

Approval of Minutes from the April 8, 2021 Board of Directors Regular Meeting

Reviewed, no comments.

Action: Director Cox moved to approve the minutes of the April 8, 2021 Board of Directors Regular Meeting. Second by Director Swails. All in favor. Motion passed on a 4-0 vote.

Financials

Monthly Expenses by Vendor

Reviewed. No comments.

Monthly Expenses Paid

Reviewed. No comments.

Action: Director Swails moved to approve monthly expenses presented from 4/9/21 – 5/13/21 in the amount of \$606,252.74. Second by Director Hubbard. All in favor. Motion passed on a 4-0 vote.

Monthly Revenue and Expenditure Statement Staff answered questions regarding current revenues and expenditures.

- 5101 –EMS Revenues – Director Swails asked about the increase in April revenue, staff responded that \$33,000 was received in April from the VA. Chief stated current projection is to finish the year within \$10,000 of last year’s revenue projection as was reported at the recent budget meeting. With unanticipated tax revenue received, this line needs to come in just under \$800,000 to balance the budget which is expected to happen with the additional funds received from the VA and GEMT. Expenses are tracking as projected.
- 5104 –GEMT Revenue – Director Hubbard asked if the amount received was for this year, staff responded it is for SFY 2019. SFY 2020 in the amount of \$140,000 is expected to be received in the next few days, this revenue was not expected to be received until the next fiscal year.
- 6200 – Employee Maintenance – Director Swails asked why April was an abnormal month, staff responded that due to the 3 payrolls in April and October, payroll and associated personnel costs will always be higher in those months.
- 6960 – GEMT Agency Fees – Director Swails inquired about the expense, staff responded that because we have an additional payment coming in, there was also an additional Agency Fee that needed to be paid to complete the filing.
- 7300 – EMS Supplies – Director Hubbard inquired about this line which is at 113% of budget. Chief responded the District spent an additional \$20,000 on Covid-related supplies, most of which was covered by grant funds. There will be a resolution presented next month to move funds from the Contingency line as needed.

- 8401 – EMS Training – Director Hubbard asked what ACLS stands for. Chief Daugherty responded this is Advanced Cardiac Life Support.

Management Reports

Monthly Alarm Report

- Chief Supkis noted the continued increase in call volume, in particular transports as compared to last year.

Multiple Alarm & Building Permit/Valuation Report

- Chief Supkis stated multiple alarms continue to be top concern for providing critical emergency services. Last year to date there were 106 multiple simultaneous alarms to date, and this year to date there have been 156 - meaning a fifty percent increase in delayed arrivals. With a capacity of two crews, the demand is exceeding capacity which continues to grow and stress District resources. Director Cox noted one twenty-four-hour period of thirteen calls, and fourteen days where there were eight or more calls in twenty-four hours. The crews are doing an amazing job of responding and getting crews where they need to be. Director Landles agreed this is a strain not only on resources but also on staff.
- April building permits were almost \$8 million residential and \$3.5 million commercial. Chief noted a discrepancy in the reported numbers, staff will review and correct. Director Swails asked if the \$3.5 million is in the Urban Renewal District, Chief responded no, this project is outside that area and as a result no district taxes will be redirected to urban renewal. Much of the residential building is taking place in the new subdivisions in the core area of La Pine and at the north end of the district

Chief's Report

- Director Hubbard asked about the two alarms on Golden Astor on the same day. Staff responded there is no rhyme or reason for this phenomenon of neighbors having a bad day on the same day.
- Code 99 on April 17 on Ammon Road – Chief reported this was a full code with no ROS. Last year there were 35 of these calls, this month two or three, last month about six. Director Cox asked if these could potentially be Covid-related with people not wanting to go to the doctor. Staff responded this is definitely possible, also with more people staying home there are more contributing factors such as substance abuse or people not seeing their medical providers for regular ongoing visits, as well as an aging and less healthy population. District crews are at 100 percent for scanning patients into Heart, Stroke and Trauma systems.
- Code 99 air evac from Station 101 on April 28 – Patient was stabilized by crews so they could be transported by air. Air crews will not perform CPR in the air so a patient must be stabilized in the field by our crews before air transport. Director Cox asked how the new airways are working, Chief responded this new alternative airway is just beginning to be

used following staff training by Dr. Eschelbach. Paramedic Brett Hulstrom reported that they are working well, are effective at maintaining airways, and most central Oregon agencies are using them. Chief Daugherty reported that crews are working through a few issues and he expects to continue seeing good results.

- April 21 – two mutual aid calls to Sunriver. Sunriver Fire had three calls within an hour which is extremely unusual for that agency. Crews were able to switch to the Sunriver communication system with no trouble. Chief reported that Sunriver normally responds to our frequent mutual aid requests, so it was good to be able to provide service back to them.
- All Staff Training – Chief Daugherty reported that it went well, attendance was good and the training enhanced the ALS skill sets of staff, especially for pediatric patients.

Correspondence/News

A. Captain Pautz – retirement

Captain Pautz is retiring after twenty-six years of service to the District. Chief Supkis reviewed the testing process to fill this position. This was an expected event, and a testing process will be held to select the candidate best suited to promote from within to fill the role. While there are differences in experience levels, the skill level is top-notch with all staff. The testing process is expected to benefit all who apply because all applicants will all come away with a better understanding of the position and all that it entails. Recruitment will take place later in the summer to fill the firefighter/paramedic position first then the captain's promotional test.

B. Governor Brown; State Legislators – American Rescue Plan Act Funds

Letters were sent to the governor, state senators and representatives requesting funding.

C. Tom Kuhn – ASA complaint from St. Charles

D. Senators Merkley; Wyden – Congressional Directed Spending

E. State Legislators – American Rescue Plan Act funding request

F. Wise Buys – FireFree

G. KTVZ – St. Charles threatens La Pine clinic closure

H. Bulletin – La Pine Fire District charges for ambulance

I. KTVZ – Rekindled burn pile

J. KTVZ – Fire damages log home

Old Business

A. Update Station Remodel Project

Chief Daugherty stated the project is moving closer to completion; the sprinkler system is 102 is being completed. Working on the punch list for 101. Crews are moving back into dorm spaces. Work is being done on the speaker system. The goal is to wrap up the project this month, and even with additional work the project will still wrap up under budget.

B. Update County ASA

Additional PPP Resources for Interfacility Transports – Chief Supkis reported the District has reached a tentative verbal agreement with an agency to provide this very focused service, with the ability to provide transport in a cost-effective manner during business hours of 8 a.m. – 8 p.m. Monday – Friday. The agency is a State licensed ALS ambulance service provider. Staff is working on a final written agreement hope it will be presented to Board at the June meeting. Chief Supkis noted the board has already looked at proposed drafts and the final needs to go to Deschutes County Board of Commissioners per the County ASA. This agreement would not go into effect until July at the earliest.

The agreement will be a game changer for everyone involved as it will help provide resources for facility transports, lower the cost to users and allow District resources to be more available to respond to the most critical calls.

Charla DeHate – Asked whether the agency will provide a unit in La Pine. Chief stated that the goal is yes, however they also provide service to other areas and agencies, so there will be times that while they may not be available immediately, they will be able to respond with the County ASA response time guidelines. The agency will be an additional unit on the run card, and District staff and 911 will determine which resource is the most appropriate to respond and transport. Transport billing will be done by whichever agency (District or PPP provider) provides the service.

Robin Adams – Asked who makes the decision regarding acuity. Chief responded that initially it is 911 and trained emergency medical dispatchers, and once the district responds it is up to the district paramedics to reevaluate.

Chip Horner – asked whether the agreement will incorporate other ASA changes regarding what constitutes an emergency and who makes that decision. Chief responded that questions actually become null and void because the new ASA plan and the PPP agency can provide emergency ALS service. In addition, the new District Ordinance #2021-01 negates the emergency v. non-emergency determination for cost recovery, and as the District Ordinance #2019-03 has been repealed as of July of this year. Director Swails asked if the clinics will be expected to chip in. Chief responded there are several agencies in Oregon where the service provider has an agreement with the medical providers to ensure adequate cost recovery. This would be between the transport provider and the medical clinic. The transport provider has previously had a service agreement(s) with local medical provider(s), but currently does not. Charla DeHate clarified that the previous agreement was for non-emergency transfer. Chief agreed yes, this was the case. He also clarified that when a medical provider calls 911 that the District still has the responsibility to determine the most appropriate care and transport for the now 911 patient.

Rex LeSueur – Stated he is surprised that the PPP agreement will not cost the District any revenue and the district must have run a profit loss analysis. If there are fewer runs, it should result in less revenue. Chief Supkis responded the PPP will be revenue neutral to the district as that the budget is based on prior year numbers and the district does not count future potential revenues. New district resources cannot be added without additional revenue to support and the medical facilities have to date refused to pay for the transport services they demand through 911. The bottom line is transports were never a revenue gain for the District and many transports are being subsidized by taxpayers if the full cost of

the transport is not recovered. As a result, increased calls may generate more revenue but the nowhere the cost of the additional resources needed and district has not been able to add. Chief stated the real crisis is when there are no available resources to respond to a critical 911 call in the community.

C. Update on grant applications

AFG grant has been submitted for PPE; SAFER grant has been submitted to fund a lieutenant position; SDAO grant has been submitted for a summer intern; OSFM communities at risk grant in the amount of \$34,000 with no match has been approved, which will provide funding for additional wildland gear; American Rescue Act request for funds has been submitted; Congressional Directed Spending request has been submitted in the amount of \$650,000, funds would be directed to the District's EMS program.

D. Update on P25 radio system – Added Agenda Item

A workgroup is being formed and tasked with determining how to onboard to the new system. Staff will consider additional work and funds needed and report back on how best to implement. The District will most likely operate on a dual system in order to continue being able to communicate with agencies that are only on the legacy system.

New Business

A. Oregon Secretary of State – Audit corrections

Chief reported that in FY 20/21 funds were received and expended from the Capital fund which had not been appropriated to an expenditure line. Letter to the State of Oregon Audits Division addressing this deficiency and corrective action taken.

Action: Director Hubbard moved to approve the letter to the Oregon Secretary of State dated May 13, 2021, regarding deficiencies and corrections in the FY 20/21 Audit. Second by Director Swails. All in favor. Motion passed on a 4 – 0 vote.

Appeals (Ordinance 2019-03)

- A. La Pine CHC appeal to the Board invoice 73 - call 0487
- B. St. Charles appeal to the Board invoice 68 – call 0406
- C. St. Charles appeal to the Board invoice 68 – call 0409
- D. St. Charles appeal to the Board invoice 68 – call 0436
- E. St. Charles appeal to the Board invoice 68 – call 0437
- F. St. Charles appeal to the Board invoice 68 – call 0439
- G. St. Charles appeal to the Board invoice 74 – call 0471
- H. St. Charles appeal to the Board invoice 74 – call 0493
- I. St. Charles appeal to the Board invoice 74 – call 0496
- J. St. Charles appeal to the Board invoice 74 – call 0498
- K. St. Charles appeal to the Board invoice 76 – call 0506
- L. St. Charles appeal to the Board invoice 76 – call 0562
- M. St. Charles appeal to the Board invoice 76 – call 0572

N. St. Charles appeal to the Board invoice 76 – call 0622

Director Hubbard suggested all the appeals be deferred to a future board meeting, Chief Supkis stated should be addressed at the next meeting in June. Chief clarified for the benefit of those in attendance that a new form due to the very recent legal review in order to more thoroughly document the Board process in reaching decisions on appeals. Board members got this new form today and thus may not had a lot of time to review along with each appeal.

Action: Director Hubbard moved to table consideration the pending appeals to the June board meeting. Second by Director Cox. All in favor. Motion passed on a 4 – 0 vote.

Chip Horner asked to speak regarding the appeals and then started to read St. Charles court filings and about a recent Court ruling and stated that St. Charles had filed a suit alleging the Board's actions were unconstitutional. Chief Supkis stated that St. Charles' legal matters were not part of the board meeting agenda and no request for comment was made during the Public Comment period of the meeting. Chief noted the Board could choose to let Mr. Horner speak or go on with the agenda. Director Hubbard asked Mr. Horner of his interest and intent and noted this item was not on the agenda. Director Hubbard asked the Board for a consensus of their desire and it was to go on with meeting agenda. Mr. Horner asked that the record reflect he attempted to offer a statement and the Board elected not to hear it.

Special Meetings and Workshops

None.

Executive Session

Will be scheduled by staff.

Good of the Order

A. Spring Facilities, Apparatus & Equipment Inspection Report

Facilities looked good, especially apparatus. Sprinklers not yet in service and there were a couple of smoke extinguishers not working and were replaced. Special recognition to the students who worked especially hard at 103 organizing and cleaning, noting even the broom closet had all the tools hanging in the same direction. Great attention to detail. One exit light needed to be replaced and was.

Director Hubbard brought up the issue of 103 does not have an emergency generator and is not in the not currently in the Capital Budget. Director Hubbard stated there is a pre-mitigation grant available which he forwarded to Chief for consideration.

B. Fire free weekends May 22- June 5

No comments.

Director Cox asked how Sue is doing. Staff reported she continues to improve and expects to return to work on May 20, 2021.

Adjourn Regular Board Meeting

Next Regular Meeting and FY 21/22 Budget Hearing: June 10, 2021.

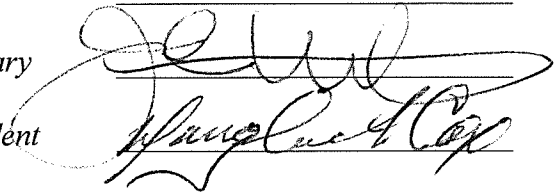
Meeting adjourned at 10:12 a.m.

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

Date Presented to Board and Approval

Board Secretary

Board President

The image shows two handwritten signatures in black ink. The top signature is for the Board Secretary and the bottom signature is for the Board President. Both signatures are written over horizontal lines. The Board Secretary's signature is more stylized and cursive, while the Board President's signature is more legible and appears to be 'Sue Cox'.

La Pine Rural Fire Protection District
Budget Committee Meeting
51550 Huntington Road, La Pine, Oregon
May 5, 2021

In accordance with current COVID 19 social distancing requirements, the Budget Committee Meeting was held at the La Pine Senior Activity Center, 16450 Victory Way, La Pine OR 97739

Open Meeting Budget Chair, Dick Swails, called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. with the flag salute.

Roll Call

Budget Committee Members:

Directors: Doug Cox, Jerry Hubbard, Jim Landles, Larry South, Joel Witmer.

Budget Committee/Citizens: Jim Williams, Robin Mirrasoul, Ken Johnson, Dick Swails and Mike Lee.

Staff: Mike Supkis, Budget Officer/Fire Chief; Dan Daugherty, Assistant Fire Chief; Tracy Read, Business Office Manager; Joyce Engberg, Administrative Assistant.

Guests/Public: Creagh Williams, Bonnie Cox, Robin Adams, Rex Lesueur.

Minutes April 21, 2021

Will be presented at June 10th Board and Budget Approval meeting. No votes were taken or budget decisions made at the April meeting - proposed budget presentation.

Open Discussion / Budget Review

Budget Chair Dick Swails opened the budget discussion stating he would entertain questions or comments for each line item, page by page beginning with page 1.

- **General Fund Resources**
- **5101 – EMS Cost Recovery** – Mike Lee inquired about the \$50,000 less than projected. Chief Supkis responded the shortfall could be closer to \$100,000 due to the medical clinics not paying for transports and delayed federal government and VA payments.
- **5200 – FireMed Memberships** – Director Witmer inquired why there was an increase in FireMed when there past few years been in decline. Chief Supkis answered that although there has been a steady decrease the last five to seven years, there appears to be a revenue rebound this past year. The line item is typically built on the previous year's income.

- 9924 – Meszaros Fund – Director Hubbard noted the fund had \$160,000 in it since the sale of the volunteer clubhouse and stated it would take eighty years to use up two percent per year for training. He suggested temporarily loaning that money to the operating fund. Chief Supkis responded the fund was set up many years ago to honor Mike Meszaros, a volunteer EMT. The fund was set up as a perpetual trust fund that, although legally in the districts control, belongs to the volunteers. The intent when created was it was to be used exclusively for training, with the hope to keep the principal intact and use the interest for training. Having these funds in the bank does help the District avoid taking a TAN loan to cover operating expenses for the first four months of the budget year. Chief Supkis recommends not using the trust for other than the original intention.

Dick Swails inquired if it is permissible to borrow from the trust fund. Chief Supkis responded yes, as long as it is correctly documented. The funds sit in the same state account as all district funds and are separate on the ledger. The memorial fund was created by the Board and is a board policy, not a legal agreement. The Capital Fund is more regulated since it is taxpayer funded and can be borrowed against under strict time limit and conditions.

- **Personnel Services**

- 6026 – Retiree Contract Back – Director Hubbard inquired if District no longer saw a need for that line item as it is proposed at zero funding. Chief Supkis responded it was there last year in case the District needed to bring the retired Office Manager back for additional training of new manager, but there was no need and funds were not used.
- 6030 – FireMedics/Line Staff – Director Witmer inquired about the almost \$12,000 increase over previous year since there was zero COLA (cost of living adjustment) increase built in. Chief Supkis responded it is for increases in PERS, health insurance (7.65% increase) and step increases (benchmark anniversary increases). Director Witmer noted the union negotiations were still going on and there most likely will be an increase. Input was requested on how to plan for this amount. Chief Supkis responded it would best be covered by the contingency fund. He also noted that for every one percent increase in COLA it will add \$40,000 more to the personnel budget.
- 6221 – PERS Employer Contribution – Director Hubbard inquired if staff is comfortable with the amount proposed. Chief Supkis responded yes, that’s the number Tracy has calculated – she has created an algorithm to project accurately.
- 6236 – Workers Comp Insurance – Director Hubbard inquired if the recent crew member injury will affect the District’s Workers Comp rate. Chief Supkis responded currently the district has a low claims rate and insurance rate so that it may impact workers comp but next year’s budget, especially considering the current crew member claim and also with the recent injury of the Billing Specialist being hit by a truck as she walked to Post Office.

Director Landles inquired if the at-fault driver’s insurance would cover the costs, and Chief Supkis responded hopefully so, but that is up to workers Comp to recover and if so that will help the district’s future rate.

- 6243 – Immunizations – Director Hubbard inquired how District is paying for COVID tests and immunizations. Chief Supkis responded the district does not and the federal government pays for

all COVID-related testing and immunizations; This line is for the District pays for other mandatory vaccinations not covered by health insurance.

- **Materials and Services**

- 6305 – Legal Fees – Ken Johnson inquired what the legal fees were for. Chief Supkis responded for union negotiations and this year civil suits brought from the health care clinics. The District may run short on this line, and have to draw from the contingency fund.

Chairman Swails inquired if the suits are based on loser pay. Chief Supkis responded the District's legal counsel has stated all options may be on the table.

- 6420 – EMS Billing Software Support – Director Hubbard asked why the line is going away (not funded). Chief Supkis responded the District is now using Tactical Business Group for EMS billing services and they are picking up that cost, as well as percentages of others such as credit card fees and postage. The Billing Specialist in the office will have reduced hours and that helps cover the new Tactical Business costs. Chief Supkis noted that the District already had a great recovery rate on claims before, and is waiting to see how this new company compares.
- 6505 – Conferences (Directors) – Director Hubbard suggested the amount be reduced to \$2,000 and only send new directors to one conference this year. When times are tough, that is a number that can be cut. Chief Supkis responded the Board can decide whatever they want, but there will always be new directors who will benefit from training, and whatever is not spent is rolled over to ending fund balance. Chairman Swails inquired if \$5,000 was enough to cover the training for new directors. Chief Supkis responded yes.
- 6705 – New Hire Expense – Director Landles inquired if the amount varies from year to year. Chief Daugherty responded when a crew member retires it is used for advertising in hiring a new firefighter, which is happening this year. Some years it is not used at all.
- 6685 – GEMT Cost Report Preparation – Ken Johnson asked Chief Supkis to explain the report preparation cost. Chief Supkis responded that GEMT was approved in 2014 or 2015 when the state legislature petitioned the federal government for additional reimbursement when transporting a Medicaid patient. The District hired Blake Jamison, who developed the program for Oregon, to prepare and submit the report for the District. He legally maximizes the amount due the District and receives a percentage-based fee and that is this cost.
- 6920 – Credit Card Service Fees – Director South inquired why was amount was reduced by 65 percent. Chief Supkis responded that much of that cost was being absorbed by the District's use of Tactical Business Solutions for EMS billing services.
- 7005 – Office Supplies – Robin Mirrasoul expressed concern that this line is proposed the same as last year about rising costs and shortages of office supplies that are being talked about and will continue into the coming year. Chief Supkis responded the District budget proposal are based on projection what is known more than what could happen. When District knows there will be an increase, it bumps up the line item. Otherwise, it uses contingency to cover cost that may come. Keeping line items at known amounts helps to the district not overspend. It also helps trigger the Board to review when line-item percentages are reached, and thus Board can direct how District proceeds. Robin agreed with the answer.
- 8413 – Individual Training – Director Hubbard noted much of staff is not using their \$300 per year

and can amount be reduced from \$20,000 to \$10,000. Chief Supkis responded if crews saw it as cut to their training opportunities, it would be concerning. This a rollover bank that employees are counting on, so staff can save up over several years to attend a major training opportunity. When the country opens back up, use should increase. There is an extensive software program called Target Solutions that manages Training, Fleet Maintenance and Scheduling, that the line staff really wants but the proposed budget did not have room for. Chief may offer them the opportunity to use a portion of these training funds for implementing the first year of Target Solutions. Chief Supkis also noted there will be a need for succession training as we start to see some retirements of long-term crew members.

- 8805-8830 – Administrative Staff Training – Director Hubbard proposed cutting all administrative staff training lines from \$1000 to \$500 due to budget issues. Director Witmer noted the Board’s position has always been very pro-training for line staff and feels it’s equally important to support administrative staff training and does not want to see those line items reduced, even if they’re not used. Chief Supkis noted a line reduction will not damage administrative staff feelings - there are often online trainings they can attend and that saves hotel and travel costs. The overall line of 8800 can be shared. Director Witmer stated administrative staff is equally valued and supported. Decision was made by the budget board to drop those line items by fifty percent.
- 9450 – Contingency – Director Hubbard proposed changing from \$100,000 to \$210,000 due to union contract negotiations and legal funds. Chief Supkis stated the board has the ability to make budget changes up to 15% without reconvening a budget process. The staff has to go to the board to request moving any of the contingency fund to expenditure lines, and if over the 15% amount a full budget amendment process (budget board, publications, and hearing) has to occur.

Ken Johnson inquired where is the contingency money coming from. Chief Supkis responded from the current Fund Balance. The District is getting very close to the needed carryover funds from July 1 to November and when taxes are first paid, and is already planning for delaying purchases until November whenever possible. Ken noted the fund balance line was already is getting very close to that minimum requirement and the propose budget already reduce that by \$203,257.

Director South inquired if the Chief was comfortable leaving the contingency fund at \$100,000. Chief Supkis responded no, with the union negotiations still going on and legal fees as the district defend itself from the clinics, it will not likely cover those needs. Also, not comfortable with a proposed budget \$203,000 in deficit or more. People dial 911 because they need a critical often lifesaving service and do not care about budgets. The missing piece is ambulance revenue. District’s collection rate is stellar but reimbursement rate is less than twenty percent of the district’s cost and billed charges.

Chairman Swails inquired how low did the General Fund Balance get in the past fiscal year. Staff researched and responded \$225,000 in the LGIP General Fund on October 31, 2020. Chief Supkis noted that based on last October’s balance, there will be enough to cover it without a TAN (tax anticipation note) loan for the upcoming fiscal year, but it will be close to a zero balance. Chairman Swails noted there is a high cost to TAN loans.

Action: Director Hubbard moved to add \$110,000 additional to Contingency for a total \$210,000 in that line. All in favor.

2021/22 General Fund Budget (LB 20 and LB 30)

Discussion:

- Director Landles inquired what the tax revenue projection rate was. Chief Supkis responded 6.5%, and it is the highest projection used in District history. Chief Supkis noted that when the District has \$2 million in the bank at a good interest rate, it could add another \$100,000 in interest income to the budget. The interest rate has plummeted this year and that has also reduced the District's income substantially.

Action: Director Witmer made a motion to approve the 2021/22 General Fund Fiscal Budget as presented, reviewed and amended by the Budget Committee, in the amount of \$5,556,468. Second by Director Hubbard. Motion passed on a 10 – 0 vote.

- Ken Johnson expressed concern about the budget. He stated in last 10 years he has been on the Budget Committee, the Board has done an outstanding job in improving the District finances and level of service. Like others in the room, he is troubled by the current financial direction. There are some substantial cost increases without the revenue to make it up. He is a big supporter of training and taking care of personnel but the District needs to cut back where it can. He feels some items could have been trimmed more and he doesn't want to see this deficit spending in next year's budget, and doesn't want to see the District moving backwards. He appreciates all the work put into the budget.
- Chairman Swails agreed with Ken, and stated that the room was probably aware of what is going on specific to this year that is affecting the budget. The job of the Budget Committee and Board is to adapt to these challenges as they come up, and he believes they have acted appropriately and will have to move to plan B or C dependent on outcomes.

2021/22 Facility and Capital Reserve Fund Budget (LB-11)

- Director Hubbard inquired if the medics (ambulances) have been ordered. Chief Supkis responded yes, they were pre-ordered with Board approval because there is almost year manufacturing and delivery time and the districts older medics are having a very high failure rate.
- Robin Mirrasoul inquired what happens to old units. Chief Supkis responded the District keeps four medics in rotation. They are rebuilt one or two times using same box on a new chassis. After an additional couple hundred thousand miles, they are no longer viable and are offered as surplus. Both the chassis and box do not have much value at that point and sometimes it's better to donate to a small district for utility use. The last one was given to the Alfalfa fire district.
- Director Hubbard noted letters had been sent to US Senators Merkley and Wyden asking for Congressional Directed spending for medics, monitors and defibrillators. This is a \$660,000 request. Letters have also been sent to state senators and representatives as the state has American Rescue Act funds available. Deschutes County has \$19 million in funds this year, and the District should request funds for PPE, EMS, as well as needs for P25 radios.

Action: Director Hubbard made a motion to approve the 2021/22 Capital Reserve Budget as presented in the amount of \$450,126. Second by Director South. Motion passed on a 10 – 0 vote.

2021/22 Mike Meszaros Trust and Agency Fund (LB-10)

Action: Director Hubbard made a motion to approve the 2021/22 Mike Meszaros Trust and Agency Fund as presented and reviewed by the Budget Committee, in the amount of \$160,806. *[this needs to be corrected to \$2005]*. Second by Director Cox. Motion passed on a 10 – 0 vote.

2021/22 PERS Reserve Fund Budget (LB-11)

Action: Director Hubbard made a motion to approve the 2021/22 PERS Reserve Fund as presented and reviewed by the Budget Committee, in the amount of \$57,108. *[this needs to be corrected to \$50,005]*. Second by Ken Johnson. Motion passed on a 10 – 0 vote.

Open Public Forum

- Ken Johnson stated his term was coming to an end and he is happy to continue serving next year but also completely open to others filling his position. Robin Mirrasoul and Jim Williams echoed those sentiments.
- Chief Supkis thanked the Board for all their work and wisdom, and noted the District is experiencing growth challenges as it moves from a rural to a suburban community. The long transport distances, sufficient staffing, and lack of close mutual aid are taxing the district. Years ago, ambulance services could charge whatever they needed to, but now there are caps in some cases, regardless of actual cost. Without a stable financial base, there is no 911 response. Some of the problem started in 2003 when the Social Security Reinvestment Act reduced rural EMS support to pay for other needs. This year, Lane County, a large district that is well run, is going to the community for more money as is Cloverdale and other districts in Oregon or face reductions in service. Crescent Fire is often covering for Chemult and Central Cascades and doesn't have enough funds. In other words, the current system is broken. The District and area is under a state tax cap. If the Park and Recs well-deserved levy passes, it will cut into the district's as well as city, county, roads and library tax revenues as well.
- Ken Johnson stated he feels the community needs to know the limitations of where the District is at, and encouraged the Board to find ways to communicate to the public much of what Chief Supkis shared at April's Budget Committee.
- Director Cox noted that Sunriver, Chiloquin and Cascade Lakes emergency response is either gone or reduced. The District is using an engine crew as a third medic and it's a 40-minute wait to get a mutual aid medic out of Bend.
- Chairman Swails ask for the District to share about its Facebook page. Staff answered that it had been active for a month and the best way to grow readership is for the community to share links

to the District page.

- Director South stated that the past year has seen unprecedented times, and even though it looks like we're running into a deficit year and he understands Ken Johnson's concerns, there are no better people to have running the District. He stated Chief Supkis is so good at watching the details of what is going on, and the chiefs, board and staff do their jobs well. It's been a struggle because of what they are seeing going on within the community and the misinformation that has surfaced, and the District needs to stay strong and connected.
- Jim Williams stated he has been through several sessions of trying to get new tax funding, and it's a real challenge. It's very hard to lay staff off and it's hard to see them go. There were financial troubles before Chief Supkis was hired and the Chief got the District on a firm fiscal foundation and Jim feels confident in supporting Chief Supkis' leadership and budget planning. He also noted the public doesn't understand that Medicare only pays a fifth of what the call cost is billed for.
- Director Cox stated there used to be 4 to 6 calls in a 24-hour period, and now there are 8 to 12. Calls are now often back-to-back and that is running the crews into the ground.
- Robin Mirrasoul stated that to see where the District was 20-30 years ago compared to now is impressive. La Pine Fire has gained a great reputation in the state as one of the best. Robin thanked Chief Supkis, the Board and Staff.
- Director Cox noted the District's student program is top notch and highly regarded within the Pacific Northwest, with recently the child of a top Oregon fire official choosing the La Pine program for their training.
- Jim Williams stated he has a good friend on the LPCHC board and they don't understand the amount of money the District get for emergency ALS (Advanced Life Support) transport. They think Medicaid pays for it all, but don't understand the District only gets a small portion of what is billed.
- Chief Supkis stated this has been a most unusual year, but can announce tonight that the PPP (Public-Private Partnership) effort the district has been working on for more than a year looks to be a go as of today. A vendor has committed verbally this morning to providing a transport medic to the La Pine area adding to the district's capacity. Chief stated hopes this will be a win on all point of the compass – district, medical facilities, all citizens needing 911 help, and insurance payers. An agreement will be presented to Board in June and then needs to go to the County Commissioners.
- Guest Robin Adams asked if the vendor can provide ALS (Advanced Life Support). Chief Supkis responded yes, they are state licensed emergency ALS certified ambulance service, and also can provide BLS and wheelchair transport services very efficiently – they just need to be called.

Next Meeting

The 2021/22 Budget was approved by Budget Committee at this meeting, with all present in favor; no further meetings necessary.

Good of the Order

The Budget Hearing will be held during the June 10, 2021 Regular Board Meeting at 9 a.m. at Station

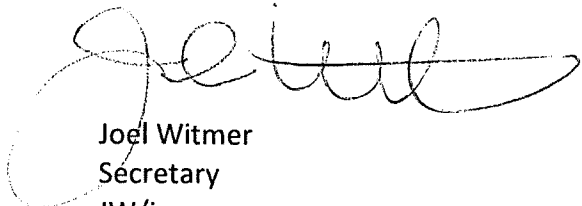
101.

Adjourn

**Action: Chairman Swails made a motion to adjourn the LPRFPD 2021/22 Budget Meeting.
Second by Director Hubbard. Motion passed on a 10 – 0 vote.**

Dick Swails adjourned the budget committee meeting at 7:58 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,



Joel Witmer
Secretary
JW/jee