

LA PINE RURAL FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT
Board of Directors Regular Meeting
51550 Huntington Road, La Pine, Oregon
Meeting Minutes August 13, 2020

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

Roll Call

Directors Present: Jerry Hubbard, Larry South, Joel Witmer and Jim Landles. Director South arrived at 9:15 a.m.

Directors Absent by
Prior Arrangement: Doug Cox

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 July 9, 2020 Board of Directors Regular Meeting

Action: Director Witmer moved to approve the minutes of the July 9, 2020 Board of Directors Regular Meeting. Second by Director Landles. Office Manager Read noted the correction of action items, all votes were 4 – 0, as Director Witmer was absent. Motion passed on a 3 – 0 vote.

Financials

A. Monthly Bills Staff answered questions regarding expenditures and current revenue and expense statement.

- 6040 – Expense will be moved to the correct line – 8414.
- 6830 – Will be reflected to show the budget amount of \$2,000.00.

B. Monthly Expenses by Vendor

No comments.

C. Monthly Expense Report

No comments.

Action: Director Witmer moved to approve monthly expenses presented from 7/10/2020 – 8/12/2020 in the amount of \$501,959.10. Second by Director Hubbard. No further discussion or comments; motion passed on a 3-0 vote.

Management Report

A. Monthly Alarm Report.

- Discussion regarding increase in 'other situations' type calls. What are they and why citizens are calling 911 for these issues.
- Director Hubbard asked why monthly transport billing numbers were decreased from previous months. Staff noted there was personnel leave during the period and is being addressed with staff. This report heading has been edited to more accurately clarify how the number is arrived at.
 - *Director South arrived at 9:15*

B. Multiple Alarm & Building Permit/Valuation Report.

- Director Hubbard asked about the June \$4 million in commercial building permits shown for the area last month. Chief responded may be for resort upgrades on Center Drive in Sunriver but the district has seen no permit applications or plans. Directors thought it possibly be for employee housing. The District has not seen building plans for any of these projects to date.
- Director South asked for any information on the two commercial permits issued on Assembly Way, Chief responded the District has not seen any plans for the projects. However, there has been additional storage facilities going through the City zoning processes which may relate to those projects.
- Director Hubbard inquired as to status of the employee housing proposed in the Sunriver business park. Staff reported as far as the latest public reports the project had been approved (per land use) by Deschutes County Commissioners was able to move forward.

C. Management and Activity Report

- Discussion regarding the numerous Code 99 and ROS responses the past few months. What is a Code 99 and ROS? Staff reported a Code 99 is a non-responsive, non-breathing, pulseless patient. ROS is when the paramedics are able to restore a pulse and breathing and then provides emergency ALS transport.
- Discussion regarding July 3, 2020 water rescue call at Caldera Springs. This ended up being no action required by crews. General discussion regarding water and ice rescue in the area and local agencies' ability to respond - the District's, Sunriver's and the Sheriff's S&R. Chief referenced this month's Newberry Eagle article in which covered the district's water safety program. Enforcement of any personal flotation device requirement is difficult especially with rafts and paddle boards -one is not required to swim with a life jacket. The Fire District has no authority on the river, however does have a people don't float educational campaign each year. Deschutes County Sheriff has limited resources and their focus is more on motorized water craft and where there may be impaired operators.
- Director South inquired as to the ongoing engine emissions repair issue with medics. Chief responded that due to emission controls, the diesel motors begin to plug up and/or if one of the control systems fail the engines power down. This been happening at about 80,000 – 90,000 miles. This results in emissions systems needing to be replaced at a cost of approximately \$11,000 each. Future medic purchases will include looking at gasoline-powered engines which seem to be more dependable.
- Director Hubbard asked about painting the new bay man door at Station 102. Staff will put this on the facilities to do list.

Correspondence / News

- Discussion regarding the FEMA grant award received for \$22,800. It is to create a stockpile of PPE for use going forward with this current COVID pandemic challenge and even future pandemic events. Chief recapped current grant opportunities that have been submitted, including FEMA COVID reimbursement, personnel, and firefighter equipment grants, which are in still in consideration. There are also several smaller grant opportunities available through the state and other organizations that staff is working on.
- Discussion regarding LCHC appeals. Ms. DeHate elaborated that she wants a written Board letter outlining the reason for the previous denials. Chief reminded the Board actions are captured in the written Board meeting minutes and the Board is not required to provide written reasons for their actions and again reviewed Ordinance 2019.03 and the appeal process, noting staff provides a written response to the original appeal. Additionally, the Board's responsibility is to determine whether the appeal process has been followed and to determine whether if any new relevant information was provided after the initial appeal and District decision. Chief noted that it is solely the District's decision as to who is responsible for the bills for the 911 resource use; the Board's responsibility is to determine whether the appeal process was followed. Chief noted that there have been transports determined to be true emergencies by the District which were not billed to LCHC. Each call is reviewed to determine responsibility for the resource use. Of the 19 calls to the clinic, 12 were billed to LCHC and 7 to the patient, noting all 12 calls billed to LCHC have been appealed. Also included in this correspondence item are two new appeals from LCHC. It was agreed that the Board will have staff draft a letter to LCHC that the processes in the Ordinance were followed and the subject appeals were denied.
- Director South asked DeHate whether LCHC is considering any alternatives such as obtaining a vehicle to transport its patients; DeHate stated no, LCHC does not need a vehicle. There are options such as CMT and POV. She stated that in her opinion the calls to 911 were for unstable patients in need of ambulance transport. She referred to the recent ASA meeting and subsequent July 24 legal opinion from the Deschutes County legal department (received by the District on August 12, 2020 at 4:30 p.m. via email).
- Director Landles asked for clarification on why LCHC will not call CMT, to which DeHate responded CMT cannot transport a patient unless they meet the stable criteria set forth in the ASA. She further quoted the Deschutes County legal letter (referenced above) stating the opinion that the District "cannot subcontract emergency ambulance service to a third-party non-franchisee." Staff noted due to the receipt of the letter to the District from the County late yesterday and after packets went out on Monday the Board did not have a copy to review for this meeting. Chief stated since the opinion letter from one County attorney was drafted the ASA is now moving forward and currently being revised by County Counsel with County Commissioner support to clarify the language to remove the ambiguities being discusses and to bring into compliance with Oregon ASA Law and Federal anti-racketeering laws. Additionally, the bottom line regardless if there is thought to be another transport option or not is that is not an excuse of responsibility for paying for the requested service and using that service,

repeatedly. The District is asking only that the ASA allow the it the ability to add another resource to the 911 run card - which one would be seen as a benefit by any user. DeHate stated it is her understanding is that CMT cannot transport to the ER per the ASA, and LCHC is willing and ready to use that service as soon as the ASA allows it. Chief Supkis noted that the per the 2018 ASA franchise agreement La Pine Fire has provided an approval letter for ambulance transportation from any service to and from any medical facility in August 2018. The Clinic requested and received another copy in February of this year.

- Director Witmer stated the Board is unable to make a decision on the pending appeals until there is clarification of the ASA language. He requested staff contact CMT to obtain written verification that the agency can provide transport to the ER. Charla stated her understanding is CMT is able to provide interfacility transport and transports to other facilities, but not to the ER.
- Director Landles asked DeHate what her intent is regarding payment of the outstanding invoices. She responded her hope is the appeals will be granted because they cannot pay. She feels LCHC had no choice but to call 911 in each of these instances.
- Director Witmer closed the discussion by stating that the Board will take final action on the pending appeals after the ASA clarification is received.

Old Business

- A. Public/Private partnership – the draft agreement has been reviewed by CMT and their attorneys who currently have no issues with how it was drafted. There were some expressions of resistance from some in attendance at the recent ASA meeting that this change may open ASA franchises to private sector competition for 911 calls. However, Chief stated he feels the meeting ended on a positive note with all parties in agreement that the goal needs to be how to allow the partnerships and have the resources to best serve the community. The Deschutes County Commissioners have pledged their support. The District provided updated ASA language per the County’s request. The partnership agreement is still moving forward and looks favorable that it could happen. The ASA plan change will be that the franchisee will still maintain control, and no agency shall be forced to enter into a public/private partnership.

New Business

- A. La Pine Community Clinic Appeal – Invoices #53176 and #53158, previously discussed and tabled as noted above.
- B. Board Policy #100-06 – Discriminatory and Workplace Harassment Policy – part of the District’s annual SDAO Best Practices annual review. Updates include addition of language regarding inclusion of “respect and dignity” and who the law applies to, new Oregon law on sexual assault and inclusion of subtle and not-so-subtle behavior, encouraging reporting, revision of timelines, addition of follow-up procedures and external complaint avenues. The District receives credit for participating in the annual best practices review.

Motion by Director South to approve Board Policy #100-06, as updated August 13, 2020. Second by Director Landles. Motion passed on a 4 – 0 vote.

- C. Surplus Property – Radio Equipment – District declaring surplus unused Motorola base radio, metal radio frame, and duplexer box that were taken out of service a couple years ago when the district’s radio repeater sites were moved and upgraded with new equipment and donating to the local HAM radio operators’ group to be used in improving public safety

communications within the Central Oregon area, especially to the smaller agencies to the south. Chief disclosed that Jim Williams, who heads up that group, was one of the founding members of the District's Support Services Team and a past Board member.

Motion by Director Landles to declare listed radio property surplus and approve the transfer. Second by Director South. Motion passed on a 4 – 0 vote.

- D. USFS Mutual Aid and Cooperators Agreement – The current Federal administration has mandated that all previous Federal agreements which have been in place for many years now must be renewed annually. No changes have been made to the Agreement.

Motion by Director Landles to approve the Cooperative Fire Protection Agreement Between the La Pine Rural Fire Protection District and The U.S. Forest Service Deschutes National Forest. Second by Director South. Motion passed on a 4 – 0 vote.

- E. Accuity Letter to the Board – Chief asked for Board review and stated that with Board approval, staff will complete the questions regarding any changes to District processes during COVID-19. Chief verified that no staff worked remotely, however there was a provision in place to process payroll remotely should that have been necessary.

Special Meetings and Workshops

Director Hubbard addressed the online Board of Directors class offered by SDAO which would provide a 2% premium discount for best practices participation. Director Hubbard will participate. Chief will attend as well. Director Landles stated he will participate as well. There is no cost to the District.

Good of the Order

- Hazardous Forest Fuels Treatments. Chief referenced the photo in the packet of the large forest fire near Rosland Road and how the fuels reduction efforts was able to protect the forest and homes in the area.
- Director Hubbard stated the Upper Deschutes River Coalition received a \$150,000 grant in 2019 which was intended to assist reimburse seniors and low-income seniors and people with disabilities for costs associated with fuels reduction. Due to limitations in place as a result of COVID-19, \$70,000 was transferred to the UDRC reimbursement fund which will allow work to be done on any 140 homes in the area.
- Jim Swails asked about arson investigation on the recent forest fires as they have been reported suspicious in the media. Chief stated the District has no specific information on the investigation which is being carried out by State and Federal officials. The District has provided assistance to what information it has as per when we arrived. Of District concern is the dispersed and transient camping in the area, and the resulting fire and medical danger resulting from these compounds established on BLM lands.

Next Meeting

Regular Board Meeting scheduled at Station 101 – Thursday, September 10, 2020, at 9 a.m.

Adjourn Regular Board Meeting

Director Hubbard adjourned the board meeting at 10:33 a.m.

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

Date Presented to Board and Approval

Sept 10, 2020

Board Secretary

[Signature]

Board President

[Signature]