

CENTRAL OREGON COAST FIRE & RESCUE DISTRICT

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

SEPTEMBER 21, 2023

1. **Call to Order.** The regular meeting of the Central Oregon Coast Fire & Rescue District Board of Directors was called to order at 5:31 p.m. by President Reda Eckerman. She explained that the meeting was being recorded and would be posted online within 24 hours following adjournment and the means of contact if desired.
2. **Pledge of Allegiance.** Done at preceding workshop.
3. **Roll Call.** Directors present were Reda Eckerman, Zach Aiken, Jon MacCulloch, Greg Dunn, and Rick Booth. A quorum was present.
4. **Approval of Minutes.** Moved by Mr. Aiken, seconded by Mr. Dunn, to approve the minutes of the regular board meeting of August 17, 2023, the executive meeting of August 3, 2023, and the workshop of August 12, 2023, as presented; motion carried.
5. **Citizen Participation.** At this time Mrs. Eckerman announced that there would be an Executive Session at the end of the meeting and any action to be taken would follow that meeting. The audience would have to leave for that session but would be notified when it ended and could come back for any action to be taken by the Board.

Jamie Harley addressed the Board while Todd Holt distributed to the Board paperwork which she said contained statistics she had acquired from various other fire districts. She wanted to address the day-to-day and long-term operations of the fire district, beginning with financial mismanagement. After accusing Wendy and Erich Knudson of profiting personally from their association with Information Station, and a number of credit cards available, she detailed her request for daily financial information from the District. She then addressed what she considered the lack of physical fitness of several firefighters and what she perceived as an inability to perform their duties, calling several of them obese. At this point Mr. MacCulloch objected to her personal attacks on individuals; she proceeded anyway to emphasize the need for physical fitness. She then discussed what she referred to as a culture of disrespect and blamed the lack of an agreement with Seal Rock on Erich Knudson and Chief Mason. She also said that Chief Mason had totally dismantled the volunteer program. Claiming the district is in shambles and Chief Mason needs to leave, she told the Board to step up or be recalled.

Susan Swander stated that she has been a resident for 34 years and has never seen the fire department run as well as it is right now. She wanted the Board to know she feels very safe in Old Town with Chief Mason and his crew and to ignore the speculations, rumors, etc. and to support the men and women who are keeping us safe.

Tamara Rodriguez, using her cell phone as a recording device, informed the Board that she had no faith whatsoever in a third party investigation and regardless of what happens change is coming. They will not go quietly; court claims are already being filed. Whatever the result of the investigation is means nothing to her. Mr. MacCulloch asked if she would have accepted the result of an internal investigation rather than an external and she responded that she would not believe any of them.

Susan Swander asked as a procedural question how long a person was allowed to address the Board; Mrs. Eckerman said normally 3 to 5 minutes, but that had not been imposed prior to Ms. Harley.

Discussion followed as to how to counteract misinformation, limit time to speak, and to inform the community of the costs of claims. The right to speak is part of the First Amendment.

6. Staff Presentations. Response Log. Chief Mason reported 70 calls for August, 47 to date in September, and a total of 613 so far this year. **Maintenance.** Maintenance Officer Erich Knudson said that 72 is back in service and the costs were less than expected. He is not happy with the results and has been taking pictures of some issues but overall everything is in good shape. **Administration.** Office Administrator Wendy Knudson asked for a decision on the policy updates discussed during the workshop. Moved by Mr. Aiken, seconded by Mr. MacCulloch, to approve the policy as reviewed; motion carried.

7. Volunteer Report. Mrs. Knudson said their group of 4 is halfway through the Academy and the cadets did good. Graduation is the 5th. The last Bingo of the year will be in October, as Erich will be gone in November and they don't do it in December. They have enough for another scholarship. They will be having two raffles online; the tickets will cost more as the prizes are two \$400 Visa gift cards. Capt. Knudson reported that the cadets are using power tools, in a controlled environment with instructors. He is planning to go to the school to give a presentation. They have sent out 5,500 flyers to recruit volunteers.

8. Union Report. None.

9. Financial Report. Mr. Quick reported total cash on hand of \$337,820 at the end of August. No current levy funds have been received as yet but prior year's levy receipts of \$8,085 are above budget. It is still early in the fiscal year but PPE is \$3,896, fuel is \$2,063, and vehicle repair was \$965. He did want to comment that the district budget is a little over \$1.1 million; Ms. Harley had claimed \$1.7 million. Moved by Mr. Aiken, seconded by Mr. Dunn, to accept the financial report as presented and to pay the bills; motion carried.

10. Correspondence. None.

11. Old Business. Streaming Equipment Purchase. Capt. Knudson had provided information on proposed streaming equipment and would like to get it underway. The cost is just under \$1,800; it would be mounted on the wall and have remote control. It is not in the budget and it was suggested it wait until taxes start coming in. Moved by Mr. MacCulloch to approve the purchase but not prior to the third week of November, seconded by Mr. Dunn; motion carried. **Boat Replacement.** Information was in the packet; consensus of the Board was to table action until next month and use the time for review.

12. New Business. FEPP Surplus Approval. Chief Mason reported that we had been awarded a Type III Heavy Brush Engine by FEPP if the Board approved. It is a returned military truck; he would like to send Capt. Knudson to check out the vehicle and if it passes his inspection to bring it back. It will give us another brush truck, valued at \$150,000, free. He will take paperwork and plates and bring it back if it is acceptable. Moved by Mr. Akin, seconded by Mr. MacCulloch, to send a representative to Yreka to test, inspect, and analyze the proposed wildland vehicle and if it passes inspection to bring it back; motion carried.

13. Chief's Report. Grant Funding. Chief Mason updated his report to inform the Board that we have been awarded the \$25,000 Ford Family Foundation grant he had applied for to use for the boat dock. The Oregon Seismic Grant is open now and due in December; he is working on the application. We received the \$6,000 ODF Fire Equipment Grant and he is awaiting receipt of the contract. He expects

the new tender we were awarded by OSFM to arrive by March; it will go to Tidewater. We received \$28,000 for Wildland Staffing. This week OHSU awarded us the \$15,000 balance needed to purchase the LUCAS device for cardiac arrest. The Volunteers were awarded \$6,000 for recruitment and retention and the balance of the hose from the STCC grant is on its way here to be installed. Several grants are still outstanding, but so far this year we have brought in about \$800,000 in grant money and equipment. **Action Items.** The boat information is to be reviewed. He contacted the County and we are unable to assess a transient/occupancy tax. Draft for building upgrades will be ready by November. Streaming equipment has already been discussed. **Surplus.** Waiting for final installation of new hose to be completed. Vacation was great.

14. President's Report. None.

15. Questions from the Citizens and Viewing Audience. None.

16. EXECUTIVE SESSION. At 6:33 Mrs. Eckerman closed the regular session and called for an Executive Session under ORS 192.660(2)(f) To consider information or records that are exempt by law from public inspection. She advised the audience that they could return following the session to hear any action that was being taken. The session included a telephone conference with Mark Wolff, investigator. No decisions were made during the session. At 6:57 p.m. the Executive Session was closed and the Board returned to the regular meeting.

17. Actions, if any, from Executive Session. Mr. MacCulloch moved that the Board release a statement to be read into the record and make a copy available as a media release and posted on the website, seconded by Mr. Akin; motion carried. Mr. MacCulloch moved that when a finalized report was received from the law office that it be released to the media and posted on the website; seconded by Mr. Akin; motion carried. Mr. MacCulloch read the Board statement into the record.

At this time Ms. Rodriguez, again recording on her cell phone, advised the Board that their actions and reports were unacceptable and to expect lawsuits and a recall.

18. Good of the Order. None.


19. Adjournment. There being no further business to come before the Board the meeting was adjourned at 7:18 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Jan K. Hansen, Recording Secretary

Approved:



Board Chair