

Jackson County Fire District 3

Minutes - Board of Directors

September 17, 2020 at 5:15 PM, Crater Lake Room, Administrative Building

ATTENDANCE

Board Present: Directors Harvey Tonn, Steve Shafer, John Dimick, Bill Leavens, and Cindy Hauser via Zoom videoconference

Board Absent: None

Staff Present: Stacy Maxwell, Justin Bates, Margie Calvert and Robert Horton via Zoom videoconference

Staff Absent: John Patterson, Mike Hussey, and Dave Blakely

Visitors Present: Lorin Myers and Heather Sears, via videoconference

President Tonn called the meeting to order at 5:17 p.m. pursuant to ORS 192.640 and as advertised in the Mail Tribune dated September 14, 2020.

MINUTES

Motion by Director Dimick to approve the minutes of the regular Board Meeting dated August 20, 2020 as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Revenue for the month of August totaled \$219,254. Revenue resulted from miscellaneous grants from the Corona Virus Relief Fund (CRF) resulting in a 100 percent reimbursement for the FirstWatch/FirstPass program and an electrostatic sprayer (Clorox machine), the annual payment from Rogue Community College for the lease of District grounds and the Fire Science Classroom, and foreclosed properties payment from Jackson County.

Expenditures for the month of August totaled \$949,114, \$835, 208 for personnel services and \$113,906 for materials and services. The District received a premium credit from Regence Blue Cross called the COVID Credit totaling \$16,893 across all departments or 15 percent representing care and services that may have been deferred due to COVID. Noteworthy expenditures include an electrostatic sprayer, replacement of the fire alarm panel at the White City and Eagle Point stations, and final construction payments for the Scenic station.

Motion by Director Shafer to approve the Accounts Payable and the Revenue/Expenditure reports for August 2020. Motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

INFORMATION ITEMS

EXECUTIVE REPORT

Fire Chief Horton shared that he appreciates the flexibility of the Board participating through Zoom meetings.

Horton shared that there will be a comprehensive report of the fires in the future however Horton did want to express how proud he is of everyone at the District and the work that was done in the office and by the crews on the front line acknowledging that everyone had a role to play on the successful outcome from the District in the community saving life and property.

Horton shared a map of the Obenchain Fire depicting structure loss and the outline of the fire as of September 17th. Horton shared that on the morning of September 8th, the Rogue Valley Fire Defense Board Chiefs met to discuss the unusual fire conditions and information from Oregon State Fire Marshal's office stating that four conflagrations had already been determined and resources were thin throughout Oregon. With this information all agencies requested an emergency recall of all staff with an exceptional turnout throughout the District and valley agencies. Deputy Chief Hussey had

already established staffing of ten apparatus strategically located throughout the District ready to respond. The fire broke around 11:00 in Ashland pushing against Talent and Phoenix. The 911 Dispatch Center (ECSO) became the point of operations. Chief Horton immediately filled out the paperwork and sent it to the Oregon State Fire Marshal's office for conflagration.

Horton shared that not long after, Chief Hussey reported that there was a second fire that was against the District off of South Obenchain in Eagle Point. The conflagration was immediately granted with Mike Shaw advocating for our area. A task force was initiated with a team of five on the way from Multnomah. OSFM recognized that there was local talent in the area that would be available and Deputy Chief Mike Hussey became the Operations Section Chief for the State Fire Marshal's team and Division Chief Dave Blakely became the Plans Section Chief. Community Engagement Coordinator Heather Sears was assigned to the Public Information Officer team working with the OSFM PIO. Former Fire Chief Dan Petersen sent a task force from the Unified Fire Authority in Utah. Horton shared that there was an extraordinary response from everyone in the community that offered whatever they had to help.

Horton commented on the great work of the 911 dispatchers at ECSO and the fact that they were doing everything they could to get people to evacuate; how to do it and where to go. Horton also thanked the Chaplains Association and Guy Perrin at CenterPoint for their investment towards the mental health of the responders.

Horton shared that as of September 17th the delegation for the Obenchain fire was returned to local control. Many meetings are taking place with community leaders and fire agencies regarding the fires and the future of the communities.

Horton shared the map of the Scenic and Table Rock station call volume. The map shows that the Scenic station is in a good position for the amount of calls that come in the area.

OPERATIONS

Deputy Chief Hussey was unavailable attending the Obenchain Fire.

TRAINING AND SAFETY

Division Chief Blakely was unavailable attending the Slater Fire.

Deputy Chief Bates reported that the Training Department is working through the data in Target Solutions and reported that all probationary firefighters are doing well.

FIRE AND LIFE SAFETY

Deputy Chief Bates reported that the Fire and Life Safety Department has been very active investigating the various fires and helping the crews evacuate the residents in the Obenchain Fire.

STRATEGIC SERVICES

Deputy Chief Bates shared the graphs showing the call volume of the week of September 6th highlighting September 8th, the day of the Alameda and Obenchain Fires.

Bates shared the 2020 Semi-Annual Report looking at the call volume for the Operations Department including fire and medical calls. Most calls originate in the central city areas with approximately 20 calls on average per day. The data depicts the mutual aid between the Medford Fire Department and the District along with targeted goals. Training data is also shown in the report along with the data for the Community Care Unit since its inception.

OLD BUSINESS

NONE

NEW BUSINESS

NONE

TOPICS FOLLOWING PREPARATION OF THE AGENDA

NONE

GOOD OF THE ORDER

NONE

INDIVIDUAL BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Bill Leavens stated that a year ago the Chief provided a list of the vulnerable cities in southern Oregon in respect of fires and thought that it would never happen and now he sees a different significance.

Cindy Hauser thanked all the first responders and shared her admiration and deepest gratitude for all the firefighters. Hauser shared her "after the fire" concerns and fears.

Steve Shafer stated that he finally received a text stating that Jackson County was at level 1. Shafer also commended the Chief and his excellent foresight to have the operation center open before anything began to happen.

John Dimick shared his concern about the silence coming from the county and not seeing leadership. Dimick states that if there was ever a time for the commissioners to have a county wide weed and brush control ordinance, now is the time. The county needs to get leadership direction on the greenway problem, it is not just Fire District 3's problem.

Harvey Tonn agrees with the other Directors that it is time the county steps up and addresses the issues; the county is responsible. Tonn shared his concerns about the crews as they have gone through this experience and that it is important to let them know they are cared about and that the Board is concerned about them. Everyone appreciates and respects what they do.

The next Board of Directors meeting is October 15, 2020.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn at 6:40 p.m. by Director Hauser. Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVED BY:


Board of Directors

Submitted by:


Margie Calvert, Scribe