

BOARD MEETING MINUTES
La Pine Rural Fire Protection District
August 11, 2022 Regular Meeting 9:00 a.m.

Open Meeting Director Cox opened the meeting at 9:02 a.m. and led the flag salute.

Roll Call

Directors Present: Robin Adams, Doug Cox, Jim Landles, Dick Swails

Directors Absent: Mike Thorne

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

Open Forum for Public Comment

Name	Purpose for Attending
<i>Bonnie Cox</i>	

No public questions or comments.

Comment/Report by Kyle Lohner, President IAF Local 3387.

Engineer Lohner was on shift and responding to a call, therefore was not present to deliver a report.

Chief Supkis introduced the Fall 2022 Recruit Academy. New recruits Jesy Lopez (Bend), David Higa (Wilsonville), Nick Popp (La Center, WA), Matthew Wilch (Salem), Evan McCullough (Salem) and Henry McFarland (Happy Valley) spoke about why they chose the fire service and what lead them to select La Pine.

Student FF Micah Brown has tendered his resignation after successfully completing the student program. Micah has accepted full-time position South Metro Fire, a large, progressive agency in the southern Denver, CO area.

Approval of Minutes

July 14, 2022 Board of Directors Regular Meeting

Director Adams noted one correction on p. 2. Director Swails requested a clarification to the grant writer reimbursement language on p. 6, changing the word 'statute' to 'policy'.

General discussion on the possibility of potential ballot future measures to provide additional funding. Director Swails noted that staff's estimate of .10/1000 per needed FF/medic position (18 needed) would be \$1.80 on top of the current .60 levy.

Action: Director Landles moved to approve the minutes of the July 14, 2022 Board of Directors Meeting with noted corrections. Second by Director Swails. All in favor. Motion passed on a 4-0 vote.

July 14, 2022 Board of Directors Work Session

Action: Director Swails moved to approve the minutes of the July 14, 2022 Board of Directors Work Session. Second by Director Adams. All in favor. Motion passed on a 4-0 vote.

Financials

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

- 5104 – GEMT – Director Adams inquired whether additional expenses will be incurred related to this line. Staff responded that no, this was paid in FY 21-22.
- 6105 – Overtime – Director Swails asked about this expense which is at 28% of budget. Chief replied the District has received a \$35,000 grant from OSFM to help offset OT costs for the two firefighters to be available for wildfire response during extreme fire conditions this summer. The board will see a future resolution to accept these funds and place them into the OT line. All new staff are now fully trained and online; however, life events such as COVID and injuries continue to result in overtime expenses.
- 8105 – Breakdowns – Director Adams noted this expense looks better than previous and asked if that is expected to continue. Chief responded yes, however during training, and with new staff and reserves, the apparatus is more heavily used and things do break. However, the new medics are running well.

- 8310 – Outside Facilities – Director Swails asked about this expense which is at almost 34% of budget. Staff replied there was a significant tree service effort at Station 103 to get rid of hazard trees and Firewise which cost \$1,000.
- 8455 – Reserve Uniforms – Director Swails asked about this expense which is up. Chief responded the onboarding of new reserves comes with the expense of providing uniforms when they start on August 1. PPE and initial uniforms are those expenses that cannot be delayed.

Chief reported the District will likely not need to obtain a tax anticipatory note (TAN) this year to make it to annual tax receipts to be received in November. Staff has done well with moderating expenditures, and some anticipated grant money has been received.

Monthly Expenses by Vendor

No questions or comments.

Monthly Expenses Paid

No questions or comments.

Action: Director Adams moved to approve monthly expenses presented from 7/15/22 – 8/11/22 in the amount of \$445,487.96. Second by Director Landles. All in favor. Motion passed on a 4-0 vote.

Management Reports

Monthly Alarm Report

General discussion regarding overall fire numbers being slightly down. Spring and early summer rains brought much-needed moisture to the area. Fire crews and US Forest Service was able to hit the Old Wood forest fire hard, stopping it in just a few hours.

Chief Supkis reported on an individual on Antler Lane who was destructing and burning a house in July. The person was cited by ODF and was billed by the District per Ordinance 2019-02 for suppression costs. The District responded once late at night and put the fire out, then was called out again the next day when the person had resumed burning.

EMS transports are up by 50 over this time last year and the month of July saw eight Code 99 calls.

Multiple Alarm & Building Permit/Valuation Report

No questions or comments.

Building and Permit Activity

Board noted slight seasonal decrease in building permit activity from record levels.

Chief's Report

Director Cox asked how the new radios are working. Chief reported much better – Chief Daugherty has been working with Deschutes 911, the “bridge” is now working more often as it should and communication is much better.

Director Adams inquired about what is “ISO”. Chief provided history and background of the Insurance Services Organization which is private east coast-based risk evaluating company that some insurance companies subscribe to for underwriting. ISO places a heavy emphasis on the urban environment, number and size of buildings, municipal water systems, and engine and ladder companies within 1.5 to 5 miles. EMS and rescue capabilities are not address nor is the Wildland Urban Interface (WUI). Resources such as air support, state and federal mutual aid agencies receive no credit. Community fire protection is reviewed by the ISO about every 10 years. Properties within the District are currently classed at ISO 4-5 (on a 1-10 system), which is good for a small rural area.

The District’s summer intern has been working on gathering data for the next rating process. Chief noted to achieve a perfect score for staffing the district would need to be at fifteen per shift. The District has done very well over the past ten years with having new large commercial construction sprinklered. Having a sprinkler system takes the building off the ISO risk chart in considering community fire protection, which helps reduce the overall risk rating for all without adding to fire district demand.

Correspondence/News

- A. Thank You – Van Damme
- B. Thank You – Ogren
- C. Thank You – UDRC Grant – Brennan
- D. Student – Resignation – Thank You – Brown
- E. Admin – Retirement – Read

- F. Oregon Department of Forestry – Oregon Wildfire Risk Notification
- G. Wise Buys – Fire Season, La Pine brush fire, Fire danger, Board meeting notice
- H. Wise Buys – Fire Danger, RF&R Hiring, Board Meeting Notice
- I. Wise Buys – Multiple Crashes, La Pine OSFM Grant for Staffing, Board Meeting Notice
- J. KTVZ – Old Wood Wildfire
- K. Central Oregon Daily – 26-Acre Fire
- L. KTVZ – State Grant Helps La Pine Fire Add Crew During Extreme Fire Danger
- M. Central Oregon Daily – La Pine gets State Grant for More Crews
- N. Central Oregon Daily – La Pine sees Historic Housing Boom
- O. NPR – Ambulance Chases Patient into Collections
- P. 2022 La Pine Student FF Freshman Class
- Q. OSFM – Analytics – 2022 Mid-Year Run Report Card

Discussion regarding the Community Wildfire Protection Program (CWPP). The fire district has four applicable CWPP plans (Upper Deschutes, La Pine, Walker, and Sunriver) which the District, County, community leaders and federal and state forestry officials work on every five years to evaluate and prioritize WUI risks. The Upper Deschutes River Coalition (UDRC) recently received a new grant and has a program to assist property owners with wildfire mitigation efforts.

Additional discussion regarding news that Redmond and Bend fire agencies are adding 8-10 new staff, their funding strategies, and impacts to the FF/paramedic labor situation.

Director Landles inquired about the OSFM Run Report Card. The District receives this report on a semi-annual basis, and continues to do well in its reporting. Interestingly, the 'report card' is based solely on data reporting. Response, call type, action taken, etc. are not factored into the grade.

Discussion on the recent water rescue which took place on a remote section of the Deschutes River near Pringle Falls. FF/Paramedics hiked in by trail for about a mile to reach the person in distress, relying on GPS signal as the river in that area takes many twists and turns, and the reporting party was actually on the other side of the river from the person in need of help. This off road/wilderness call would normally have been assisted with Deschutes County Search & Rescue. However, DCSO S&R were out on two other rescue emergencies. It took District crews over ninety minutes to reach the patient who fortunately survived a near drowning by sweeper. The patient had made it out of the river on his own by the time they arrived.

Old Business

- A. Board Policy #02-03 District EMS Billing Addendum Regarding Non-Transport Fees

Chief reported on the draft addendum which sets a fee of \$441.00 for some non-transport services. If approved, the fee will be effective today and will be a part of budget committee discussions next year. It is important the budget committee is able to consider all revenue sources as well as expenditures, and this also presents another opportunity to get information out to the public.

Action: Director Landles moved to approve District EMS Billing Addendum to Board Policy #02-03. Second by Director Adams. All in favor. Motion passed on a 4-0 vote.

Roll Call Vote:

Landles: Aye

Swails: Aye

Cox: Aye

Adams: Aye

B. Staff Research Regarding Possible Charity Care Policy

Staff reported on research regarding a charity care policy. While private and for-profit agencies are able to offer charity and discounted care, as a public entity funded by taxpayer dollars, the District does not have that same ability – it has to treat all payers the same. Discussion regarding on how the collections process works. The district uses a long-time, reputable, by the book, Bend firm – Credit Associates.

Director Swails asked that the information supplied by Credit Associates be provided to District attorneys. Staff agreed and will forward.

No further action will be taken on this item.

New Business

A. Board Policy #03-03 Services Billing Update

Director Adams noted a language clean-up item. Staff will make that correction. This update addresses out of country patients who fail to pay their ambulance service bill.

Action: Director Adams moved to approve Board Policy #03-03 Services Billing Revised 8-11-22. Second by Director Landles. All in favor. Motion passed on a 4-0 vote.

Roll Call Vote:

Landles: Aye

Swails: Aye

Cox: Aye
Adams: Aye

Appeals (Ordinance 2021-01)

Paused per Tolling Agreement January 26, 2022 Sussman Shank LLP/Hart Wagner LLP

Special Meetings and Workshops

Board Executive Succession Planning Workshop – August 29, 2022, 9:00 a.m.

Good of the Order

Next Regular Meeting: September 8, 2022, 9:00 a.m.

Director Cox will not be in attendance at the November Board of Directors Meeting.

Chief Daugherty reported on most recent hiring process, which did not produce any qualified to hire at this time candidates.

Regular Board Meeting adjourned at 10:29 a.m.

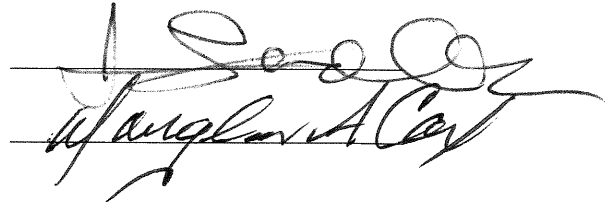
Respectfully Scribed and Submitted
La Pine Rural Fire Protection District
Administrative Staff

Date Presented to Board and Approval

SEPT 8, 2022

Board Secretary

Board President

Handwritten signatures of the Board Secretary and Board President. The Board Secretary's signature is written above the Board President's signature. Both signatures are written in black ink over horizontal lines.