

**LA PINE RURAL FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT  
Board of Directors Regular Meeting  
51550 Huntington Road, La Pine, Oregon  
Meeting Minutes October 8, 2020**

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

**Roll Call**

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

Director Absent by

Prior Arrangement:     Doug Cox, Larry South

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

Staff Not Present:        Assistant Chief Dan Daugherty – Responding on a structure fire.

**Public Forum**

Present:                    Courtney Ignazzitto, Executive Assistant, La Pine Community Health Center  
Dick Swails, Budget Committee Member

**Public Comment**        None

**Approval of Minutes from the September 10, 2020 Board of Directors Regular Meeting**

**Action: Director Witmer moved to approve the minutes of the September 10, 2020 Board of Directors Regular Meeting with one typographical correction. Second by Director Landles. Motion passed on a 3 – 0 vote.**

**Financials**

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

- 5104 – GEMT revenue received, complete for this FY.
- 6920 – Amount moved to September line.
- 9934 – Question regarding interest earned on Meszaros Trust FF Training Funds, accrued quarterly.
- 9935- Discussion regarding Meszaros Fund donations. All donations to the Fire District go into this training trust account per Board Policy.

- Staff clarification on entry of invoice dates process and how they show up on the reports.

Budget committee member Swails asked how revenues and expenditures are tracking year-to-date. Staff responded these figures are as projected for this moment in the FY, which are normally low as shown, and major revenue (taxes) start coming in after November 1.

#### **B. Monthly Expenses by Vendor**

Question on EMS supply – COVID grant items. Staff provide clarification that the District has received two types of FEMA COVID assistance grants. The first is for actual expenditures for EMS supplies and cost for actual past and current COVID mitigation. And the second for COVID/Pandemic PPE stock pile for future surges and or pandemics – thus the separate tracking even to the same vendor.

#### **C. Monthly Expense Report**

No comments.

**Action: Director Witmer moved to approve monthly expenses presented from 9/11/20 – 10/8/20 in the amount of \$415,813.85. Second by Director Landles. No further discussion or comments; motion passed on a 3-0 vote.**

### **Management Report**

#### **A. Monthly Alarm Report**

- Staff clarification regarding a new tracking line EMS reporting on the Monthly Alarm Report. New data line is being compiled as District goes forward.

#### **B. Multiple Alarm & Building Permit/Valuation Report**

- General discussion regarding EMS calls and new construction in the District. Board members concerned about the increase in transports.
- Question on what was going in on Hwy 97 near Drafter Road? Staff noted is planned as apartments and storage units. Preliminary information is apartments will be sprinklered. Discussion regarding potential much needed revenue (tax) increases as development is fortunately not within an urban renewal zone.

#### **C. Management and Activity Report**

- Board discussion on regarding the increase in Code 99 calls. Staff did not have a definitive reason. Possibilities could be COVID related, very sick people NOT regularly seeing their doctors, overdoses, and even seniors just home bound.
- Chief Supkis noted multiple alarms during the severe wind event on September 7 under extreme fire conditions. An immediate and aggressive action by our FF's along with a

coordinated response by multiple agencies mitigated the potential for this fire to become a major event for this region like was seen around Oregon that evening.

- Staff reported on the Code 99 responses on September 25 and 26. On both of these days, at least one of District's emergency ALS paramedics units were tied up transporting patients from both medical facilities. On 9/26, 911 dispatched paramedics to a Code 99 call at a residence near Station 101. Paramedics arrival was delayed as the medic from Station 101 was transporting a patient from one of the local medical facilities to St. Charles ER, and as a result the Code 99 patient had to wait for the paramedic unit to arrive from Station 102. This patient did not survive. Chief Supkis stressed the serious consequences of delayed responses to citizens calling for life saving ems or fire help and who have no other options due to an increased demand on the District's emergency paramedic resources from facilities where a professional medical staff is present and the patient is already under medical care. Courtney Ignazzitto commented that La Pine CHC's workgroup plans to attend the November Board of Directors meeting about this issue.
- Question for more details regarding a recent mud rescue at Wickiup. Staff noted it turned out well and the District's FF/medics are getting more operationally honed and the value and versatility of the rescue equipment and RDCs placed into service over the last couple of years along with annual training.

### **Correspondence / News**

- Staff noted all significant correspondence items are included in the packets including every correspondence regarding medical facility transports as all work through this issue. This is for Board review, background and full transparency. When an item requires Board action it is also placed in the business section of the packets and on the agenda.
- No Board questions on correspondence/news.

### **Old Business**

- A. Station 101 and 102 alteration projects – Staff provided an update on the project including modifications which have been approved by Deschutes County Building Official. There will be a pre-bid walkthrough later today, Chief invited Board members to attend if they wish. Needed fire safety sprinkler systems and egress windows will increase the project cost, guessing ten percent, however these are necessary code modifications and appear to still be within the allotted budget. Additionally, Board question and discussion regarding available water sources at Station 102, which is solely on well water. Staff stated fire sprinkler system being looked at will be self-contained residential style with own water tank, pump, and control. Could be a great demonstration project for fire safety sprinklers in rural non hydranted areas. The District had years ago looked into the closest municipal water system for a connection for station 102. That would be Sunriver Water at Vandever Ranch – but any possible extension is still years away. Sunriver Water first priority is to have sufficient capacity for its own development areas.

**B. La Pine Community Clinic Transports Appeals to Board – Invoice #53189 Call # 1337 and Call # 1358**

Chief directed the Board to the packets and written correspondences regarding this medical facility transport appeal for current status and background information such as the paramedics report synopsis included in the District's first response. There were no Board questions after review. Chief noted that CMT had also provided additional information requested since the last meeting - in that they would, and have transported, both "stable" "non stable" patients as they are a state licensed ALS paramedic ambulance as it was the question raised by LPHC last month and the Board tabled last month these appeals to hear directly from CMT.

**Action: Director Hubbard made a motion to decline the appeal of Invoice #53189. Second by Director Landles.**

Ms. Ignazzitto continued the discussion by providing LCHC's interpretation of the status of the patients at the time 911 was called. She stated LCHC feels that while the patients could have been transported by BLS, and LCHC is not requesting ALS service, if that is all the District can provide it is not LCHC's responsibility. She further stated LCHC does have other transport options available, however they are not able to provide services beyond primary care. She again stated again LCHC cannot use CMT.

**Action: Director Hubbard called for a vote. All in favor. Motion passed on a 3-0 vote.**

**New Business**

**A. La Pine Community Clinic Transports Appeals to Board – Invoice #16 – Call # 1592**

At this point Chief clarified the appeals process for all and the language of the Ordinance, which has no mention of "stable" or "non-stable" patient status and that whether a care facility can or cannot provide care for the patient is not an issue for the District or for an appeal. Additional discussion that per the Ordinance it is in the District's sole determination what qualifies for an exemption which the District has done when appropriate and with regularity. Staff reiterated how they review each billing before they are sent along with the paramedic's report and transport documentation. The Ordinance is about professional medical facilities making a unilateral transport decision, calling and using emergency 911 resources as a business practice, and now being responsible for that decision so District resources available to support the request. LCHC continued the reiterating their position on regarding ALS, BLS, stable and non-stable patient status. Ms. Ignazzitto stated clarification of the County ASA language will be helpful but that work is not done yet.

**Action: Director Hubbard made a motion to decline. Second by Landles. All in favor. Motion passed on a 3-0 vote.**

**B. La Pine Community Clinic Transports Appeals to Board – Invoice #17 – Call # 1651**

Director Hubbard made a motion to decline the appeal of invoice #17. Director Witmer requested time for discussion and clarification of the fact in this situation. Chief Supkis referred the Board to paramedic's synopsis and that the patient had stated he had his wife bring him to the LPHC for medical assistance for nausea related to chemo therapy, the clinic called 911 and patient was found in the LPHC waiting area. Ms. Ignazzitto stated that the patient transported from the LPCH was not seen by the clinic, he was in the waiting area, and they called 911 - stating it was by his specific request. Director Witmer noted that per the report and LCHC statements that it was unclear if the patient refused medical attention at the clinic or the clinic medical attention and/or why the patient themselves or wife did not call 911 directly - if that were their intent. But all facts point to the patient was not seen by a LPCH medical provider such he would move to grant the appeal base on that reasonable assumption.

**Action: Motion by Director Hubbard to decline or grant the appeal of Invoice #17. Second by Landles. After this additional discussion the Board granted the appeal on a 3-0 vote to grant.**

- C. Board Policy #100.02 – District Information Technology, Network, Computer, Social Media Board and staff discussion regarding policy revisions.

Staff presented an update of Board Policy #100.02 that was last updated in 2012 to keep up with ongoing technology and recommended best practices. Board stated had no issues after review but would like all present to vote on this policy update.

**Action: Consensus deferred to the November Board meeting.**

### **Special Meetings and Workshops**

- A. Board Strategic Planning Workshop – Wednesday, Oct 14, 9am. It was agreed this will move forward if all Board members can be in attendance.

### **Good of the Order**

- A. Web site use report – increased use by mobile devices. Chief stated that traffic indicates part of the increased use was due to the wildfire events in Oregon.
- B. Fall Facility and Equipment Inspections – Thursday, Oct 29, 9am. Some SST members will be in attendance.
- C. Director Hubbard proposed that staff and Board consider grant writing discussions with Blake Jameson as the Chief is currently the District's only main grant writer and the District should have a succession plan in place as being successful with grant opportunities has been

very beneficial to the District and community over the last decade. There was consensus on this suggestion and staff will follow up with Blake.

**Next Meeting**

Regular Board Meeting scheduled at Station 101 – Thursday, November 12, 2020, at 9 a.m.  
Director Witmer stated he will not be able to be in attendance.

**Adjourn Regular Board Meeting**

Director Hubbard adjourned the board meeting at 10:23 a.m.

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

*Date Presented to Board and Approval*

NOVEMBER 12, 2020

*Board Secretary*

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*Board President*

