**Umatilla County Fire District #1**

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**Regular Board Meeting Minutes**

**October 9, 2024**

***Present:***

The meeting was called to order at 1900, October 9, 2024, in the meeting room at Station 24, 280 W. Coe Ave, Stanfield, Oregon by Board President Ric Sherman. Those present included board members Eldon Marcum, Glenn Silaski, Jim Whelan and Mike Hawman remotely, Fire Chief Scott Stanton and Clerk Reta Larson.

***Pledge of Allegiance:***

Director Marcum led the pledge of allegiance.

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***Minutes of September 11th, 2024, Board Meeting***

Director Marcum moved to approve the September 11, 2024, board meeting minutes. Director Whelan seconded the motion. A roll call resulted in a unanimous vote. Motion passed.

***Financial Report:***

The bond debt balance sheet shows $52,257.30 in bond taxes LGIP, $7.84 in bond debt services, $26,459.46 in the Bond Debt Services checking and $-5,000.00 due from other accounts for a balance of $73,724.60. The bond capital outlay balance sheet shows $2,609,394.33 in the Bond LGIP account, $35,987.68 in the bond account and $-70,828.80 due from other accounts for a balance of $2,574,553.21. There were no capital purchases for bond expenditures during the month of September. The balance sheet for the General Fund shows a balance in LGIP of $1,233,189.07, $500.00 in petty cash, $19,576.45 in the Banner Bank checking account, $51,581.13 in Reserve Fund LGIP and $520,749.22 due from other accounts for a balance of $1,825,595.87. The budget report was then reviewed showing taxes collected during September total $34,364.50. $2,491.25 was Fire Med collections, with total ambulance revenue collected at $238,402.53 and $67,398.61 collected from GEMT for total Ambulance Service Fee Revenue of $308,292.39. Maintenance Service Fees of $2,266.00 were collected during September. No Grant funds were collected during September. $500.00 was collected in Intergovernmental Agreement funds. $21,943.92 was collected in Fire suppression fees during September. Miscellaneous Revenue of $2,493.54 was collected in September. No other revenue was received during the month. Total revenue collected during the month of September was $369,860.35. For expenses, $645,470.35 was spent on Personal Services. Materials and Services expended during the month of September totaled $96,290.69. $92,801.76 was spent from the General Fund Capital Outlay fund in September. Director Whelan questioned the capital outlay fund being at 42.8 percent spent. Chief Stanton reported that the new tow vehicle and lowboy that was purchased was paid for out of the capital outlay fund. The bank transaction report was the next report reviewed. Multiple transactions were reviewed with September expenses totaling $832,494.52. The final report reviewed was the Reserve Fund Account that shows a balance of $51,581.13. Board Chair Sherman asked what check number 12396 to CECO was. Chief Stanton that it was Carson and that is for the district’s fuel. Director Marcum moved to pay September general fund expenses in the amount of $832,494.52. Director Silaski seconded this. A roll call resulted in a unanimous vote. Motion passed.

***Communications***

Director Marcum reported that the firefighter’s association will be participating in October Fest by cooking hotdogs on October 25. Also the district will be cooking hotdogs at both Station 21 and 24 on Halloween.

***Chief’s Report:***

See the attached report. The district responded to 532 calls during September. Chief reported that the new medic has finally been delivered and they are arriving tomorrow to install the load system. Chief reported that the only grant that the district is still waiting for is the fire prevention safety grant. Director Hawman asked if the district was participating in a survey of the district’s facilities. Chief Stanton said yes that is being covered later in old business.

***Old Business:***

Capital Improvements

And Purchases:

Equipment: The ambulance was the last rolling stock item that we have been waiting on. The next vehicles that the district needs to think about replacing are a command vehicle for the battalion chiefs and another medic unit. The battalion chief’s vehicle is a 2017 or 2018 with a lot a miles on it. This vehicle is used every day. Chief thinks that next budget year we will look at replacing this vehicle.

Station work: The date for completion of Station 23 is getting closer to being finished. The last thing to be installed is the dormitory lockers which have been delayed due to a communication issue. With the delay on the lockers it is looking like the second week of November for completion and moving in.

Lawsuit updates: The lawsuit regarding the ambulance accident is ongoing with depositions being conducted most likely in January. This is a $700,000.00 lawsuit. This is set to go to court in January but the attorney doesn’t think it will ever go to court. The Gillette lawsuit for $1,000.000 continues with discovery ongoing with deposition anticipated in March or April. Attorneys for the district don’t think either of these lawsuits will make it to court.

AP Triton work: The work is underway for the community risk assessment, standard of cover and strategic plan. Chief is waiting for an email with a request for the items that are needed to begin the assessment.

PILT funds: This is the payment in lieu of taxes that Chief Stanton brought to the board’s attention last month. This is federal funds paid to the county for federal land that they can’t collect tax funding for. Chief Stanton met with Commissioner Dorran and the County’s finance director. Chief was not surprised by the County’s reaction regarding the district’s stance that some of the funding should come to the district. They are not planning on giving any of the PILT funds to the district. Chief presented a spread sheet showing the costs associated with a response to a Bureau of reclamation land fire in 2023. The district’s cost for this incident was $20,713.00. Chief feels that these costs could be helped with the PILT funds being forwarded to the district from the county. Director Hawman voiced his opinion that the county using the PILT funding for PERS costs is not right. The board feels that Chief Stanton should keep pursuing these funds.

Introduction of new

Fire fighters: Chief Stanton introduced the two newest fire fighters to the district, Parker Pierre and Billy Gibson.

After a brief break, the meeting was reconvened at 1949.

***New Business:***

Surplus Mercedes

ambulance: Director Whelan moved to surplus the 2016 Mercedes ambulance. Thies was seconded by director Silaski. A roll call vote resulted in a unanimous vote. Motion passed.

Chief’s contract extension:

23: Chief Stanton’s current contract ends on Jund 30, 2025. Board Chair Sherman suggests that Chief Stanton meet with a two-person committee of the board members then the two-person committee can report back to the board. Chief would like to extend the contract for the next 4 years. Director Whelan and Director Marcum will make up the two-person committee and set up a time to meet with Chief Stanton. They will then report back to the board with their recommendation on the contract extension details.

SAFER grant discussion

And acceptance: The district has been successful in receiving the nearly 7 million SAFER grant. This is to hire sixteen new personnel to open a new station. Umatilla County Fire District #1 was one of only two departments/districts in the state of Oregon to receive this grant. Chief Stanton wanted the board members to know that to keep the sixteen firefighters beyond the initial 6.9 million in grant funds, a levy is going to become necessary in the future. Director Whelan asked if at the end of the grant funding and a levy could not be passed, if the district is obligated to keep the personnel. Chief Stanton assured him that the district is not required to keep the additional personnel if they cannot pass a levy. Director Whelan moved to accept the 6.9 million dollar SAFER Grant. This was seconded by Director Hawman. A roll call vote resulted in a unanimous vote. Motion passed.

**Board Member Comments:**

Director Whelan wanted to thank all who participated in the district’s successfully receiving the grant funding. Director Hawman echoed Director Whelan’s sentiment and also that the sooner the district gets involved with receiving more funding the better.

**Adjournment:**

There being no further business before the board, the meeting was adjourned at 2007.