

**LA PINE RURAL FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT
Board of Directors Regular Meeting
51550 Huntington Road, La Pine, Oregon
Meeting Minutes August 10, 2017**

Open Meeting

Director Cox opened the meeting at 9:00 a.m. and led the flag salute.

Roll Call

Directors Present
Directors Absent
Staff Present

Doug Cox, Bob Denend and Joel Witmer.
Jerry Hubbard and Larry South.
Chief Mike Supkis, Assistant Chief Dan Daugherty, Office Manager Bonita Johnson and Administrative Assistant Joyce Engberg.

Public Forum

Ponderosa Pines property owners Jeff and Marsha Harris was in attendance to discuss an alternate evacuation route in the Ponderosa Pine Subdivision. The proposed secondary evacuation route would pass through the Whitefish Cascade Timber land and exit utilizing Brooks Lane. Currently there is a multilane unimproved dirt road which would require some improvements which they are working to get estimates. The Harris' stated Deschutes County advised they had no involvement with the evacuation routes; it would be a local subdivision decision. The Harris' inquired if the district had any concerns or comments. They stated they were not asking for financial support but did want District approval and support for the project. Chief Supkis advised if the subdivision was a new development that two maintained access and evacuation routes would now be required by newer State codes. Director Witmer indicated he felt a second egress was an important community safety item and he would recommend the Fire Board support the effort. Director Cox indicated there was some concern in the neighborhood on Brooks Lane that this would become a year round, every day thorough fare and consultation needs to be taken with that road district (East Ponderosa Pines). After the discussion, the consensus of the board was for Chief Supkis to a draft a letter from the fire district that supports the project but lists both the benefits and concerns for a new road and second fire access and evacuation route in the Ponderosa Pine subdivision. The board will review the letter at the September 14 board meeting.

Approval of Minutes Regular Board Meeting July 13, 2017.
No changes or discussion.

Action: Director Denend moved to approve minutes of the July 13, 2017 meeting as presented. Second, by Director Witmer; the motion passed by a 3 – 0 vote.

Financials

- A.** The monthly Bills. Staff answered questions regarding expenditures and current revenue & expense statement.
- Director Denend inquired about:
 - Line 6235 Cafeteria Plan Admin. Fees. Inquired what the July expenses of \$352.50 was for. Staff reported it is administrative fees associated with a medical flexible spending account benefit for staff. Staff makes their own contribution but there is an annual renewal fee of \$250 and a monthly fee per participant that the district pays for administration.
 - Line 8105 Vehicle Breakdowns; 8115 Vehicle Routine Maintenance. Inquired about overall expense for vehicle maintenance and report documentation to identify which vehicle is worked on. Staff reported Integrity Auto sends invoices with vehicle model, year and license plate. Staff stated they will provide the Board a list of the district fleet and ID numbers to keep in their packet for reference.
 - Line 8120 Shop Tools and Equipment. Inquired about what was purchased for \$338.56 in July. Staff stated new batteries and bits for the power drills at each station.
 - Director Witmer inquired about:
 - Line 6220 PERS. He made a comment about a recent news broadcast stating the future of PERS and the reported increased costs to balance their budget for retirees. Chief Supkis stated the district has done well to moderate the cost impacts by planning ahead. On July 1, 2017, PERS did implement a large increase in employer contributions to meet long term PERS commitments based on current earnings rates. The district was able to offset that mostly by saving the previous two years PERS “surpluses”. The next change will be July 2019 whether it will be more or less will depend on legislature action or inaction and the earnings rates.

Action: Director Denend moved to approve monthly expenses presented from 7/14/17 – 8/10/17 in the amount of \$593,030.28. No further discussion or comments. Second, Director Witmer; the motion passed by a 3-0 vote.

Management Report

- A. Review and discussion - Call volumes, building permits.
- B. Monthly Alarm Reports and some notable incidents discussed.
 - Staff stated the run report presented was for the end of the fiscal year June 30, 2017. With vacation and new hire training staff is still entering the runs for July 2017 in the Fire Bridget program but should be caught up by the September meeting.
 - 7/29/17 there was 12 simultaneous calls (1 building fire, 1 vehicle fire, 2 unauthorized burns, 8 medical calls) Sunriver assisted with the medical calls.
 - SCMC building project started
 - Director Cox inquired on the La Pine City Water supply and ability to handle with new construction. Chief Supkis stated in the south part of the City where there are hydrants, the fire flow is at the minimum for new construction. At the north end, the system cannot make the State required fire flow, so that has stagnated new construction in that area. The City is working on a multi-million dollar plan to upgrade the water system. The City is in the grant funding portion of the project now.

Correspondence / News

- A. FY 2016-2017 Audit engagement - Barnett & Co CPAs
 - John Barnett and his staff is scheduled to begin the onsite visit for the 2016-2017 audit the second week of September.
- B. KTVZ – Shed Fire
- C. Bend Bulletin – La Pine Residence Destroyed by Fire
- D. KTVZ – Fire Destroys La Pine Area Home, Spreads to Brush
- E. Midstate LED rebate – Admin Bldg. Lighting rebate was received for the administrative office.

Old Business

- A. **MASA Benefit for Board Members.** At the July board meeting the Board took action to include MASA as an optional ground and air ambulance benefit available to all district members. Career staff has the option to deduct membership fees as a payroll deduction. The Board discussed adding this benefit for the active (five) Board of Directors and for the district to pay the premium of \$99 per year. After a discussion action was taken.

Action: Director Denend moved to add a MASA benefit, to be paid by the district, for the five-active Board of Directors. No further discussion. Second, by Director Witmer; the motion passed by a 3 – 0 vote.

New Business

- A. **Emergency Medical Services Reimbursement from Medical Providers.** The Board and staff discussed the District’s medical billing policy. Medical service, by the voters, is a fee

based service as much as possible and that is how the district has operated the last 30 years. The district provides only emergency advance life support stabilization and emergency transport to the closest hospital emergency department. This is to focus on the critical life-saving calls with limited community resources. Patients have the liberty and legal right to refuse service.

The district is seeing a more frequent use of the ALS paramedic ambulance, requested not by patients, but by medical providers who are choosing out of their own desire, or inability to, and/or for perceived liability reasons not to assess, diagnose and/or treat patients and instead request emergency transfer to the emergency department (which by law must accept them) by ambulance. Frequently this is happening when there is no life- critical emergent medical presentations and/or against the patient's desire. The patient then gets an expensive trip to and very expensive emergency department with no tangible medical benefit to the patient. The patient has lost their legal control of their own care. It also has resulted in an increase in complaints from patients that feel the system has taken advantage of them.

The district has been presented with a proposal to consider billing the higher medical care provider and or agency, rather than the patient directly, who initiates a 911 call emergency ambulance services when that agency is making the decision and has coopted the patient decision making rights for their own medical care.

After this discussion, staff was directed by Director Cox to research and to see how other agencies may be handling this issue. The topic was tabled for further consideration discussion.

- B. COCC Paramedic Field Intern Agreement.** Update for the annual agreement between La Pine Rural Fire Protection District and Central Oregon Community College for the Emergency Medical Services Paramedic Training Program/Paramedic Field Internship.

Action: Director Witmer moved to authorize staff to sign the Emergency Medical Services Paramedic Training/Paramedic Field Internship Agreement between Central Oregon Community College and La Pine Rural Fire Protection District. Second, by Director Denend; the motion passed by a 3 – 0 vote.

Special Meeting and Workshops - None

Good of the Order

- Station 103 update.
 - The new septic system has been installed and approved by Deschutes County.

- The roof on the addition is now complete and the roof on the main station has been repaired.
- Contractor is making progress and anticipated completion of the project in 30 days.
- Ambulance RFP
 - Two ambulances were ordered with delivery dates for one ambulance in the current fiscal year and the other in next fiscal year.
 - Staff has been in daily communication with Braun NW to answer questions. Staff is pleased with the interaction with them on this project.
- The new wildland engine has arrived and staff has planned a tour with the board of directors after the meeting.
- The 2017 student academy has started; there are seven new students.

Next Meeting – Regular Board Meeting – Station 101 – Thursday, September 14, 2017 at 9 a.m.

Adjourn Board Meeting – Director Cox adjourned the board meeting at 11:04 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
 Bonita Johnson
 Office Manager

Date Presented to Board and Approval _____

Board Secretary _____

Board President _____