

POLK COUNTY FIRE DISTRICT NO.1
Board of Directors
February 6th, 2023
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
Director Curtis Cole
Director Dan Miller

Chief Ben Stange
DC Neal Olson
DC Frank Ehrmantraut
DC Troy Crafton (ABSENT)
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 January 12th, 2023 Regular Board Meeting Minutes
- 3) Approve January 19th, 2023 Board Workshop Minutes
- 4) Financials:
 - 3a. Approval of Disbursements for January 1-31, 2023
 - 3b. Finance report for the month of January 2023

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

Secretary Von Derahe – motioned to take the Agenda and both meetings as a whole.

Director Miller – Second.

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

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- a) **Resolution 2023-01: A Resolution to Vote on a Fire-Year Local Option Levy – Chief Stange presented**, a short clip of a video. This clip helped explain how homeowners in Oregon are taxed based off the property value and maximum assessed value. Chief Stange delivered a presentation in detail illustrating how the numbers affect the community Polk County Fire District serves. Chief Stange presented ranges of property values, assessed value in the community, and how it effects the levy.

The Board Members discussed the need to decide on a tax rate number. Board members discussed what option they liked best. The Board Members decided that the decision needed to be a consensus and \$0.80 was too high. The Board Members all decided that \$0.78 was the best option.

President Lippsmeyer – read, The Resolution 2023-01: A Resolution to Vote on a Fire-Year Local Option Levy for Operations.

“The Directors of the Polk County Fire District No.1, having reviewed the financial condition of the District; and

Whereas, the Board of Directors of the District has determined that current tax monies do not generate adequate funds for ambulance and fire operations.

Therefore, be it resolved, by the Board of Directors of Polk County Fire District No. 1 calls for an election to be held on the 16th day of May, 2023 for the purpose of submitting to the qualified voters of the District the question of imposing a five-year local option tax at the rate of \$0.78 per \$1,000 of assessed value per year.

Be it further resolved that the caption, question, summary, and notice of measure election shall be submitted to the elections officer for Polk County Fire District No.1 on the dates and in the manner required by law.

Be it further resolved that the County Clerk of Polk County, Oregon, elections office for the District, is hereby directed to publish notice of the election in the form prescribed in the Itemizer Observer, a newspaper of general circulation in the District on the dates and in the manner required by law.”

Vice President Hamilton – motioned to approve the Resolution 2023-01.

Director Miller – Second.

President Lippsmeyer – called for a roll call vote.

President Lippsmeyer – all in favor, none opposed - Resolution 2023-01 approved.

Vice President Hamilton – suggested, that the Board use the International Association of Fire Fighters Strategic Campaign resource by Friday. He suggested a Zoom meeting for about an hour to talk with the representative and see what information he has to offer. He asked that President Lippsmeyer, and Director Cole be present.

NEW BUSINESS: Nothing at this time.

CHIEFS REPORT:

- a.) **Reminder – Board Elections – Chief Stange stated,** Board elections are currently active. There are two Budget Committee positions open. Budget people will be appointed next Board meeting.
- b.) **Legislative Issues – Chief Stange stated,** there is a tax credit for fire fighters. On January 26, 2023, he testified in support of Senate Bill 728, a \$1,000 tax credit for volunteer firefighters in the State of Oregon. There is actual criteria that you have to do in order to be eligible for this tax credit. Chief Stange explains House Bill 28-90 to the Board. Homelessness issue in the state. Representative Marsh from Jackson County is a great friend of fire service. She is sponsoring a bill that is a 500 million dollar loan system throughout the state, where municipalities can build out developments by borrowing money from this fund. Instead of taxing entities collecting tax money it would go back to the loan. Chief Hussey (from Jackson County Fire District No. 3), Chief Stanton (from Umatilla County Fire District No. 1), and he testified not in opposition to the bill but a public safety issue. If the call volume has increased, we are going to have a lesser quality service.
- c.) **Recruit Academy – Chief Stange stated,** the Academy started last Wednesday (February 1st). There were 10 recruits. There was one from Buena Vista, one from Pedee, and eight in town. It was a good group and we are optimistic. Fire Fighter Brady Andersen was able to help as a former volunteer when he joined the academy two years ago. It was nice to hear him give insight to the class.

- d.) District Banquet – March 4th – Chief Stange stated**, Marie Hardwick had details surrounding the event. **Marie Hardwick** (President from P1FFA) stated, the banquet is on Saturday, March 4th, begins at 5pm with social hour, then dinner at 6pm. It is to take place at the Elks Lodge in Independence.
- e.) Multi-Agency Drill – Chief Stange stated**, Chief Olson has been training us for our multi-agency drill coming up in June. There are various tabletops happening.
- f.) Notable Incidents – Chief Stange stated** there was a quarry truck that rolled over on January 19th, way up past Pedee. It was a catastrophic incident. The individual is well known and well regarded in the community. Life Flight transported him. On January 31st, around noon there was a CPR call then about two minutes later there was another EMS call, and four minutes after that there was another EMS call. Shout out to the volunteers, who helped it all work out. There was a smoke in a structure on Friday. There were 5 volunteers. They were there a while because they did not have working smoke detectors. In talking to this family, Chief Stange realized all the ways that PCFD has served that family in the best and worst of times. On Friday, there were 18 calls and all four career staff worked hard to make it go smoothly.
- g.) Member of the Month – Chief Stange stated**, that Mike McIntosh is Member of the Month for the month of February. Great paramedic and his captain speaks highly of him. A lot of the thank you cards received have him mentioned by name.

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

PUBLIC COMMENTS: None at this time.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS:

Director Miller – stated he was impressed that we had that many calls and handled them all. That can really make the next day tough.

Vice President Hamilton – stated, there was a line of duty death in his hometown in Gresham, OR. He will be going to that and will be processing the whole department to help make sure to take care of the firefighters there.

Secretary Von Derahe – stated, it has been a hard week in Oregon for firefighters. Thanks to all the fire members for all the good work that they do.

President Lippsmeyer – stated, he was glad that we have numbers to be able to back up the levy.

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

ADJOURNMENT:

President Lippsmeyer adjourned the meeting at 6:54pm

Minutes by Tirzah Romero-Reddick