

MINUTES
JEFFERSON RURAL FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS' BOARD MEETING

Date: February 18, 2025, *Jefferson Fire Station - Jefferson, OR*

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 4:00 p.m. by Board President Nuss.

FLAG SALUTE: Board Director Robbins led the Pledge of Allegiance.

ATTENDANCE: Director Jones, Director Robbins, Director Nuss, Director Knutson, Fire Chief Eckhardt, Administrative Assistant Tammy Robbins, Staff Assistant Rebecca Mangrum, Logistics Supervisor Stephanie McClung, and City Liaison Bob Rossiter. (Absent: Division Chief Gisler) Visitors: Misty Kastle, Tom Paresa, Angel Torres, and Mike Hicks.

REVISIONS TO AGENDA: Chief Eckhardt asked to start with New Business before Old Business. It was agreed.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – January 18, 2025 - Regular Board Meeting

MINUTES: Motion made by Director Jones, seconded by Director Robbins, to approve the minutes as listed above. All in favor. Motion passed.

FINANCIAL ASSETS as of January 30, 2025

▪ Check Register Balance	\$ 191,746.51
▪ Local Government Inv. Pool	\$ 1,518,139.57
▪ Petty Cash	\$ 150.00
▪ Community Service Account	\$ 3,011.11
▪ Total	\$1,713,047.19

DIRECTOR'S RESEARCH GROUP REPORTS

FINANCE: (Director Nuss) – None

BUILDING & EQUIPMENT: (Director Jones and Director Robbins) – Director Jones asked if there were engine issues during conflagration. Chief Eckhardt reported they replaced the tires, a bolt and brakes. We will be reimbursed from California.

POLICY: (Director Knutson, Director Robbins) – None

GRANT: (Director) – None

Staff Report: Chief Eckhardt

The crew from the California conflagration reported no issues after returning from the trip. Since this trip took approximately 2,000 miles, the engine was serviced. The fuel catch float went bad and was fixed. Director Nuss asked which engine went down there. It was Engine 63. We have billed the State for the apparatus, crew that went down there, and Louis's replacement while he was gone. The bill was approximately \$126,000. \$80,000 was for personal costs and \$45,000 was for the apparatus. Oregon has a 60-day turnaround time to put

the bill together and send to California. California has up to two years to send the money. The average time to receive the money has been six months. Director Robbins asked if we are paying the crew out of our current budget. The chief stated yes since we have received approximately \$80,000 from this summer's conflagration.

Our apparatus is starting to go through yearly maintenance. We had a leaky washer at Station 64. While checking out the washer it was found that there was a leaking water pipe that had damaged the wall. This has all been fixed and we upgraded the flooring at the same time.

CITY LIAISON: Bob stated the city hasn't met since our last board meeting. Nothing to report. He did state that he appreciates the ambulance crew who took care of his neighbor.

VISITOR COMMENT: Mike Hicks introduced himself and stated he is interested in possibly being on the Board. He turned in a Board application (see exhibit A). He stated he is retired and lives in the Spring Lake Estates area. He's been working with a sub-division regarding defensible space, land management and communication with the residents. He spoke with the Chief and decided to apply.

Chair Nuss welcomed both applicants to the board meeting along with the President of the Volunteer Firefighter Association, Angel Torres.

Stephanie also stated Congratulations to Angel and Misty Kastle who are our new paramedics. Angel thanked the district who provided funding for his paramedic schooling. Stephanie commented that this has added to the high level of care we have been able to provide for our residents. We have had multiple back-to-back calls and were able to staff the second medic. Director Robbins asked if we are posting on Facebook to let the community know. Stephanie is working on this now.

The Chief stated that Angel, Jake Harmon (PARAMEDIC/FF), and part of Alexis's paramedic schooling, all were funded from the Safer grant. Misty's was funded from Scio's Safer grant.

OLD BUSINESS:

- a. Radio Project – Chief reported that he attended a Budget meeting with Metcom's board meeting regarding the 800-radio system. The commissioner stated the County is moving forward with the planning of the 800 system. There will be approximately a 6-million-dollar gap. It's unclear whether we would have to purchase the radio for approximately \$130,000, \$40-50,000 in user fees a year, along with our normal \$90,000 to Metcom. The County is not providing clear information, and the user fees vary depending on who signs up. The County Commissioners are still moving forward with this. The Chief recommends not moving forward with this project currently since we don't have the funds. We need to upgrade our current VHG system to increase speed and replace parts to improve our communications. We would be included in South County to upgrade our VHF system. There are funds that have been given to Santiam Canyon to help with funding this that we hope to get back. Currently we all give 3 percent to Metcom for upgrades and there is approximately \$100,000 to apply. We would look at grants to help with the difference. The Chief asked the Board if they are good with this. Director Robbins asked if we could get more true numbers as to what our cost will be and what agencies are going to stay with VHF before we commit? It was also explained how the 800 system doesn't travel as far but is more direct since it's a digital system. With the VHF system you hear others since the frequency moves. Director Knutson understands the drawbacks of the VHF system, however if the money isn't there it's not there. The chief will work on getting more information and then a decision can be made on how to move forward with VHF.

- b. Budget Committee Applicant – Chief read a letter of interest he received from Anne Scholmer Lehoullier, DVM (see exhibit B). We still have a month to decide. Director Robbins suggested we wait until our next meeting to see if we get any more applicants. All were in favor.
- c. Board of Director Applicant – Two applications were received from Mike Hicks and Tom Paresa.

Mike stated he worked for Boise Cascade as a land manager managing 160,000 acres of timberland and was responsible for fire safety and fire personnel. He is also interested in helping with neighbors to educate about defensible space and incorporate this in his area. (Fire Wise Program).

Mike wanted to know how much time is involved outside of the monthly board meetings. Director Nuss stated it can depend on the Sub-committee etc. The Volunteer association has a monthly meeting but is not required. There is also a yearly conference for the Board Members. Mike asked what the Fire District's biggest funding issue is. Director Nuss commented that private funding is very different than public funding and we currently have an operational levy that we will need to reapply for in a few years. Mike also asked what our turnover ratio for FTE. It was commented that that it's been for retirement.

Tom stated that he worked for the private sector known as Ormet/ATI for 35 years and managed a lot of people through the years. He is retired and has lived in the community for 45 years. He has the time now and wants to give back to our community. He's eager to learn and see the needs being met. He understands great goals with little or no means. He has many years as a problem solver, making decisions, and the importance of hearing from employees.

March 15 is the last day to file with the county. It's position number 1. The Board agreed to wait until the next meeting to decide on the two applicants for the interim.

NEW BUSINESS:

- a. Resolution – 2025-001 – The Chief stated this is for the money that was received through the Siletz Tribe Contribution grant. The resolution is to put the money into the budget and then spend it to purchase the mannequins. Chair Nuss read the resolution. Director Jones made a motion to adopt Resolution 2025-001; seconded by Director Robbins. All in Favor. Motion passed.
- b. Training Mannequins – Chief asked for board approval to move forward in using the funds to purchase the mannequins as the grant allows us to do. Director Robbins made a motion authorizing the district to purchase the mannequins as the Siletz Tribe Contribution grant is for; seconded by Director Jones. All in favor. Motion passed.

ALARMS: (sent out with the Board Reports)

GOOD OF THE ORDER/DIRECTOR'S COMMENTS – Chief reported that the staff will be working with the high school developing an after-school club 1 hour a week for 10 weeks. This would expose them to a variety of fire training and what we do. Chief, Misty and Stephanie will be promoting this program.

Director Robbins appreciates all those who have applied for the board and budget committee. Chair Nuss appreciated hearing all the positive.

ACCOUNTS PAYABLE: TOTAL ACCOUNTS PAYABLE & PAYROLL- The Accounts Payable and

Projected Payroll for the month of January 30, 2025, is \$253,295.31; General Fund Payable-\$84,803.33, Payroll-\$168,481.98, Grant Fund Payable-\$0, Payroll-\$0, Equipment Reserve Fund-\$0

The Board reviewed the accounts payable. Motion by Director Jones seconded by Director Robbins to pay the bills. All in favor. Motion carried.

With no further business to be brought before the Board of Directors, it was moved by Director Jones to adjourn the meeting seconded by Director Robbins. All in favor. Motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 5:30 p.m.



Board President


Administrative Assistant

3/19/25 Date