**Umatilla County Fire District #1**

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**Regular Board Meeting Minutes**

**January 13, 2020**

***Present:***

The meeting was called to order at 1900, January 13, 2020, in the meeting room at Station 23, 78760 Westland Road, Hermiston, Oregon by Board President Ric Sherman. Those present included board members Eldon Marcum, Mike Hawman, Bruce Naugher, Spike Piersol, Fire Chief Scott Stanton, Deputy Chief of Training Richard Cearns, Volunteer Coordinator Nick Oatley, Clerk Reta Larson and Karen Sherman.

***Pledge of Allegiance:***

Director Bruce Naugher led the Pledge of Allegiance.

***Guests:***

Karen Sherman (wife of Board President Ric Sherman), Daniel Wattenburger from PAC West and Nick Oatley (New Volunteer Coordinator for UCFD1) were introduced.

***Minutes of December 9 Board Meeting:***

Director Hawman moved to approve the minutes from the December 9, 2020 meeting. Director Naugher seconded the motion. Motion passed.

***Financial Report:***

Clerk Larson presented the financial report beginning with the budget report. The report shows that $3,975,344.38 in current taxes have been received. This is 92.88 percent of what was budgeted. There was some confusion on the delinquent taxes but Chief Stanton confirmed that delinquent tax collection is up. Ambulance revenue at $1,538,388.02 is approximately $100,000.00 higher than this same time last year. There is approximately $200,000.00 still outstanding to be paid by the Federal Government and the State of Oregon for fire suppression and $30,000.00 from Echo Fire for the sale of the engine. The next report reviewed was the Balance Sheet showing a balance of $3,235,081.67 in all accounts with $$3,196,391.96 in LGIP and $38,189.71 in Banner Bank’s checking account. Chief Stanton reported that compared to this same time last year, UCFD1 has about $100,000.00 more cash. The final report reviewed were the expenses for the month of December with most of the transactions being routine monthly expenses. The one payment to John Deere Financial in the amount of $5920.07 is an annual payment for the tractor. Chief Stanton reports that there are either one or two payments left on the John Deere Financial contract. The $4125.00 to SDAO is for annual dues. The $7500.00 to Frontier Reimbursements was a GEMT expense. Director Marcum moved to pay December expenses in the amount of $557,198.78. This was seconded by Director Piersol. Motion passed.

***Communications:***

Director Marcum reported the volunteer association sponsored a drive in December for coats and clothing for a local charity called Made to Thrive. They were successful in picking up some items to donate to them.

***Chief’s Report:***

See attached report. Chief Stanton reported that after some help with statistics in the Elite reporting software the total calls for 2020 were 4956. This is a 2.3 percent increase in call volume from the previous year. Destry Stewart applied for a community hero grant with California Casualty who has been a long-time partner with Oregon Volunteer Fire Fighters Association and was chosen to receive $5000.00. Chief reported that Life Flight is now equipped with the new 700 communication system so that now UCFD1 can communicate with them on board. Board Chair Ric Sherman inquired about the possibility of the Oregon State Fire Marshal’s office being moved from the Oregon State Police. Chief Stanton says that there are some bills being considered that could make this happen.

***Old Business:***

Bond and Campaign: Daniel Wattenburger reported that the first fund raising letter has been sent out. He reports that the discovery phase is where the firm is at with our project. The firm is working with the Oregon State Firefighters Council on funding a poll on priorities of the projects. The hope is that the Oregon State Firefighters Council may fund the entire polling cost. Once the results of the poll are received, they can begin moving forward with a better understanding of the priorities. Daniel talked about the formation of an oversight council to track the spending of the bond money once the bond has passed. Daniel stressed that the results of the polling really set the course for how they move forward with the campaign. Director Marcum felt that the letter that was sent out was unclear who the funds were being raised for. He felt like it came from the Firefighters union. Board Chair Ric Sherman also reported that he had received several calls asking about the letter. Chief Stanton talked about the $13,000,000 resulting in about a 21 or 22 cent per thousand cost to the taxpayer over the life of the bond. The board had approved up to 25 cents per thousand. Chief Stanton reiterated that passage of the bond will allow paying off debt which will put approximately $232,000.00 back into the general fund annually. Chief Stanton reported that he had run the numbers by the Hermiston School District Superintendent, Tricia Mooney. Tricia felt that the price point is good and that it should be well supported. Chief Stanton also thanked her for letting the PAC using their public meeting room at the district office for the PAC meetings. With no further discussion, Board Chair thanked Daniel for his time and information.

Station 25: Chief Stanton and Director Hawman have been working on this. It is almost complete. Chief reported that if the bond does not pass, then the cost to UCFD1 for the payment will be approximately $4900.00 a month. Some of the main points of the agreement were the land lease and provisions if the Hawman family ever decide to sell their farm. Chief Stanton reported that by annexing the Salmon Point/Hat Rock area the revenue from that will just about cover the cost of the monthly payment.

Volunteer Recruiter

Presentation: Chief Cearns introduced the new Volunteer Recruiter, Nick Oatley. Nick started on December 16. After introductions by the board members, Nick expressed his excitement with being in the new position. Nick has been working on the district’s social media sites and web site to get them up to date. Chief Cearns reports that Nick brings a little different spin on our marketing and brand.

***New Business:***

Aaron Johnson (Chaplain): One of our chaplains who is a Major in the Washington National Guard has been called up to respond to Washington DC for the inauguration. Board Chair Ric Sherman reports that this may be a hardship for his family as they just had a new baby. Ric just asked for our thoughts to be with him for his safe return. He is trying to get a deferment.

Cyber-security liability: Chief Stanton in checking with SDAO regarding coverage for cyber security breaches found that they just do not cover all the costs. Chief asked Josh Burns with Swanson Insurance to check on some coverage for this. Josh came up with some coverage at a cost of approximately $3000.00/year. Chief would like to know if he should move forward with pursuing this further. Chief is also going to talk with Jordan Standley with ESD as to whether this is a concern. Chief is going to come up with some more information for the next board meeting.

Station 25 plaque: The rendition of the plaque is complete. Chief could move forward with ordering it if the board trusts his judgement.

AFG grant: AFG grants are due February 5. The district is going to try to get some upgrades on medical equipment. This equipment consists of CPR machines, cardiac monitors and patient loading systems. The total grant cost is $500,000.00 with the district’s 10 percent responsibility at $50,000.00.

Budget & Programs: A budget calendar will be prepared by Clerk Larson. Chief Stanton is proposing pushing the Budget Committee meeting back to May with the Budget Hearing then being held in June due to the bond. These meetings are usually held in May and June but Chief thinks it prudent to move these back a month. Chief has built four budgets. One with nothing, one with a bond, one with GEMT and one with bond and GEMT money. He is not sure at this time which one he will present to the budget committee in May. One thing affecting the budget is Chief has asked Chief Forquer to come back full-time to manage the bond expenses and coordination if we are successful in passage of the bond.

Transport on-call

agreement: This agreement was put together with Good Shepherd to help with staffing transports. The agreement funds a medic-on-call. Every day of the week for the month there will be two people on call. The agreement pays $50.00 for the first 12 hours of standby time during the day and $75.00 for the nighttime 12 hours. Good Shepherd is willing to pay half of these standby costs. Chief Cearns reported that we had 42 transfers for the month. The agreement is for a 90-day trial period. A worst-case scenario on cost came in at approximately $4700.00 for each entity.

Workback Agreement

For FM Goff: Scott Goff is eligible to retire and is looking at retiring on July 1. Chief Goff would like to work back after retirement. If the board agrees, a contract would be drafted. Director Marcum asked if it would be a 5-year agreement. Chief Stanton reported that PERS is looking at doing away with the work back limitations. Theoretically Chief Goff’s contract would be a four-year agreement but if the legislation passes the change on work back limitations then it could be whatever the board, Chief Goff and Chief Stanton agree to. Director Marcum moved to allow Chief Goff to work back after his retirement. This was seconded by Director Naugher. Motion passed.

**Adjournment:**

There being no further business before the board, the meeting was adjourned at 2002.