

CENTRAL OREGON COAST FIRE & RESCUE DISTRICT

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

JANUARY 18, 2024

- 1. Call to Order.** The regular meeting of the Central Oregon Coast Fire & Rescue District Board of Directors was called to order by President Eckerman at 3:00 p.m. on Thursday, January 18, 2024. She explained the procedure for participation by the viewing audience during the live-streamed meeting.
- 2. Roll Call.** Directors present were Reda Eckerman, Jon MacCulloch, and Greg Dunn; Zach Akin participated via Mr. MacCulloch's phone; Rick Booth was excused. A quorum was present.
- 3. Pledge of Allegiance.** Mrs. Eckerman led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.
- 4. Approval of Minutes.** It was moved by Mr. Dunn, seconded by Mr. MacCulloch, to approve the minutes of the regular Board meeting of November 16, 2023 as presented; motion carried.
- 5. Citizen Participation.** None.
- 6. Staff Presentations.** Maintenance Officer Captain Erich Knudson reported that the new streaming equipment is in place, and the camera should follow whoever is speaking. It is a new system and he is still learning it. Several months ago he spent money on new thermostats and the electricity bill dropped from over \$800 in November to \$500 in December. He will continue installation of thermostats throughout the building. He is moving the shop to Tidewater to make more room in the bay but he will still be at the station several days a week. Office Administrator Wendy Rush explained that the banquet had to be rescheduled and February 3rd seems to work best as coverage had to be coordinated with the Toledo Fire District. There is another group scheduled at the restaurant for the same night, so the menu was changed slightly to work with theirs. She will contact everyone; nothing else changed. Also, included in the packet was the renewal for membership in Oregon Fire District Directors Association at \$1,000/year. With the budget coming up, costs are being looked at and she wondered if the Board wanted to renew. Following discussion of benefits of membership it was decided to give all members a chance to review it and to place it on the agenda for next month.
- 7. Volunteer Report.** Captain Knudson explained the pinning ceremony for the new firefighters had been postponed because of the weather but would take place today. Bingo will resume next month on the third Friday. The raffle only had two entries and will be sent out again; the sign-up will be clarified regarding the Zeffy charges, which do not have to be paid. Captain Knudson distributed copies of the Firefighter Code of Ethics to the Board and emphasized their importance. He then conducted the swearing-in ceremony and pins were awarded to Firefighter Wendy Rush, Firefighter Chase Gustafson, Firefighter Josh Angelo, and Firefighter Kyle Marcum.
- 8. Union Report.** None.
- 9. Finance Report.** Mr. Quick reported cash on hand at the end of December was \$952,440. Current levied funds, the bulk of which came in November, are at \$1,027,119, 93.3% of budget. Prior year levies are well ahead of the budget, legal is over, protective equipment almost at budget, fuel is at \$7,540. Grants received to date are \$46,000. Moved by Mr. MacCulloch, seconded by Mr. Dunn, to approve the financial report as presented and pay the bills; motion carried.

10. Correspondence. Ms. Rush reported about 20 Christmas cards and lots of goodies.

11. Old Business. \$15,000 reserve fund request for floating dock. Chief Mason met with the Moose Lodge and they expressed a willingness to raise funds to replace the \$15,000 he proposed taking from the reserve fund that is needed to install the floating dock at the Port. The \$25,000 grant from the Ford Foundation ends in June, and the dock is needed as soon as possible. A formal letter from the Moose was in the packet. Moved by Mr. Dunn, seconded by Mr. MacCulloch, to take the \$15,000 from the reserve fund to be used for the floating dock with the understanding that it will be replaced; motion carried.

12. New Business. Alsea Fire Auto Aid. When Chief Mason sent auto aid agreements to Seal Rock and Yachats he also sent one to Alsea, who did some adjustments and sent back a signed copy, which he approved. This provides our auto response to them and theirs to us, helping to ensure coverage for the eastern part of the county. We still need to work on annexation to close the coverage gap. Moved by Mr. MacCulloch, seconded by Mr. Dunn, to accept the Automatic Mutual Assistance Agreement with Alsea Rural Fire Protection District; motion carried.

13. Chief's Report. Chief Mason reported that with the \$15,000 from the reserve fund and the \$25,000 from the Ford Foundation they will be able to begin on the floating dock. The seismic grant application was hand delivered by him and he expects to hear the result by March. The Tender from the state grant hasn't arrived yet but he has been notified they can pick up the additional equipment for it, so he expects it soon. He should hear soon from the SPIRE grant application; the EMILY grant was denied, still working on the other grants. His next application for a Siletz Tribal Grant will be for confined space equipment; he will do the training in its use. We did receive \$300 from the Firefighters Foundation for personnel equipment. He turned over the report on negotiations with the city to Mr. MacCulloch, who had met with the City Manager to discuss getting the funding for water so the city could relinquish the building to the District. Mr. MacCulloch said that this had been worked on last year, but the legislative walkout interfered with any progress. They discussed the question of using the \$40,000/yr. interest payment for maintenance of the building, and Mr. Cutter recommended going to the budget committee with a request for a community contribution. They also discussed talking to Representative Gomberg about what to go for this year, and the state push seems to be for housing. Mr. Cutter didn't think going for \$4.4 million would work and recommended going for \$1.35 million, which we would sign over to the city, satisfying their cost for the building that they could then turn over to us. Interest money could be put into work on the building that wouldn't have to be undone later. This is a short session this year; we will see where it goes and if we don't get it we still can go forward. Chief Mason reported that Captain Jo Bartling resigned in order to go to Life Flight to get the necessary credentials to pursue his career goal of working in Alaska. Two candidates tested for his vacant position and John Townley was promoted to Captain. At the next Board meeting he would like to do recognition of people who have worked so long and hard to become Captain. Captain Townley's promotion opens up an Engineer position; he has 6 applicants and next week will do testing and evaluation in the hope of having someone in place on the 5th and be back to 100% staffing. It is a Union position and will follow civil service requirements.

The surplus Utility 72 did not meet the set reserve but we will reach out to the highest bidder and see if the minimum can be reached. In the packet was a letter requesting the 1981 Tender be declared surplus in anticipation of receiving the new tender, which is expected to arrive almost any time. Mrs. Eckerman read the letter requesting the 1981 F1954-Water Tender be declared surplus. Moved by Mr.

MacCulloch, seconded by Mr. Dunn, to declare the Tender surplus; motion carried. Chief Mason expects to receive the balance of the new fire hose in the next two weeks and the replaced hose will then be declared surplus. He had received a letter from Chief Daniels, who is resigning from Depoe Bay Fire and Rescue, and he wanted to express his appreciation for all Chief Daniels has done and the help he has given as a mentor and on the Fire Defense Board.

14. President's Report. Mrs. Eckerman wanted to say that at their last meeting the Waldport City Council passed an ordinance which prohibits the sale and use of fireworks in the city, in accordance with the County prohibition. It doesn't affect the city fireworks display on July 3rd. The last few years have been getting drier and drier and the fire last year emphasized the danger. It was always a tough decision, but the Mayor wanted to make it known that it was with the support of Chief Mason. Chief Mason said we are too vulnerable and there are multiple professional shows for people to enjoy. This was a good decision to protect people and the district.

15. Citizen Participation. Susan Swander would like the Board to do more to publicize things like awards, grants, agreement with Alsea and all the positive things being done. Discussion of ways to make it work. Mrs. Eckerman suggested more advertising for volunteers in other capacities such as event planning, a newsletter, etc.; they can be official members without a uniform.

16. Good of the Order. Mr. MacCulloch was looking at the monthly call volume for last year and there were 570 medical calls out of 859 responses. He would like Chief Mason to be able to explore the idea of charging costs to insurance companies for medical responses like we do now for accidents and water incidents. Discussion of responses and responsibility to provide medical care. Moved by Mr. MacCulloch, seconded by Mrs. Eckerman, to have Chief Mason explore the wording of the ORS, to obtain legal advice if need be, to look at either amending or replacing the ordinance we have; motion carried.

17. Adjournment. There being no further business to come before the Board the meeting was adjourned at 4:13 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jan K. Hansen, Recording Secretary

Approved:

Board Chair