**POLK COUNTY FIRE DISTRICT NO.1**

**Board of Directors**

**March 13, 2025**

**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 (Virtual)

Director Dan Miller (Virtual) 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 February 13, 2025 Regular Board Meeting Minutes
3. Financials:

3a. Approval of Disbursements for February 1-28, 2025

3b. Finance report for the month of February 2025

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

**Vice President Von Derahe & Director Cole** – Second.

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

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

**NEW BUSINESS:**

1. **Appointment of Budget Officer**

**Vice President Von Derahe** – Move Fire Chief Stange as the Budget Officer for fiscal year 25-26.

**Director Miller** – Second.

**President Hamilton** – All in favor, none opposed, carried – Motion passes.

1. **Appointment of Budget Committee Members**

- There are three positions on the Budget Committee that are three year terms. Two members will expire, and three members will expired the next year. This is the year with three people. Current members are Bob McMillan, Tim Pope, and Mary Carlson. Tim Pope and Mary Carlson, in Positions 2 and 4 have both expressed interest in continuing. Bob McMillan, in Position 1 would like to step down, so we need someone to fill that position. We don’t have any applicants at the moment.

**Vice President Von Derahe** – Move Tim Pope in position 2 and Mary Carlson in position 4, and we will take applications for the open position.

**Director Cole** – Second.

**President Hamilton** – All in favor, none opposed, carried – Motion passes.

**Chief Stange** mentioned that we will bring the Board 1 or 2 more candidates next month and that if they know anyone else that is interested to point them in the direction of himself or Stephanie.

1. **Tentative Budget Calendar**

- Tuesday, May 13th at 6:30PM: First Budget Committee Meeting. Most budgets can get done in the first meeting.

- If a second meeting is needed, it will be Tuesday, May 20th.

- If a third meeting is needed, it will be Thursday, May 22th.

Because we have to post the dates in the paper, we need to know if everyone can make it before April 15th. You can appear virtually as additional option.

All Board members are planning on attending May 13th.

**CHIEFS REPORT:**

1. **Winter Fire School**

- 8 members of our organization attended, including Chief Ehrmantraut and Chief Crafton.

1. **Active Alert Integrated Response Training**

- Chief Crafton was the instructor.

- We will be hosting another class at Station 90 April 19th and 20th.

1. **All Hazards IMT Training**

- Chief Olson attended this class for a week.

**Vice President Von Derahe** – Reports said that Chief Olson did a great job in that class.

1. **Difficult Airway Course**

- Chief Ehrmantraut flew in some people from the University of Utah

- 2 day class with lots of advanced airway stuff.

- 19 students from 6 different agencies.

1. **Legislative Update**

- SB 91 has to do with PFOS foam (AFFF). We don’t have any AFFF, so this is not an issue for us.

- OSFM budget was presented two weeks ago. The Governor’s recommended budget was to put $5,000,000 per year towards the up staffing grant. It has been funded at $6,000,000 for the last three years. We testified to see if they could get it back to $6,000,000.

- HB 3253: Balance Billing Bill for ambulance transport. The No Surprises Act includes air ambulances so you can’t balance bill for air ambulance rides. They left ground ambulance on the federal level out of it, but we know it’s coming so we are trying to get ahead of it.

The goal is to get to a point where insurance companies will pay the local rate for transport. This will hurt (undo) our FireMed program, but we will have revenue from the insurance companies. The risk in this is losing the touchpoint with a lot of community members that have been coming in to support our fire district for many years.

- 2 PERS Bills:

SB 751 – Defines a firefighter. Increases the multiplier for OPSRP from 1.8 to 2.

SB 902 – Reduces the retirement age for OPSRP from 53 with 25 years to 50 with 25 years.

- HB 3755 has to do with capping taxes for those over the age of 65 at $150,000

A lobbyist mentioned this will likely not pass but to be ready for a ballot measure.

- SB 5550 – early session bill for the up staffing money for this season’s OFSM grant.

- Wildfire Funding Bill

- EMS Modernization Bill

1. **Hiring Update**

- Alexandria Schilz began working on Monday, March 10th.

- She was heavily recruited to come test with us.

- Will be on A Shift beginning on March 25th.

1. **Logo Update**

- Had a meeting with another artist.

- Going to meet with President Hamilton to see if a Board representative would like to be there.

1. **Annual Banquet (Awards)**

- Chief went over all the awards that were given out: Years of service, Special Tribute, Top Responders, Resident of the Year, Rookie of the Year, Support Member of the Year, Chief’s Award, Instructor of the Year, Employee of the Year, Rural Member of the Year, Officer of the Year, EMT of the Year, Paramedic of the Year, and Firefighter of the Year.

1. **Seattle Stair Climb**

- Had 16 of our members participate (including Chief Stange and Chief Ehrmantraut)

- The team raised over $13,000 and Travis Emerling himself raised over $5,000.

- Allison Wells completed the climb with one bottle tank.

1. **Town Hall Recognition**

- Senator Merkley wanted to recognize all that were deployed to the Palisades fire.

- Chief Olson spoke at the gathering in front of over 600 people.

- We were awarded an American Flag that was flown over the Capitol.

1. **Notable Incidents**

- None at this time.

1. **Member of the Month**

- Alex Rose: Engineer on B Shift and was nominated by his Captain, Lukas Martin.

- Maintains the EMS inventory system very well.

1. **Board Elections (Reminder)**

- Thursday, March 20th if you are up for election and want to run again.

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

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

**BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS:**

**Director Miller** – His wife and himself were thankful to have been invited to the banquet, they had a great time. Kudos to all that participated in the Stair Climb.

**Director Cole** – The banquet was really nice, the set up was fantastic.

**President Hamilton** – Lots of good training this month.

**Vice President Von Derahe** – The money raised for the Stair Climb is great and the fact that they went and did it is awesome! The team building aspect of it will pay dividends down the road. The banquet is great, it is always great to recognize your people. Good work to Rose redoing the EMS inventory. It is time consuming and very important.

**Secretary Lippsmeyer** – Excellent.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:** According to ORS 192.660(2)(e) to conduct deliberation with persons you have designated to negotiate real property transactions. .

**ADJOURNMENT:**

**Vice President Hamilton adjourned the meeting at 6:33pm**

**Minutes by Maliyah Thompson**