

DIRECTOR CODE OF ETHICS

Relative Information: The term “Ethics”, used in its broadest form, refers to a set of moral principles. Not every individual within an organization has the same perception of ethical conduct. People base their decisions on experience, personal values, and learned behavior. A “Code of Ethics,” as used in this policy, refers to the general rules of conduct the Board recognizes in respect to governance of the District. This code of ethics is intended to serve as a guide for Board Directors.

The Board is committed to excellence in leadership and decision-making that results in the highest quality of service to its residents and taxpayers.

It is the Board of Director’s intent to review and re-adopt this policy annually in the month of July.

1. The Board will follow all regulations and laws related to the conduct of District business. It will also honor its own adopted policies and procedures. Knowing the law is the starting point of effective governance.
2. The Board recognizes the dignity, values, and opinions of one another, staff members, employees, and the general public. It will encourage responsiveness and effective participation in all its communications.
3. The Board recognizes its primary responsibility is the formulation and evaluation of policy and the employment of a Chief Executive Officer (Fire Chief) to administer District business at the direction of the Board.
4. The Board recognizes that operational matters of the District should ordinarily be directed to the Fire Chief and Staff.
5. The Board commits to conducting all meetings in accordance with the Oregon Public Meetings laws. It recognizes that District business is to be conducted in public with the exception of specific topics that meet the criteria for Executive sessions.
6. The Board will focus on issues and seek solutions that are in the best interest of the public and avoid issues of personality and/or special interests.
7. The Board, both as a body and as a group of individuals will support decisions made by the Board. Individual Directors may disagree with a certain decision but should support the position as the considered opinion of the Board. This position is not intended to restrict further consideration based on additional information but to provide for the effective continuation of District business.
8. The Board will work directly with the Fire Chief and Staff to obtain information and/or an enhanced understanding to improve effective decision making.
9. The Board should direct any complaint and/or issue directly to the Fire Chief. It is the responsibility of the Fire Chief to resolve the issue as may be necessary.
10. Board Directors, to the greatest extent possible, will forward business items to either the Board President or the Fire Chief for inclusion in a Board of Directors meeting agenda. The goal is to provide public notification of the issue and to allow time for the Staff and other Board Directors to research/consider the topic.
11. The Board recognizes it operates as a unit and that individual Board Director authority exists only as a member of the whole.

12. The Board acknowledges that policy decisions require Board action. When an individual Board Director receives a policy related question, the response must be based on established policy. The question may be brought to the full Board for further consideration. When such questions arise, the topic should be forwarded to the Board President and/or Fire Chief for inclusion in a Board of Directors meeting agenda.
12. The Board recognizes effective operations require a team approach. The Board, Fire Chief, and Staff members are expected to work together in a collaborative process assisting each other in the conduct of District business.
13. The Board recognizes the value of long-term planning and interaction with other agencies and will constantly maintain a focus on the long-term stability of the District and service to its residents and taxpayers.
14. The Board will be courteous and responsive to citizen requests and will generally direct their concerns and interests to the Fire Chief as appropriate.
15. The Board as a body, and as a group of individuals, acknowledges that information and study foster good decision making and will commit the necessary effort to develop a working understanding of all issues that come before the Board.
16. The Board acknowledges that conflict or differences of view could arise between members and will seek effective remedies that are in the best interest of the Board and the District.
17. The Board will seek legal counsel when indicated and will be guided by the legal advice provided.
18. The Board acknowledges that conflicts of interest may occasionally arise and that each Board member is responsible to declare such actual or potential conflicts as specified in Oregon Revised Statutes and/or Oregon Administrative Rule.

Policy Statement: It is the policy of the Board of Directors to annually review and adopt this Code of Ethics policy.