**POLK COUNTY FIRE DISTRICT NO.1**

**Board of Directors**

**December 12, 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

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 November 14th, 2024 Regular Board Meeting Minutes
3. Financials:

3a. Approval of Disbursements for November 1-30, 2024

3b. Finance report for the month of November 2024

**President Hamilton** – Motion 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:**

1. **Ambulance Rate Increase (Resolution 2024-07)**

- The last time we raised our ambulance rates was in February of 2022. These changes would take effect in January of 2025, almost three years later.

- There are two separate ways that we are reimbursed through the Federal Government:

* The Coordinated Care Organization
* Fee for Service Program

- Around the state of Oregon, it typically costs between $2,000-$3,000 to run an EMS call. When we ran our numbers for 2024, it costs our District about $2,993.84.

- What do our peers charge? We are tied with South Lane for the lowest billing rate for ALS at $1600 and for BLS, we charge $1500 instead of keeping the rate the same for both types of calls.

- The average rate for ALS calls is just over $2,000.

- Chief pointed out that most people charge the same rate for BLS or ALS services.

The Board has two possible Resolutions to consider (this does not change the rate for aid calls or the mileage). Increase the rate for both ALS and BLS to $1800 or to $2000.

**Vice President Von Derahe** asked if the agencies that don’t bill for aid calls were factored into the average.

**Chief Stange** - no, if those are zeros. He was not sure why they were blank.

**Vice President Von Derahe** stated that for BLS calls, if we still send an ALS provider and they still go to the hospital with them, what is the difference? Nothing.

**Director Miller** said it costs us the same amount.

**Vice President Von Derahe:** He is comfortable making the ALS and BLS rate the same.

**Secretary Lippsmeyer** stated that both proposals have the mileage rate at $23/mi which would make it one of the lowest rates on the graph. He suggested that we increase that rate to $31/Mileage per Mile and **Vice President Von Derahe** agreed.

**Vice President Von Derahe** – Made a Motion to make ALS and BLS one rate and raise it to $2000 across the board (BLS/ALS in city and out of city), increase aid calls to $700 and increase the mileage rate to $31/per mile.

**Director Miller** –Second.

**President Hamilton** – Any discussion on the motion

**Chief Stange** – This would be Resolution 2024-07 with the Exhibit A changed to reflect the numbers that were indicated in the Motion for the increased rates for aid calls and mileage.

**President Hamilton** – All in favor, none opposed, carried – Resolution 2024-07 passes unanimously.

**CHIEFS REPORT:**

1. **SDAO Annual Conference - February**

- Invited all to attend the annual conference February 6-9, in Bend.

- There is an award ceremony where Districts from across the state submit people for awards, unfortunately, no one from our District will be getting awarded this year. We did submit a candidate for the Outstanding Special Districts Service Award. They were not the ultimate recipient, but made it through all of the rounds up until the full selection committee and Special Districts still wanted to recognize this individual which is Chief Ehrmantraut.

1. **Fire Marshal IGA with Polk County**

- Dallas does not have a Fire Marshal. Chief Crafton attends meetings once a week. We get reimbursed for his full cost.

- The County’s building official who did Fire and Life Safety has retired. The County asked if Chief Crafton could step into that role. He feels it is something he can handle within his scope.

- It is important we are aware of these structures because we will be on mutual aid.

1. **Hiring and Staffing Update**

- In November, the page on our website with the application for FF/Paramedic had over 2,000 hits. Which resulted in 9 candidates being invited to the Assessment Center.

- We will be meeting with Civil Service shortly after the Assessment Center and have Chief’s Interviews after that.

- We have 6 on B Shift, 6 on C Shift, and hopefully we will have 6 on A Shift if we get a successful candidate.

- We will be sending out confirmation emails with their Assessment Center times and there will be a link to a Google Form to see where they learned about the position. Was it from someone from our organization? Through our social media? Daily Dispatch? Etc.

**Dan Miller –** In the past, we have gotten several good people on the list but we did not hire them and someone else did. Are we going to learn from that mistake and hire as many good candidates as we can right off the bat? We ultimately decided that we want 7 on each shift. Can we get people while there are still people to get?

**Chief Stange –** I can present that to the Board to see whether or not that is a financially viable option. One of the things that puts us in a strong position is that we have 4 EMT Basics that are currently in Paramedic school.

1. **Legislative Update**

- We had a special session so that ODF and OSFM can aid their bills to people that have not been paid for the last fire season.

- There will be a long session held the day after MLK Jr Day.

- Lots of talk about ambulance transport costs, reimbursements and EMS modernization.

- Governor’s recommended budget had the staffing grant in it. We have gotten $35,000 in summer the last couple of years to increase our capacity. The recommended budget went from $6,000,000 to $5,000,000.

1. **Notable Incidents**

- 11/15 fire at JB Firewood. Total loss was $1.2 million but it was a $5 million save. We had 12 people on scene within 10 minutes.

- 11/17 single-wide fire at 101 Edwards Rd. resulted in a $35,000 loss. Very physically demanding fire due to fuel load and other factors in that unit. 9 people on scene within 9 minutes.

- 11/18 cooking fire.

- 11/30 electrical system issues in Monmouth that activated several fire alarms around town. Fire started on the outside of a barn and the crew was able to get it extinguished before it made entry into the barn. 7 people on scene within 6 minutes.

1. **Member of the Month**

- Stephanie Hale: Helps get stuff to scenes, working with our volunteer and career staff on their line of duty death packets, taking information back from her groups and brings it back to our organization to better support our staff and firefighters.

1. **Community Outreach**

- Chief Crafton and some volunteers came to put holiday lights up on Station 90.

- Tree lighting parade at WOU. We took Santa on the ladder truck.

- Toy box in the front lobby for people to donate gifts for Adopt a Family.

1. **Holiday Party December 18th**

- 6pm in the bays. All are welcome to attend.

1. **Rescheduling January Meeting**

- The Fire Chief’s Roundtable is January 9th and 10th.

- Thursday January 16th.

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

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

**BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS:** None at this time.

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

**ADJOURNMENT:**

**President Hamilton adjourned the meeting at 6:54pm**

**Minutes by Maliyah Thompson**