**Umatilla County Fire District #1**

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**Regular Board Meeting Minutes**

**March 8, 2023**

***Present:***

The meeting was called to order at 1901, March 8, 2023, in the meeting room at Station 23, 78760 Westland Road, Hermiston, Oregon by Board President Ric Sherman. Those present included board members Mike Hawman, Jim Whelan, Eldon Marcum, Spike Piersol, Chief Scott Stanton, David Hanson and Clerk Reta Larson.

***Pledge of Allegiance:***

Director Marcum led the pledge of allegiance.

***Guests:***

None

***Minutes of February 8, 2023 Board Meeting***

Director Marcum moved to approve the February 8, 2023, board meeting minutes with corrections noted by Clerk Larson on the last sentence on page two discussing station work should read “seismic application is in” and then on the second sentence under Apparatus Work on page 3 should read “will become medic 21”. Director Hawman seconded the motion. Motion passed.

***Financial Report:***

Clerk Larson started with the Balance Sheet for the bond. The bond balance sheet shows a balance of $886,408.55 in the bond LGIP account, $247,012.57 in the Banner Bank bond account and $-47,014.75 due from other accounts for a balance of $1,086,406.37. The bond transaction report shows fourteen transactions totaling $602,105.22 for the month of February. The next report reviewed was the balance sheet for the general fund showing a balance in LGIP of $3,596,193.20, $500.00 in petty cash, $26,334.69 in the Banner Bank checking account and $-219,175.77 due from other accounts for a balance of $3,403,852.12. The Budget report shows taxes collected during February total $60,745.52, Ambulance revenue collected during February total $247,971.88, $6,141.25 collected in Fire Med and $267,402.17 collected in GEMT funds for a total of $521,515.30 in Ambulance Service Fee Revenue account. Chief Stanton noted that ambulance revenue is at 74% collections. He also mentioned that Whitney is in Las Vegas attending an ambulance billing conference and is taking pages of notes and is excited to get back and apply what she is learning. No Maintenance Service fees were received during the month of February. $8,715.00 were collected in grant funds during February. The only other revenue collected during February was $332.50 in miscellaneous revenue. Total revenue collected during the month of February was $591,308.32. For expenses, $571,994.83 was spent on Personal Services. Materials and Services expended during the month of February totaled $195,939.29. $987.98 was spent in Capital Outlay during February. Chief Stanton pointed out that one of the big expenses paid out during February was the property, liability, and vehicle insurance payment to SDIS in the amount of $95,715.00. He mentioned that as we buy new vehicles and improve the buildings the cost of insurance will increase. The final report reviewed was the bank transaction report. Clerk Larson reviewed multiple transactions and noted February expenses total $773,647.71. With no questions regarding the financial report, Director Whelan moved to pay February expenses in the amount of $773,647.71. Director Marcum seconded this. Motion passed.

***Communications:***

Director Marcum reported that the Fire Fighters Association is just getting started working on the sponsorship for the golf tournament. The tournament date is set for May 20.

***Chief’s Report:***

See attached report. February calls totaled 421. This is thirty more than last year in February.

***Old Business:***

Bond procurement and

Station work update:

Station work: Station 24 is moving forward with the concrete poured and the framing going up. Station 22 is moving forward with the permit being submitted last Friday. Station 22 work will consist of only seismic upgrades at this time. Work is scheduled to begin in May. Chief Stanton pointed out that the goal is to have all work on Stations 22 & 24 completed by the fall when work will begin on the Public Safety Center (Station 21). The Hermiston Public Safety Center (Station 21) is in the schematic design phase.

Apparatus work: Ryan is working on the two brush trucks.

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OMD Mutual Aid

Agreement: Nothing new to report. Representative Greg Smith may investigate the issues with this.

CDA Lands: Kim Puzey (CDA lands chairman) signed the documents to take ownership. The title company is working on this. The land is now officially locally owned.

OSFM Capacity grant: Chief Stanton is working on budgeting and will prepare two budgets, one with the grant and one without. The OSFM may make these awards in April.

SAFER Grant: Personnel are working on the application to submit. Chief Stanton reiterated the issue of understaffing within the district. He wanted to impress on the board that if the district does not receive the SAFER grant, we may have to look at a levy to fund personnel in the future. David Hanson reported to the board the work and time that is going to have to be put into a public relations campaign to find the funding to make the district successful in the future. Chief Stanton is preparing to present a 24-month marketing plan possibly at the next board meeting.

***New Business:***

Budget Calendar: Director Hawman moved to adopt the budget calendar as submitted. This was seconded by Director Whelan. Motion passed.

Appoint Budget Officer: Director Marcum moved to appoint Chief Scott Stanton as the budget officer. Director Hawman seconded. Motion passed.

Hutterites and ISO needs: The Stanfield Hutterian Brethren has a site for a station on their land and are excited to contribute to this. ISO is willing to come out and re-grade the district. This addition will save the Hutterian Brethren approximately $20,000 on their insurance. The district will have to expend some bond funds to purchase a used pumper/tender. If the station qualifies, everything in the east district will be graded to an ISO rating of a 5. The board agrees for Chief Stanton to continue working on this and to continue to look for a used pumper/tender. Director Sherman asked if there is a place to house the vehicle until the Hutterites have a place ready. Chief Stanton reported that their building is ready now, and they could house the vehicle now.

Executive Session ORS

192.660 (2) (i) Chief’s

Evaluation: The executive session was moved to the end of the meeting.

Lobbyist for Fire District: See Lobbyist flyer. Our own lobbyist would give us a voice in Salem all year long. Chief Stanton would like $25,000.00 to put in the budget to fund a lobbyist to work for us (UCFD1) only. The board was in favor of moving forward with further research on the lobbyist issue.

Command Vehicle

Purchase discussion: Chief Stanton mentioned that there was funding in the bond for purchase of staff vehicles. Several staff need vehicles. Sherrell Chevrolet can get a 4 X 4 ½ ton pickup ordered for $42,700.00 with delivery in November. Chief Clark is looking into the possibility of a state bid option. Director Hawman motioned to move forward with the purchase of a ½ ton pickup for $42,700.00. This was seconded by Director Whelan. Motion passed.

 Executive Session ORS

192.660 (2) (i) Chief’s

Evaluation: The executive session was convened at 2012 under ORS 192.660 (2) (i) to discuss Chief Stanton’s evaluation. The board meeting was reconvened at 2021.

**Board Member Comments:**

Director Hawman commented that the board is heading in some new directions and needs to keep investigating new ideas.

Director Whelan wanted to know where the Hutterite issue was at. He wanted to know if it was tabled to next month or if Chief Stanton was moving forward with it. Chief will telephone each of the board members if he finds a pumper/tender that will work for the district.

**Adjournment:**

There being no further business before the board, the meeting was adjourned at 2024.