**POLK COUNTY FIRE DISTRICT NO.1**

**Board of Directors**

**April 10, 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 (Absent) DC Neal Olson (Absent)

Secretary Mike Lippsmeyer (Absent) DC Frank Ehrmantraut (Virtual)

Director Curtis Cole DC Troy Crafton (Absent)

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 February 13, 2025 Regular Board Meeting Minutes
3. Financials:

3a. Approval of Disbursements for March 1-31, 2025

3b. Finance report for the month of March 2025

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

**Director Cole** – Second.

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

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

**NEW BUSINESS:**

1. **2023-2024 Audit**

- The audit process was long. We went with the same auditors but they transferred ownership and are now called Red W.

- One thing we ran into was that the Budget document didn’t have a placeholder line item for it, so the auditor argued that we should’ve done a supplemental budget in order to create the placeholder to transfer it.

- A lot of information had to be repeated as there were about 3 different auditors that Stephanie dealt with during the term of the Audit process.

- Stephanie is soliciting some different options for the next years as Red W is now based out of Texas and everything was virtual, making things more difficult.

- There is a shortage of Auditors and costs will likely go up.

**President Hamilton** – Motion to accept the 2023-2024 Financial Audit as presented.

**Director Cole** – Second.

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

1. **Appointment of Budget Committee Member**

- Received an application from Freeman Stutzman who previously was a Board member.

- Received an application from Connor Booth. Has a Bachelor’s in Political Science and a minor in Law and Legal from Portland State University. Has not served on any governmental things.

**Director Cole** – Motion to appoint Freeman Stutzman as a Budget Committee Member for fiscal year 25-26.

**Director Miller** – Second.

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

1. **Resolution 2025-01: Transfer from General Fund to Grant Fund**

- You can’t bring money into the Grant Fund.

- We got a $5000 grant from the Pacific Power Foundation, $2500 from the Roadhouse Foundation, and a $75,000 grant from the Oregon State Fire Marshal’s Office.

- $82,500 being spent on grant items that has to come into the General Fund. We need to spend this out of the Grant Fund so we need to do a simple transfer.

**President Hamilton** – Motion to adopt Resolution 2025-01 to transfer $82,500 from the General Fund into the Grant Fund for the 2024-2025 Budget year.

**Director Miller** – Second.

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

**CHIEFS REPORT:**

1. **Hiring Update**

- Alex Schilz is now on A Shift

- We are now fully staffed (6 full time employees on each shift)

- We are currently accepting applications for a volunteer Lieutenant position.

1. **Logo Work Update**

- All Board members should have received a questionnaire about what we are looking for in a new logo.

- Currently just helping the vendor work through the process of the design. Once we get some finalists, we will convene a larger group.

1. **Legislative Update**

- Yesterday (4/9) was the deadline to get Bills out of their first committees.

- EMS balance billing made it through the first committee.

- GEMT at the Federal level

- All PFOS Bills went through

- Freeze property taxes on those over 65 (will likely be on the ballot)

1. **AGRiP Conference**

- Lots of talk about AI.

- Reinsurance rates are going to improve this year but next year they will be terrible due to the money spent on the California fires.

1. **Apparatus Maintenance**

- City of Dallas had some personnel changes

- We have some needs that are being delayed so we currently have L91 in Hillsboro getting work done and once that is done, we will be sending E92.

1. **Notable Incidents**

- March 24: House fire on Grand St

 - Fire was already venting out of windows when we arrived.

- Dispatcher heard help over the radio, but it was a crewmate whose radio

was pressed down

- Very extended scene time

- Initial force (6 people on scene 9 minutes) was not met, 28 seconds short

- 43 total personnel on scene, 28 from our District

 - March 29: Garage fire on F St

 - $55,000 property loss, saved $370,000.

- Initial force was met

- 21 total personnel on scene, 16 from our District

 - April 2: House fire on Pacific Hwy

 - Called in by a passerby who alerted the occupants inside of the home

 - 19 people on scene in 14 minutes (during shift change)

 - 26 personnel on scene

1. **Member of the Month**

- Catherine O’Neil

- Support member. Recently had a baby so she can’t physically appear on scene, but she responded to the station for these fires and made sure everyone that was going to support had what they needed.

 - Naomi Kersey-Bronec, Max Patel, and Camila Alarcon.

- All three were in the Recruit Academy last year. They showed up the next morning after these fires and spent several hours making sure everything was washed and restored.

**TOPICS FOLLOWING THE PREPARATION OF THE AGENDA**:

**Chief Stange** – 1. We sent out our first newsletter on April 9th. We will be sending one out monthly.

 2. He went on a podcast hosted by Senator Bruce Starr.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

**Captain Paoli** – 2 of his shift personnel, Nick Wooldridge and Scott Johnson arrived to the house fire on Grant St with the medic. There was no engine on scene and Chief Ehrmantraut had reports of people inside and asked them to search. Without hesitation, these two headed in the front door with a can and fought fire. Couldn’t get past the living room, came out and went through a window in the back before the engine got there.

**BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS:**

**Director Miller** – Loved that story. He has been in a similar position before and knows that that is like. Good for them!

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

**ADJOURNMENT:**

**Vice President Hamilton adjourned the meeting at 6:27pm**

**Minutes by Maliyah Thompson**