

POLK COUNTY FIRE DISTRICT NO.1
Board of Directors
September 12, 2024
6:00pm – Central Station
Location: 1800 Monmouth St., Independence, Or 97351

Also Virtually at:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83280363029?pwd=NGRDdTVMOHJNMIRQR3ZSV055Um1wZz09>

Meeting ID: 832 8036 3029 - Passcode: 801072

President Jeff Hamilton	Chief Ben Stange
Vice President Cord Von Derahe (Virtual)	DC Neal Olson (Absent)
Secretary Mike Lippsmeyer	DC Frank Ehrmantraut
Director Curtis Cole (Absent)	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 August 13th, 2024 Regular Board Meeting Minutes
- 3) Financials:
 - 3a. Approval of Disbursements for August 1-31, 2024
 - 3b. Finance report for the month of August 2024

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

Secretary Lippsmeyer – 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.) Board Training – Public Meetings Law

Chief Stange stated that everybody with a budget of over \$1,000,000 in the State of Oregon has to take an approved ethics class. Every year we get discounts on our insurance. It saves us 2% out of 10% if ALL Board members go through this training.

The Board then watched a 16-minute video that will count for the insurance discount but will not count towards the class required by the State.

Chief Stange went over some of the highlights from the video. Some things that were mentioned were posting adequate notice. We post the Agenda at Station 90, Monmouth and Independence

City Halls, and Stephanie posts our meeting minutes on our website. Another thing mentioned was that at a public meeting, the public is required to be allowed to attend, but we are not required to allow them to speak, which is why we are able to put limitations on the when or how long they can speak. We are not required to do meetings virtually, but it works well for our Board members at times and if we do have them virtually, we need to make sure that those attending virtually can see and hear. Media is allowed to attend executive sessions, but it can be a sticky situation when determining who counts as media.

Secretary Lippsmeyer asked if we are in the position to have an interpreter if we ever need one and Chief Stange said that we work closely with the deaf community through Western Oregon University and that he also has some personal contacts of some interpreters in the school district that can help in those situations.

He also asked if we still get the discount with Director Cole being absent and if the Civil Service Committee is also required to watch the video.

Chief Stange said that he already contacted him and told him to watch the video and that they are not requiring Civil Service members to watch the video, but it is specific to the Board.

b.) Purchase Of A Used Hybrid Car For Trainings And Conferences

- We budgeted to replace the 2008 Toyota Prius with another fuel-efficient vehicle because it was totaled out by insurance when it was involved in an accident in the Chemeketa parking lot. Chief Ehrmantraut found a surplussed 2017 Ford Fusion Hybrid in Sacramento County. Stephanie flew down to Sacramento County and drove the vehicle back to Station 90. Chief Ehrmantraut took it to Dallas City Shops, who does a lot of our mechanic work and they said it is in pretty good shape.

CHIEFS REPORT:

a.) Conflagration Update

- State record for conflagrations. We are at 15, and Chief believes the record was 14. Also a state record for acres burned: 1.8 million acres burned.
Chief Olson and two of our seasonals, Harmony and Garrett are currently at the Railridge fire.

b.) Hiring and Staffing Update

- We made job offers to three FF/EMT's and all three accepted! Two of the three new hires will start on October 7th and the third will start in the beginning of December. This is our target start date for the FF/Paramedic, that way they will have someone to do orientation and drill with. The third FF/EMT we offered the job to is also starting paramedic school right now, and this will allow them to get through the first term of school. In January, 4 out of the 6 FF/EMT's we will have on staff will be in or starting paramedic school. There is a possibility that a year and a half from now we will be deep on paramedics, which is a great problem to have right now.

c.) Strategic Planning Update

- We previously discussed having a draft for the Board to approve this month but we received some feedback from the group a little late. The Chiefs are going to sit down and finalize things on the 23rd to hand it to the Board in the October meeting.

d.) Chief Ehrmantraut appointed to Emergency Medical Services Advisory Committee of the Oregon Medical Board

- They determine scope of practice for First Responders, EMS Providers and Physician Advisors.
- Three year term.

e.) George Fox University Serve Day

- Every year these students participate in "Serve Day". They volunteered their time on September 11th, helping wash some of the apparatus' and they also came to the station last year as well. They had a small BBQ at the end of the day.

f.) Notable Incidents

- 8/16 on Randall Way, a single-family dwelling in the attached garage. There was a pretty significant fire in the garage. Medic 91 had just cleared a call in that area so there were able to be on scene within 1 minute and thirty-nine seconds after dispatch, and within five minutes after dispatch, we had 8 personnel on scene. By the time it switched to a second alarm, we had 20 personnel on scene. The living space of the home was saved.

- 8/26 on Hwy 99 a semi-truck was going to the dump and the trash inside of the trailer caught on fire. We had to get creative. Captain Paoli led some people to get the flames down enough to allow the driver to feel comfortable to drive the truck to another road, take it off the road and close that road, to then dump the trash out and have the engine extinguish the fire so that way they could get an excavator out there later and clean it up. It worked very well and was collaborative incident.

- 9/15 on Riverside Dr a fire started on the downhill side (river side) and burned towards some trees, hit a couple acres and the objective was to not let the fire get across the road because it would've traveled up that hill. We had 14 of our personnel, Salem and Jefferson were there as well and we were able to knock it down relatively quickly.

- 9/6 on Elkins Rd there was a small field fire on that stormy night. It got put out pretty quickly. We have seasonals that are assigned to Brush 81. They have been working on putting up address signs in the rural areas, station clean up at all of our stations, and they have responded to 38 incidents this summer.

g.) Member of the Month

- Brady Anderson (Engineer/Paramedic)

- He has been a huge help with our recruit academy over the last two years. He comes in on his days off on Wednesday nights and Saturday's to helps teach drill. He also has been running our PPE stuff and he is very active in our EMS program. He is currently out of town at an EMS Conference in Las Vegas.

h.) Rescheduling October Board Meeting

- Meeting will be held on Thursday, October 17 at 6PM.

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

PUBLIC COMMENTS: None at this time.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS:

Vice President Von Derahe – Good job on handling the dump truck fire and being able to adapt to the number of wildfires in Oregon as well as all the other calls that the District has been going on. It has been a good month, good job everybody.

Secretary Lippsmeyer asked how we go about frequent fliers. At what point does it become "non-emergency", and are there other agencies that need to get involved?

Chief Stange stated that is one of the things Chief Ehrmantraut spends a lot of time on and he also corrected the term “frequent fliers” to “super users”.

There is one person we’ve been on several times in the past few months, so Chief Ehrmantraut is working with their insurance, and is trying to find ways that they will support more home care than what that patient is currently getting. More often than not, this patient is being transported to the hospital, so it is not an abuse of the system, and they actually do need medical care. Chief Ehrmantraut is taking the time to try and be an advocate for this patient to the extent that they will allow him to be an advocate for them. Not specific to this situation, but a lot of the times the patient does have resources and family, but they just simply are not interested, and that is a tough position as well.

The Board members said thank you to Frank for taking the time to try and find solutions to these problems.

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

ADJOURNMENT:

President Hamilton adjourned the meeting at 6:39pm

Minutes by Maliyah Thompson