

LA PINE RURAL FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT
Board of Directors Regular Meeting
51550 Huntington Road, La Pine, Oregon
Meeting Minutes September 10, 2020

Open Meeting Director Hubbard opened the meeting at 9:00 a.m. and led the flag salute.

Roll Call

Directors Present: Jerry Hubbard, Larry South, Joel Witmer and Jim Landles.

Director 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
Courtney Ignazzitto, Executive Assistant of La Pine Community Health Center
Dick Swails, Budget Committee Member

Public Comment None

Approval of Minutes from the August 13, 2020 Board of Directors Regular Meeting

Action: Director South moved to approve the minutes of the August 13, 2020 Board of Directors Regular Meeting. Second by Director Witmer. Motion passed on a 4 – 0 vote.

Financials

A. Monthly Bills Staff answered questions regarding current revenues and expenditures.

- 5101 and 5104 –Directors noted increased revenue in EMS service fees and GEMT. Staff stated this was due to the increased billings going out and a periodic GEMT reimbursement.
- 7125 – Requested review of general supplies line as it shows no expenditures in the month of July.
- 8401 – Director Hubbard requested clarification of the training expense for ACLS and CPR certifications is it a one-time expense? Chief stated staff gets recertified every two years and it is a one-time expenditure in those years. Additional discussion followed regarding better patient outcomes as a result of ongoing staff training.

B. Monthly Expenses by Vendor

No comments.

C. Monthly Expense Report

No comments.

Action: Director Witmer moved to approve monthly expenses presented from 8/14/20 – 9/10/20 in the amount of \$399,981.39. Second by Director Landles. No further discussion or comments; motion passed on a 4-0 vote.

Management Report

A. Monthly Alarm Report.

- August transports increased as is typical for this time of year.

B. Multiple Alarm & Building Permit/Valuation Report.

- Staff reported that while August saw a statistical decrease in 2-alarm multiple alarms, there is a significant increase in 3 and greater simultaneous alarms indicating increasing call load.

2020 Student Reserves – Added Agenda Item

Chief introduced the 2020 Student Reserves. Present were Elijah Dodson, Paige Dye, Aaron Blanshan, Micah Brown, and Tobias Carleton. The Reserves recapped their first few weeks of training. Board expressed congratulations and appreciation to the new students. Chief advised that RV Villapondo was hired by Lake Oswego, and two other senior student reserves are finalists for career positions. Lake Oswego is a well-respected agency, and they have expressed their appreciation for the high level of training the District provides its students and that now have hired three. Discussion followed regarding the student program, success rates and cost to the District.

C. Management and Activity Report

- Director Hubbard asked about the Hermosa/Stellar fire. Staff responded this is not included in the current report as it occurred in “September”. This was a unique situation during a red flag event with strong easterly winds causing fallen trees and downed power lines, which resulted in several brush fires. Midstate is able to adjust their electrical circuit breaker system to trip quicker, which they did in for this wind event. Fire was controlled quickly by Wildland Engine 142 with a very aggressive initial attack backed up by COID units and a district general alarm - very likely saving area homes and other structures. District units were able to clear within forty minutes and is very fortunate not to be one of the big Oregon fires this week.
- Charla DeHate inquired about tree density near homes in Crescent Creek and the hazard they create. Chief responded that trees themselves if spaced, trimmed (no ladder fuels) and green, are not the fire hazard to homes. It is hardening the home from the wildfire spark storm that is becoming the most significant prevention take away that is coming out of recent big fires. Additionally, dried grass, juniper shrubs, and bark mulch against a structure is what communicates the fire to the home not necessarily trees. He suggested keeping a few feet noncombustible zone and then the trees watered. Also explained how ladder fuels under the trees can contribute to fire intensity danger. As far as neighboring property compliance, while there is state fire wise legislation in place in which WUI properties are to be maintained in a fire safe condition by law there is unfortunately no pre fire enforcement available - just education.

- Staff provided an update on the statewide fire situation and conflagrations. Due to lack of local mutual aid resources and all OSFM conflag teams (which are actually local resources on loan) are tapped out, the District has increased on-duty staffing significantly during this extreme fire danger and state wide emergencies. There will be an increase in overtime costs as a result. The District couldn't expect any mutual aid resources available to help with responses. Some Central Oregon agencies have dispatched two task forces to wildfires in other areas – one to Detroit, Oregon (Lions Head Fire) and one to Chiloquin (242 Fire).
- General Board and staff discussion on statewide wildfires and evacuation orders. Chief discussed how the La Pine area has improved its wildfire resilience and forest health in recent years which will help reduce the intensity of wildfires and improve survivability. This must be an ongoing process.
- Director Hubbard reminded everyone of the UDRC grant funds available for firewise work in South County. \$500 reimbursement per property owner as long as funds are available. Go to UDRC.Org for application information.
- Grant update: There are three FEMA grants in the process. One “pay it forward” COVID grant was received last month to buy extra equipment related to COVID needs and the next pandemic. Two FEMA COVID expense reimbursement grants have been received, and a VFA Forestry Grant (50% match) for eight sets of turnout gear was awarded. There is an SDAO securities and safety grant opportunity coming up.

Correspondence / News

- Discussion regarding Spikerman Court fireworks issue. District had received multiple complaints of illegal fireworks use at a weekend party at the residence on a Saturday night in August and letter sent to the registered property owner. The homeowner responded to the District's correspondence regarding the short-term renter's activities.
- Discussion regarding SDAO Fire District Directors' Academy. Voluntary on-line program and three levels of certificates available.
- There has been no further communication from OHA review on the records requested in August.
- Chief clarified correspondence items relating to clinic appeals (to staff, level 1) that require no Board action at this time. Staff includes all correspondence in the packet to keep everyone abreast of issues and details. Action items for the Board are placed in new business.

Old Business

- A. Public/Private Partnership for Facility Transports update – the draft agreement is on hold pending ASA language revision, which the ASA advisory committee is working on with District input. The County Commissioners are encouraging the ASA advisory committee to make action on this a priority.
- B. Discussion regarding Board of Directors letter that was requested by DeHate to La Pine CHC confirming the appeal process was appropriately followed. DeHate stated that while CMT can be used to transport stable patients, LCHC has not called on them for these transports

because the clinic has received grant funds which are used to provide taxi service, gas cards and other transportation options.

Discussion between the Board and LCHC staff continued, with LCHC staff stating that per the ASA they are not able to use CMT for the transport of unstable patients, regardless of whether the call was made by 911 or directly to CMT. DeHate claimed CMT has refused those calls in the past because their units are too far away, and have directed LCHC to call 911. Chief drew the Board's attention to previous correspondence with CMT and LCHC, included in the Board packets. This includes a letter from CMT that was requested last month as at that time the LCHC said CMT would not transport to the ER which CMT disputed and stated they had in the past but have not been called recently at all, along with previous email correspondence between the District and LCHC. DeHate stated that she was not aware until recently of the ASA and its stable patient language, and as a result did not have that knowledge in her previous correspondence with the District.

Chief agreed that no one was aware of the unclear and different interpretations of the new language in the ASA until this past Spring when the District proposed the PPP for help with 911 calls to the professional medical facilities. He stated that previously a PPP was never addressed, and that the purpose of the ASA is to have an orderly mechanism of providing 911 emergency ambulance service and to protect the franchise holder. As the franchise holder the District already has given CMT (and copies to the clinics) written permission to transport in writing as per the ASA in 2018 after the new ASA plan was adopted by the County. Additionally, there is now a recognition by the ASA Board and the County Commissioners that there is confusing language in the ASA documents which needs to be, and is being, corrected. DeHate shared her interpretation of discussions in the July meeting where the ASA advisory committee stated CMT could not transport an unstable patient, and claims CMT stated they were twice reprimanded for doing so. Director Witmer requested clarification that if CMT is called directly, they can transport an unstable patient as they are not currently dispatched via 911.

Chief advised stated law allows any state licensed ambulance to transport any patient if they are directly called especially if the ASA franchise holder has given permission as the District has done. What brought this new distraction to the forefront is when the district wanted to add CMT as a 911 PPP resource. Under the proposed revision to ASA language, all franchise holders would still maintain control of the franchise and determine what response mix, still meeting ASA response standards, is best for their community. DeHate requested the Board invite Tom Kuhn, Director of the Deschutes County ASA Committee, to a meeting to address specific points of the ASA. Witmer stated that CMT's CEO Patrick Hannon's letter did not address CMT's ability to transport a stable v. unstable patient, just that they could transport to the ER from the clinics as was discussed last month. Courtney Ignazzitto expressed concern that calling CMT and being refused transport only delays moving the patient out of the clinic. The Board then asked whether LCHC would call CMT for transport of an unstable patient. DeHate responded that yes, they would, if the patient could wait 45 minutes or more to be transported. DeHate stated all LCHC transports have been for unstable patients; Chief responded that the vast majority of the patients transported by the District from these professional medical facilities were stable – none were transferred to Trauma entry, Heart 1, Stroke 1; all had self-sustaining viable pulse and respirations and did not require emergency ALS intervention nor transported under code 3 conditions. The ASA standard is a franchise should provide an ambulance 90% of the time

within 45 minutes of a 911 call. Chief noted the ASA primarily concerns itself with the lay citizen requesting 911 and delivery of that service. In all the responses at issue with the clinics, while the patients needed care, they were already in the care of a medical professional. Chief stated the debate is who is responsible for payment of transporting these patients so the resource can be available, regardless if there is or was another transport option. The District's Ordinance makes it clear that as of January 1 it is the professional medical facility choosing to use 911 resources is responsible so there can be 911 resources available. Director South stated this is a learning process for all agencies involved, and pending the updated ASA language all agencies need to come to a determination keeping in mind what is best for the patient, the community, the facility and the District. Chief brought the Board's attention back to the pending appeals on the agenda and options available to the Board after review.

- C. La Pine CHC Board Transport Appeals – Staff requested Board review on the two appeals submitted to the Board level per the Ordinance and were table at the last meeting for careful review and consideration. Director Witmer stated CMT clarification is needed regarding whether they will transport an unstable patient. He also suggested an executive session so the Board could review the matter (District currently has appeals for transport payment under legal action). Board agreed that clarification directly from CMT would be helpful. Director Hubbard offered that has no impact on the current appeals. Chief stated that as rural medical providers, a professional medical facility needs to be able to care for a patient until transport resources are available. The intent of the Ordinance was to not to discourage medical providers to call for emergency ALS transport of a critical patient. However, the result now has been that every transport has been appealed. DeHate stated that per Hannon the call volume currently is not sufficient for CMT to dedicate a resource to the area. Chief brought the discussion back to Board action, under the Ordinance, on the pending appeals and to the Board's consideration was the process followed. The purpose of the Ordinance is to ensure resources are available for all transports by 911 resources.

DeHate stated the last invoice received (not part of this appeal) was for transport of a patient who was not even a patient of or in LCHC. Chief disagreed, referencing the paramedics documentation and that the LCHC had called 911 for the patient in the LCHC waiting room who LCHC did not provide care for and wanted them out of their facility.

Action: Director Hubbard made a motion to deny appeals on Invoices #53176 and #53158. Director Witmer stated he prefers to wait for clarification from CMT.

Roll Call Vote:

| | |
|--------------------------|----------------|
| Director South: | Aye |
| Director Hubbard: | Aye |
| Director Witmer: | Abstain |
| Director Landles: | Aye |

Staff will request confirmation in writing on whether CMT's ALS paramedics are willing to transport an unstable patient.

DeHate requested a letter from the Board documenting the denials of invoices #53158 and #53176. She also requested LCHC be allowed six months to pay on the above invoices; this was declined by the Board. Chief stated a letter will be provided to LCHC for the appeals denied today.

Director Witmer read aloud the Board letter drafted after the August meeting, all agreed it was appropriate. Chief will draft a similar letter for the denials today.

DeHate advised the Board and staff that Courtney Ignazzitto will be attending meetings on behalf of LCHC in the future and thanked the Board for their time.

New Business

- A. La Pine Community Clinic Appeals
 - a. Invoice #53189 – Calls #1337 & #1358

Action tabled. Board requested time to review and provide full consideration.

- B. Station 101 and 102 Alteration Project Updates

Station 102 & 102 alteration projects update – Staff directed the Board to documents in the packet. Staff reviewed the draft bid proposal. All plans have been submitted to Deschutes County. A response has been received regarding the station 101 project and staff is working through their recommendations including sprinkler renovation and structural work on an outside wall. Contractor negotiations are expected to move forward as scheduled.

Special Meetings and Workshops

None.

Good of the Order

None.

Next Meeting

Regular Board Meeting scheduled at Station 101 – Thursday, October 8, 2020, at 9 a.m.

Adjourn Regular Board Meeting

Director Hubbard adjourned the board meeting at 10:45 a.m.

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

Date Presented to Board and Approval _____

Board Secretary _____

Board President _____