**POLK COUNTY FIRE DISTRICT NO.1**

**Board of Directors**

**February 13, 2024**

**6:00pm – Central Station**

**Location: 1800 Monmouth St., Independence, Or 97351**

**Also Virtually at:**

[**https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83280363029?pwd=NGRDbTVmOHJNMIRQR3ZSV055Um1wZz09**](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83280363029?pwd=NGRDbTVmOHJNMIRQR3ZSV055Um1wZz09)

**Meeting ID: 832 8036 3029 - Passcode: 801072**

President Jeff Hamilton Chief Ben Stange

Vice President Cord Von Derahe DC Neal Olson

Secretary Mike Lippsmeyer DC Frank Ehrmantraut (absent)

Director Curtis Cole DC Troy Crafton

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 January 11th, 2024 Regular Board Meeting Minutes
3. Financials:

**3a**. Approval of Disbursements for January 1-31, 2024

**3b**. Finance report for the month of January 2024

**President Hamilton** – Asked how the Board would like to take the Consent Agenda.

**Director Dan Miller** – Stated to take the Agenda as a whole.

**Vice President Von Derahe**– Second.

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

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None at this time.**

**NEW BUSINESS:**

1. Purchase of Light Rescue

- Replace 1999 American LaFrance (sold on Public Auction).

- Acknowledged the features that were important at the time but explained that many of those features are not realistic for today’s needs.

- Looking into a vehicle produced by Ward Apparatus that uses True North Emergency Equipment (Horseheads, NY).

- Goes through the HGAC (runs the bidding process for us and makes sure things check out with our auditor).

**Chief Stange explains** that we are going to accommodate 8 SCBA bottles in addition to the spare bottles that are already on the unit. There will also be adjustable shelves and compartments that slide out to both sides for easier access, and the winch receiver can be seen from both sides. Wanted to make sure that the features would be operationally beneficial. Choosing to go with a Ford F-550 (light rescue and ambulances are F-550’s) as they are easier to work on, less expensive to work on, and can help save in mechanical costs. More features include a less aggressive backup alarm sound, a hidden lockout button, an MDT mount, portable radio charges, rear traffic advisor, and 360 cameras.

**Director Miller asked** if the 360 cameras work as a dash camera in case of accidents.

**Chief Stange stated** no, it does not, and that it is more of an emerging thing that was talked about at the SDAO Conference the past weekend. Mentioned that putting dash cams on engines is a big talk about retention liability. Talked about a couple more features on the vehicle, one being a night scan that extends 7.5 feet above the box, contains 80,000 lumens, and deploys in 10 seconds. The second being a portable winch; receivers on all four corners of the unit making it easier to utilize without needing to move the vehicle. The lead time is 12 months, quoted at $276,457 with $66,000 due at the time of signing. We would defer the duty vehicle purchase of $80,000 to make the down payment this fiscal year (23-24). There can be small changes that are needed along with radio installation and decals, so we are asking the Board for approval up to $295,000 for the purchase to avoid having to come back and ask the Board for small increments later.

**Secretary Lippsmeyer asked** if we will budget for the light rescue next fiscal year to get the remaining balance paid off.

**President Hamilton** **asked** if deferring the duty vehicle would cause any issues.

**Chief Stange said** we will look at next year’s budget and the year after.

**Vice President Von Derahe asked** if the weight of the equipment we are going to put back on is going to overload it, or put us in danger of overloading it—will this meet what we want to put on it.

**Chief Stange stated** yes (it will meet what we are wanting).

Discussion about if the seats are going to cloth, pleather, wipeable— easy to decontaminate. Chief Crafton mentioned that they will be ordering seat covers, similar to the ones law enforcement use in their vehicles, as they last longer and can be easily wiped down.

**Chief Stange stated** the contract is due in the next two weeks in order to stay on track to get it in 12 months. Unsure if there are repercussions if contract is not signed by that timeline.

**President Hamilton—** Asked what action the Board would like to take.

**Secretary Lippsmeyer—** Voted to approve the purchase of the light rescue for up to $295,000 with a payment of $65,982 during this fiscal year.

**Director Cole—** Second.

**President Hamilton—** All in favor, none opposed, carried.

**CHIEF’S REPORTS:**

1. OSFM Wildfire Season Staffing Grant Returning for 2024.

- July 1st through October 31st to hire additional staffing (up to $35,000)

- Application in March—will be pursuing this opportunity again.

1. Hiring of Risk Reduction Specialists

- Hiring two volunteers part-time (Garrett Hardwick and Scott Lamoreaux)

1. Recruit Academy Update

- 17 current recruits

1. ESO Transition

- Priority has been getting all occupancies moved over to the new system.

- Fire incidents need to get loaded into the “incidents” portion.

1. Strategic Planning Update

- First meeting: Mid-March

- Start getting workshops designed.

1. SDAO Conference

- Chief Stange and Stephanie attended SDAO Conference in Seaside.

1. Staffing Update (not discussed)
2. OFCA Roundtable (not discussed)
3. The Hartford- PLO (not discussed)
4. Notable Incidents

- Ice storm (0 motor vehicle crashes, most calls were from people slipping/falling and pipe issues.

- Logging accident in the hills past Pedee. Life-flight landed before we got on scene, and US Coast Guard was also in the area due to where the individual was located. The crew was able to successfully get the patient on the life-flight, where they were then flown to Good Samaritan in Corvallis.

1. Member of the Month

- Colton Biggs (showed up to 27/36 volunteer calls this month)

- Also had 11 certifications last month between various members.

**TOPICS FOLLOWING THE PREPARATION OF THE AGENDA**: Chief Stange talked about Jennifer Wagner’s last day of employment. She started as a volunteer in the late 90’s as an explorer. She was very involved with community paramedic stuff and took a job with the City of Portland for street response, and is currently pursuing a master’s degree in social work.

**Secretary Lippsmeyer mentioned** that he has noticed a lot of calls have been going to Salem and asked if that does anything to our response time.

**Chief Stange stated** that we have not run into any situations where we have had to call for mutual aid from somewhere else because we were in Salem, and that we get canceled from a majority of these calls. They’ve been working on this as it is an issue for all surrounding agencies, and at this point we are providing mutual aid.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**: None at this time.

**BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS**:

**Secretary Lippsmeyer:** Congratulations on all the certifications!

**Vice President Von Derahe:** stated he receives a weekly newsletter from SDAO and was disappointed with both OFDDA and SDAO’s opposition of the PERS OPSRP change for employees. I believe it was narrow focused, it will not affect many people, if you have less than 25 years and your reach 55 years old, that’s where it will be advantageous. However, as you age in this job, you have higher rates of cancer, injuries, etc. It came down to financial. As a Board member, I struggle with that decision.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:** According to ORS 192.660(2)(d) – to conduct deliberations with persons designated to carry on labor negotiations. Will not continue to regular session afterwards.

**ADJOURNMENT: President Hamilton adjourned the meeting at 6:31pm.**

**Minutes by Maliyah Thompson**