

**LA PINE RURAL FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT
Board of Directors Regular Meeting
51550 Huntington Road, La Pine, Oregon
Meeting Minutes July 9, 2020**

Open Meeting Director Cox opened the meeting at 9:03 a.m. and led the flag salute.

Roll Call

Directors Present: Doug Cox, Jerry Hubbard, Larry South and Jim Landles.

Directors Absent by

Prior Arrangement: Joel Witmer

Staff Present: Chief Mike Supkis, Assistant Chief Dan Daugherty, Office Manager Tracy Read.

Public Forum

Present: Charla DeHate, CEO of La Pine Community Health Center
Dick Swails, Budget Committee Member

Public Comment None

Approval of Minutes from the June 11, 2020 Board of Directors Regular Meeting and Budget Committee Public Hearing

Action: Director South moved to approve the minutes of the June 11, 2020 Board of Directors Regular Meeting and Public Budget Hearing. Second by Director Hubbard; motion passed by a 4 – 0 vote.

Board Discussion

Director Hubbard thanked the staff for their work managing the budget, especially in the overtime line.

Financials

- A. Monthly Bills** Staff answered questions regarding expenditures and current revenue and expense statement.
- 5000 – Board question regarding no revenue showing for June property taxes received, staff responded that income was received on July 8.
 - 9600 – Staff advised that the District received the maximum amount of available grant funds in FY 19-20.
 - 6100 – Overtime was well managed this year. Chief commented that there will be an increase in this line during the next month as line staff is completing training, by shift, which was delayed by COVID-19 restrictions.
 - Line 6015 – Question regarding overage in this budget line; this was expected with Bonita Johnson’s retirement.
 - 6230 – Board noted there was no expenditure from this line in June. Staff responded that premiums are not paid in June however two months’ premiums are paid in July.

- 6960 – There was a question regarding this GEMT fee line which had no funds originally budgeted; Chief clarified the expense was not budgeted as it was an unknown at the time of the budget sessions and is a new line item. There was a Board budget resolution adjustment made last month due to the unanticipated funds received under GEMT and the CARES Act for some Medicaid transports.
- 8100 other – It was noted there was \$20,000 not expended.
- 8450 other – Director Hubbard commented nothing was expended from this line. Chief clarified that this “other” line and the 8100 “other” lines were new budget lines added to show the additional funds added to the budget as mentioned previously and balances the funds already expended in related categories such as PPE.
- 9935 – Director Cox commented the Mezsaros fund is growing, staff responded that part of this is due to the sale of the volunteer property. Additional training has been budgeted for this fiscal year as a result of the increase in this line and expected interest earnings.
- 9741 – While it appears that this line appears over-expended, it was due to a delay in delivery of new apparatus budgeted in a previous year. A journal correction will be made during the audit process.

B. Monthly Expenses by Vendor

No comments.

Director Cox asked how the fuel island is working. Staff responded good. A hose extension was added to the back fueling station, otherwise they are working fine. Concrete bollards need to be added to prevent damage to the solar power poles from snow plows and staff is working on obtaining those.

C. Monthly Expense Report

No comments.

Action: Director Hubbard moved to approve monthly expenses presented from 6/12/2020 – 7/9/2020 in the amount of **\$479,376.56**. Second by Director South. No further discussion or comments; motion passed by a 4-0 vote.

Management Report

A. Monthly Alarm Report.

- Discussion regarding the increase in rescue calls. Chief explained that this is largely related to more highway, and especially outdoor recreation traffic in the area, as shown in the rise in ATV accidents on forest service lands. There were three incidents involving major, multiple-system trauma as a result of ATV accidents where patients had to be transported by air. Staff feels this increase in activity is largely COVID environment driven - people are getting outdoors away from cities. Discussion followed regarding Highway 97 renovations. One option under consideration by ODOT is to expand the four-lane to just north of State Rec Road. Staff does not use the Vandeventer intersection to travel north on Highway 97 due to the traffic danger. ODOT is considering the addition of a stopping lane between the north and southbound lanes.

B. Multiple Alarm & Building Permit/Valuation Report.

- Discussion regarding continuing increase in multiple alarms at the same time. Chiefs have met with Air Link regarding recent challenges with the medevac service delays.
- Director South asked if staff knows what the two \$2,000,000 commercial building permits issued are for in the Sunriver area. Staff indicated they have not seen any building plan reviews as of yet. Director Hubbard noted the proposed employee housing in the Sunriver business park. This has now been approved by Deschutes County to move forward.
- General discussion regarding non developed lots owned by Deschutes County, Chief stated there has been a lot of work done to make the properties more firewise, although developing the lots has been difficult mainly due to water and sewer requirements.

C. Management and Activity Report

- Discussion regarding 6/10 Code 99 ROS. Code 99 is a non-breathing pulseless patient and ROS means paramedic restored those and the patient got to the hospital breathing and with a pulse.
- There was a question regarding how staffing was for 6/12 commercial structure fire. Chief Supkis indicated it was good. District had 13 in station on duty that night and 3 more came staff back on the general alarm recall including the Chief. Event went well because of initial deck gun knock down.
- General Board discussion regarding a major increase in calls to remote areas, including campgrounds. Chief responded there are many more people out recreating than in a normal year, including dispersed camping.
- Director Hubbard noted the rise in IOB calls. Chief stated most of these are legal warming fires, that scare neighbors who then call 911. Additional discussion followed regarding what constitutes a legal warming fire. Chief clarified that any engineered outdoor wood burning device or a permanent fire ring in a developed designated campground or on private property are legal with a permit on site; propane devices do not require a permit because they do not emit sparks, are typically off the ground, and can be turned off.
- The Board noted there were two broken windshields on apparatus in the same day. Staff said they were unrelated incidents and not known if a dash item or road debris were the culprits.
- Discussion regarding training items in the Chief's report, Chief provided an update on emergency vehicle and AO training. First-year recruits start their basic fire academy in August and second years' have their apparatus operator in early September.
- State Fire Defense Board Chief – Chief Supkis has been the Deschutes County Chief for the past two years; this is a rotating, voluntary position which helps coordinate resources among agencies and the Oregon State Fire Marshal during major emergencies .

Correspondence / News

- Chief has not had a response from St. Charles to the District's most recent correspondence. The January invoices have now been turned to collections and February is pending. St. Charles has offered to set up a meeting to discuss this matter with their senior officers, which the District is agreeable to, but St. Charles has canceled and has not followed up to date. The District is continuing the process of pursuing outstanding receivables for services requested and provided.
- Director Cox asked if the District has heard anything regarding the Burgess Road commercial structure fire. Staff responded the civilian who was threatening and interfered has been cited, but the District has not been informed of anything else. Fire investigation is complete, cause was welding activity. General discussion followed regarding the lack of news coverage in the area; this is due to the lack of reporting. The news outlets and media now receive most if not all their information directly from public agencies as well as the public at large. There is little or no independent reporting or follow up.

Old Business

- **Public/Private Partnership (PPP)**– a lay draft has been completed; Patrick Hannon, owner of CMT, has gone over the draft; CMT's attorney is to review it as well. Chiefs Supkis and Daugherty are attending an ASA meeting next week, where the Deschutes County Attorney will be present. Both the District and ASA look to that office for guidance on how such a partnership can happen and add resources for transportation needs in the area. Chief believes the District needs to do what is right for its citizens, including using private sector resources where appropriate. This agreement will not change any current resources, rather will add additional resources. There was discussion regarding on how the private sector and CMT have standing agreements with St. Charles whereby CMT bills the patient for the transport, and in turn St. Charles guarantees that CMT will be fully reimbursed within 30 days. Staff stated it is apparent the health care providers by their actions and comments have seen 911 dispatched resources as a free service. The end result of the PPP for citizens of the District and the community will be more resources able to provide overall better service available and sometimes at a lower cost. Dick Swails asked about the estimated financial impact to the District; Chief estimates a potential impact of approximately \$300,000 per year. CMT will need to ensure they have the resources available to meet the requirements of the ASA. Some larger agencies see private agency transports as a threat to their revenue stream and are resistant to allowing the partnerships, to the detriment of their taxpayers and citizens. If approved, the contract would expire when the District's ASA agreement terminates on June 30, 2028. There are clauses in the draft agreement which allow for modifications including early termination.
- **La Pine Community Health Center Appeal of Invoice 53120** – Chief Supkis requested **New Business Item La Pine Community Clinic Appeal – Invoice #53145 Call -# 2020-0934** be addressed along with this agenda item. Director Hubbard stated previous appeals have been granted, this time he feels the appeal should be denied. He expressed concern with lost revenue to the District. He

does not feel the appeals should be tabled, postponed, reconsidered or granted and should be denied at this time. Director South asked why La Pine Community Health Center (LCHC) does not pay La Pine Fire District as they do CMT. DeHate stated she was unaware there was any sort of arrangement, that LCHC does not have an agreement with CMT and has never paid CMT. Additional discussion followed regarding CMS billing guidelines that may be different for a private transport agency than a 911-dispatched paramedic unit including patient responsibility for the Medicare 20% coinsurance and whether this is different for a private transport agency. Chief stated that currently CMT can be called directly to transport however is not dispatched by 911, and those transports have different reimbursement guidelines with CMS – but payment is due – and often guaranteed by the medical facility. The transport provider must be paid so they can have the resources to continue. DeHate raised the question of how coinsurance responsibility is shifted from the patient? Chief stressed all agencies have to work together on the patient’s behalf in an honest, transparent manner, including the allocation and payment of resources used. Director Cox called for a Motion.

Action: Motion by Director Hubbard: I make a motion that La Pine Rural Fire Protection District decline the Appeal of Invoice 53120 and Invoice 53145. Second by Director South. Motion passed by a 4-0 vote.

- DeHate asked when the clock starts to tick for going to collections purposes; Chief stated payment is due now, however the District will allow six months from today before turning over to collections for non-payment.
- DeHate reported out on transports from LCHC to St. Charles ED. From June 11, 2020 to today there were 9 total transports – one by La Pine RFPD and eight by POV. Of those eight, two received gas vouchers, one was transported by Uber, and one by taxi.
- Dehate asked to provide a report on the June 18, 2020 EMS collaborative work group. In attendance were Patrick Hannon, owner of CMT, Bradey Holt, Operations Manager for CMT, Tammy Baney, Executive Director of COIC, Deschutes County Commissioner Tony DeBone, Mike Richard, Vice President of Operations of St. Charles Health System, Danielle Baughman, Manager of Clinic Operations at St. Charles Family Care La Pine, Tom Kuhn, Administrator of the Deschutes ASA Committee, Doug Kelly, Chair of the Deschutes County ASA, Chief Supkis and Chief Daugherty. It was a good meeting; Kuhn and Kelly agreed to hold a special ASA meeting on July 15 to determine if the ASA can provide something separate for La Pine to allow more maneuverability, such as with CMT. Mike Richards will gather data regarding the number of people in the ED from ZIP 97707 south to Crescent and east to Christmas Valley in order to provide data for the proposed emergency department. The group will meet again on August 27. Chief added that the big picture is to find a solution to being 35 miles from an ED. There is no other community in Oregon of our size with no ED or hospital.

New Business

- A. La Pine Community Clinic Appeal – Invoice #53145 Call #-# 2020-0934
Addressed under Old Business.

Special Meetings and Workshops

Strategic planning second workshop will be held August 5 at 9 a.m. at Station 101, brunch will be provided.

Good of the Order

- Facilities update: Chief Daugherty reported on progress with DKA Design. Conceptual design has been completed and they are on schedule. The engineers met with subcontractors last week and walked the two stations. The next step is to submit plans to Deschutes County for permit issuance. The goal is to have this piece done sometime after mid-August and before October. Bids will go out to contractors in October, and the hope is to begin construction by the first of 2021. Estimated construction time of 18 weeks. Crews will be in bunks in the training/board room during construction. DeHate offered the community room at LCHC for board meetings.
- Director Hubbard asked for follow-up on his grant request inquiry. Chief will research this. Hubbard also mentioned the Ford Family Foundation, which could potentially fund up to 50% of the project.
- Labor negotiations process will begin in January. District goals will be addressed with the Board after strategic planning. Chief stated a lot has been accomplished the last three negotiations - bringing pay and work place rules into the norm with the rest of the state. He believes the CBA is a good agreement and is working for both the District and Firefighters. He sees the next thing on the table is updating and managing sick leave appropriately.

Next Meeting

Regular Board Meeting scheduled at Station 101 – Thursday, August 13, at 9 a.m.

Adjourn Regular Board Meeting

Director Cox adjourned the board meeting at 10:40 a.m.

Respectfully Scribed and Submitted
La Pine Rural Fire Protection District
Administrative Staff

Date Presented to Board and Approval _____

Board Secretary _____

Board President _____