sent out chiefs, shift personnel, seasonals and volunteers.

b.) Hiring and Staffing Update

- One of the FF/Paramedics we hired earlier this year is no longer working with us. That firefighter vacancy was posted today (8/13) and will be closing September 13th. It is a long process so it will be the beginning of December before we are able to fill that vacancy.
- We have our final of five interviews tomorrow (8/14) for our FF/EMT positions. We will be making three more job offers by the end of this week or early next week.
- By the end of 2024, we should have 6 on shift.

c.) Strategic Planning Update

- Had a half-day session on July 30th where we worked on our mission, vision, values and goal focus areas.
- Working on a draft of our 5-year goals and we are hoping to present it to the Board during the September meeting.

d.) Pacific Power Grant

- \$5,000 grant that allowed us to purchase the mounting and the iPads for five different units. This is something we wanted to do long-term, but this grant allowed us to move it along quicker.

e.) Ironman Standby

- Helped out on July 21st. It was a successful event and there were no big issues on our side.

f.) National Night Out

- Very good community event.

g.) New Tender Received OSFM Grant

- Applied for this in 2022
- Adding a couple things to it before we put it in service.
- Only 2,000 gallons, but it has a backup camera, a staircase instead of just a ladder, has pump and roll capabilities, a booster line up top, a deck gun, a couple preconnects off of the side, and many other capabilities.
- OSFM retains ownership, but if we want to make improvements, there is a QR code that needs to be scanned because they want to be able to log it. We get \$3,500 a year for maintenance.
- Does not have to be the first tender sent on conflagration, but if we send two out, we have to send it as the second tender.

h.) Notable Incidents

- Seven outdoor fires
- Two unauthorized burnings
- Crew assisted Dallas on a fire at the strip mall.

i.) Member of the Month

- Matthew Connery

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

PUBLIC COMMENTS: None at this time.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS:

Secretary Lippsmeyer – Complimented the work being done with Civil Service. Congratulations!

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

ADJOURNMENT:

President Hamilton adjourned the meeting at 6:34pm

Minutes by Maliyah Thompson