

Jackson County Fire District 3

Minutes - Board of Directors

May 20, 2021 at 5:15 PM, Crater Lake Room, Administrative Building via ZOOM

ATTENDANCE

Board Present: Directors Harvey Tonn, John Dimick, Cindy Hauser, and Steve Shafer

Board Absent: Bill Leavens

Staff Present: Robert Horton, Stacy Maxwell, Justin Bates, Mike Hussey, John Patterson, and Margie Calvert

Staff Absent: Dave Blakely

Visitors Present: Jason Allen, Manny Gobel, Connor Tacchini, Cole Hornbrook, Lorin Myers, Erik Bloemendaal

President Tonn called the meeting to order at 5:15 p.m. pursuant to ORS 192.640 and as advertised in the Mail Tribune dated May 13, 2021.

MINUTES

Motion by Director Shafer to approve the minutes of the regular Board Meeting dated April 15, 2021 as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Revenue for the month of April totaled \$98,825 with the majority from coming from current taxes.

Expenditures for the month of April totaled \$1,437,000 the majority is from personal services at \$1,239,000 and \$197,000 from materials services. Accounts payable equated to \$322,000 with noteworthy items as the TechGen PPE/Wildland dual purpose pants and coats, the ArcMail backup support, FirstWatch annual support and connection to CAD, and ImageTrend annual subscription to report.

Motion by Director Hauser to approve the Accounts Payable and the Revenue/Expenditure reports for April 2021. Motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

INFORMATION ITEMS

EXECUTIVE REPORT

Fire Chief Horton thanked the Board and stated it was nice to see everyone.

Horton shared he presented to Jackson County Commission on behalf of the Fire Defense Board. The Commission asked for a connection to the cities during any upcoming emergency for support. Chief has been in contact with the different cities to encourage open communication and support. The District will be integrating with the new emergency manager who will be visiting the White City campus soon.

Horton shared the District will be participating in the initial buildout of Zonehaven evacuation platform. This was initiated by the Oregon Fire Chiefs Association piloting it in Jackson County and providing information.

Horton shared the District is working with the EPA and Jackson Public Health to help build better protocols for a smoke levels and how communities can be protected.

Horton shared that ECSO is in process of putting the main connection of the CAD2CAD into their interface. This has been an on-going process in which many different public safety response systems will be able to interface with one another. Chief Horton continues to seek grant monies to build the CAD2CAD.

Horton shared information regarding SB762 which is a proactive approach to wildfire in Oregon which takes steps to build wildfire resilience and response ensuring public engagement and oversight.

Horton shared more information regarding the proposal submitted last month which is a partnership with state and local government innovation competition through the Oregon State Fire Marshal's office. It is to examine incentives moving towards wildfire preparedness and defensible space. The proposal has advanced to the next stage.

Horton shared that he successfully passed his CPR class and has his new card.

OPERATIONS

Deputy Chief Hussey shared that fire season was declared last week. Current conditions being monitored is the monsoonal moisture. ODF and the USFS will have additional air resources that will be based out of Medford. The southwest region will have many resources.

Hussey shared in preparation to fire season the District has dialogue with Project Youth, trial bringing five 18-24 year-olds to work fire resiliency, getting familiar with firefighting without being on the front lines. The District is looking for a supervisor for the project that will have a strong mentorship. Interviews will take place mid-June and the students will be compensated by Project Youth. In collaboration with this project, Cascade Fire will also bring in a youth to mentor showing them how to work on the C&C router.

Hussey shared that the four newly hired Firefighters began shifts on Monday. There was a lot of enthusiasm and support during this academy with appreciation kudos to Firefighter Rob Miller for his hard work. The District currently has 16 members on probation through promotions and new hires. The District is looking at recruitment and retention as we look to the next five years and those who are eligible to retire.

TRAINING AND SAFETY

Deputy Chief Hussey shared the Safety Committee is monitoring the efforts through OSHA as they look to the protection of employees from smoke during a wildfire. This involves heat and smoke requirements. Division Chief Blakely is involved in this through Special Districts.

Hussey shared three members passed the Engineer written exam and will move on to the practical portion on June 8th for the Engineer Promotional Register and all members have completed their CPR recertification with a thank you to Administrative Assistant Stephanie Cowan and her hard work making sure everyone is certified.

FIRE AND LIFE SAFETY

Fire Marshal Patterson shared the March scheduled inspection outputs were 50% and in the month of April it was 14%, showing that when an event happens, the outputs change.

Patterson shared information regarding the explosion off Antelope Road in April. This was an illegal butane hash oil production facility in a storage building. The business owners mislead their licensure as something different and one employee died from his injuries and the owner of the business has been severely injured.

Patterson shared the crews went on a Target Hazard Tour at the new Cascade Fire Equipment plant.

Patterson shared that the City of Central Point plans to have a firework display at the EXPO with pre-registered boxes. There will not be an area for open fireworks this year. The City of Eagle Point is also moving forward for a fireworks display at the high school, and Twin Creeks will have a display at the soccer field. The District still has the authority to call off all fireworks displays if weather conditions prove to be hazardous.

Patterson shared that an energy company has notified the District that railcars will be storing propane in the White City area. Patterson and Deputy Chiefs Bates and Hussey are working together to find out more information. This will most likely be a stop-and-go situation for the cars. The District is obtaining information regarding the tanker specifications.

Patterson shared that the Biomass fire safety plan is in full swing with active fire watch that began as soon as fire season was announced. Biomass is currently in their energy curtailment and not burning the chips. Also, the Western Valley Cut Stock rooftop safety system has been designed.

STRATEGIC SERVICES

Deputy Chief Bates shared that he continues to work on the LEPC hazmat plan.

Bates shared the District will most likely close the fuels collection sight at the Dodge Bridge station when the fire season goes to moderate. It is currently full every week. B&B comes in, grinds it, and pushes it back however, once moderate fire season begins we will most likely lose the equipment. Rogue Disposal would like to have the chips for compost.

Bates shared the District received a \$40,000 grant from the Oregon State Fire Marshal's office for a chipper that will be able to be used at the Dodge Bridge site as well as other fuel reduction projects.

Bates shared the District did a fuels collection sight in Gold Hill filling three 30-yard bins. The District will also partner with Can-Do as they hold their clean-up day with support.

Bates shared the Community Care Unit will have a meeting with Supervision Physician Dr. Bond to help move the program towards TeleMed and alternative destination opportunities.

Bates shared the City of Central Point is allocating funding towards making the Greenway more of a park like setting as they clean up the greenway. The District has offered to support with assistance.

Bates shared that the District submitted an application to become a member of the Rogue Valley Council of Governments and they have welcomed the District.

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION TERM EXPIRATION

Fire Chief Horton advised the Board that Civil Service Commissioner Erik Bloemendaal's four-year appointed term will expire June 2021. Commissioner Bloemendaal is interested in continuing his service on the Commission. The Board directed staff to continue as past practice and advertise for the position bringing to the Board all applications, including Erik Bloemendaal's intent, for review at the June Board meeting.

RESOLUTION No. 21-05 BARGAINING UNIT SALARIES AND BENEFITS FOR 2021/22 FISCAL YEAR

CAO Maxwell shared the changes to the Bargaining Unit Salaries and Benefits for the 2021/2022 Fiscal Year as a 2.04% cost of living adjustment per the labor agreement and the opportunity to choose one of two health insurance options. This was reflected in the budget that was approved at the Budget Committee meeting on May 4, 2021.

Motion by Director Shafer to adopt Resolution No. 21-05: Salary and Benefits Schedule for Bargaining Personnel 2021/22 Fiscal Year. Motion carried unanimously.

RESOLUTION No. 21-06 NON-BARGAINING UNIT SALARIES AND BENEFITS FOR 2021/22 FISCAL YEAR

CAO Maxwell shared the changes to the Non-Bargaining Unit Salaries and Benefits for the 2021/2022 Fiscal Year as a 2.04% cost of living adjustment with the opportunity to choose another health insurance options for full and part-time employees. Other adjustments are reflective of the financial

changes. This was reflected in the budget that was approved at the Budget Committee meeting on May 4, 2021.

Motion by Director Dimick to adopt Resolution No. 21-06: Salary and Benefits Schedule for Non-Bargaining Personnel 2021/22 Fiscal Year. Motion carried unanimously.

AMENDMENT TO FIRE CHIEF AGREEMENT

Board President Tonn proposed to amend Fire Chief Horton's agreement to reflect the 2.04% cost of living adjustment and to amend Section 9 (b) to reflect the Fire Chief vacation sell-back to be declared in November and to be paid out on the first regular non-overtime payroll in December. This adjustment is to align with the other members of the District.

Motion by Director Hauser to approve the proposed amendment to Fire Chief Horton's agreement. Motion carried unanimously.

TOPICS FOLLOWING PREPARATION OF THE AGENDA

None

GOOD OF THE ORDER

None

INDIVIDUAL BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

John Dimick stated that it is getting dry out there.

Steve Shafer shared that the Eagle Point crew stopped by and said, "Hi" and it was most enjoyable.

Cindy Hauser stated that she really enjoyed the graduation ceremony and was happy to see a young woman join the District. She was struck by the comradery and affection of the members who encouraged one another as they received their awards. She also appreciated the men who stopped and told her how well-behaved her dog was.

Harvey Tonn also commented that the ceremony was really good with a good turnout. He had forgotten there were so many promotions and academies we haven't been able to honor. He is very impressed with the new recruits.

The next Board of Director's meeting is June 17, 2021.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn at 6:24 p.m. by Director Dimick. Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVED BY:



Board of Directors

Submitted by:



Margie Calvert, Scribe