**Umatilla County Fire District #1**

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**Regular Board Meeting Minutes**

**December 8, 2021**

***Present:***

The meeting was called to order at 1900, December 8, 2021, in the meeting room at Station 21, 320 S. 1st Street, Hermiston, Oregon by Board President Ric Sherman. Those present included board members Mike Hawman, Spike Piersol and Jim Whelan, Fire Chief Scott Stanton, Deputy Chief of Administration Jim Forquer, Deputy Chief of Operations Jimmy Davis, Karen Sherman wife of Board President Ric Sherman and Office Assistant Whitney Sitton.

***Pledge of Allegiance:***

Jim Forquer led the Pledge of Allegiance.

***Guests:***

Ric Sherman introduced his wife, Karen Sherman.

***Minutes of November 10 Board Meeting***

Director Piersol moved to approve the November 10, 2021, board meeting minutes. Director Hawman seconded the motion. Motion passed.

***Financial Report:***

In Clerk Larson’s absence Chief Stanton presented the financial report beginning with the balance sheet report. The current balance is all accounts in the general fund is $2,958,364.07. This is a little lower than last year at this time due to the 1st and 2nd quarter dispatch fees being paid in November this year. The 2nd quarter dispatch fees were not paid last year until January 8, 2021. Current taxes are above last year’s by approximately $120,000.00 with delinquent taxes lower by approximately $39,000.00. Ambulance revenue is lower by approximately $78,000.00 due in part to approximately 40 transports being turned down and Medicaid negotiated prices are nonexistent due probably because of the new GEMT funds that are expected (approximately $380,000.00 - $480,000.00). Also, another issue that is occurring more are the homeless and psych patients that have no insurance coverage. Chief noted a specific patient living in Echo who is an illegal immigrant. This patient alone had a balance of $22,500.00 that has been written off just since March. Firemed is down by $87,000.00. Chief has sent correspondence to Life Flight’s marketing representative but has heard nothing back yet. The balance sheet for the bond accounts shows a balance of $5,753,758.14. The next report is the budget report. Chief noted that taxes are close to what had been budgeted with ambulance revenue down as noted earlier. On the expense side things are close to what was budgeted. Chief commented on the increase in fuel costs that will impact the budget and also the increase in ambulance response will increase the medical supply line item. With no questions on the budget, Chief Stanton moved to the bank transaction report. The amount to approve for November expenses is $655,467.18. Chief noted that check number 10061 to Bound Tree for $8,645.32 is for 6 new AEDs. This was paid for with grant money received from Good Shepherd Medical Center. The AEDs are in service on the engine and all five command vehicles. Check number 10073 to Zoll Medical in the amount of $5,707.00 is for medical supplies. Check number 10078 to AT & T Mobility in the amount of $3,006.74 is the last bit of cost for the mobile data terminals. Check number 10080 to City of Hermiston in the amount of $1,010.80 is for the arson investigator and shredding fee. Check number 10096 to Umatilla County Dispatch in the amount of $72,207.64 is the dispatch fees for the first two quarters so this pays through the end of December. The remaining expenses are mostly payroll and medical insurance expenses. Board President, Ric Sherman asked for any questions regarding the bank transaction report, there being none, Director Piersol moved to pay November expenses in the amount of $655,467.18. This was seconded by Director Whelan. Motion passed.

***Communications:***

Director Whelan reported that the Fire Fighters’ Association was trying to decide if they should have a Christmas party for the children. The last time Jim spoke with Director Marcum there was not a lot of interest so Director Whelan is assuming that there will be no Christmas party for the children.

***Chief’s Report:***

See attached report. Chief Stanton reported that there were 432 calls during the month of November with a total of 5177 for the year. Chief reported that Ed Clark hurt is arm while working out and had surgery. He is expected back by mid-January. Jeff Armstrong is improving. He no longer needs continuous oxygen. He has permanent lung damage and is working toward a medical retirement. Jeff will exhaust his paid leave sometime in February. 581 training hours were reported during the month of November. There is no Fire Marshal’s report due to Chief Goff being exceptionally busy and also out of town. Chief Stanton reported that the State of Oregon still owes for a conflagration in the amount of $40,000.00. Chief has made some calls and will go to the top if he does not get satisfactory news on the payment. GEMT money in the amount of $57,000.00 is still outstanding. We are expecting $482,00.00 from GEMT by December 20. $15,000.00 is expected from Echo Fire for the engine that they purchased. Chief Stanton reported that he had a good meeting with Commissioner Dorran. Chief asked Commissioner Dorran about the 2 million dollars that was promised by Commissioner Murdoch. Chief feels that Commissioner Dorran is going to be a big help to UCFD1. Director Hawman mentioned that maybe Chief Stanton should call Commissioner Dorran weekly to keep our issues on his mind. Chief Stanton reported that the upcoming conferences are all scheduled to be in person conferences, so he is excited about that. OFCA is working on getting a meeting set up with Lori Coiner, State Medicaid Director, to see about improving on the GEMT process. Umatilla Rural Fire District is having a special meeting on December 13 to discuss and decide on their fire chief issue. Chief will have more information after the December 13 meeting. Annexation of Umatilla Rural Fire District was discussed. There are advantages to both entities if this should occur. Director Hawman wanted to discuss the dispatch issue. The contract has been awarded to do a complete assessment of the dispatch center. Commissioner Dorran is willing to discuss and make available to anyone information regarding the dispatch operation.

***Old Business:***

Bond procurement and

Station work update: Chief Stanton reported that there are 3 ambulances on order. The van type ambulance should be here in January and the first box style will be delivered in March or April and the second box style will be 7 weeks behind that. The load systems and cots have been ordered for these new ambulances. This will make a total of 6 ambulances in the fleet installed with the load system. The seventh ambulance will be a reserve unit. The 2 Tahoe’s will be delivered probably in January. The light packages and consoles for these have been ordered. Chief Stanton’s pickup will go to Chief Davis when Chief Stanton’s new vehicle arrives. Nick Oatley should end up with a vehicle which will eliminate that eed to pay him mileage every month. The 2 chassis have been ordered for the wildland apparatus. Spring delivery (March or April) is expected on those. Ryan Campbell is working on the slip in units for these and will be assembled when the chassis arrive. The ladder committee is meeting and hopes to have specifications by March. A Spartan ladder will take about 14 months from time to order to be delivered. Thirty-three sets turnouts are on order and should have been delivered in the fall with delivery expected in March 2022. Director Whelan asked about the price that Wes Blood was quoted and if it was a good price. Chief Stanton reported that yes the price was accurate, but the turnouts only include a coat and pants for the second set, not a helmet, and boots, etc. Director Piersol asked what the make of the new ambulances are. Chief stated they are Road Rescue on a Ford chassis. Chief is not sure on the van type ambulance. The new ambulances will all be gas vehicles. This saves $9400.00 for each chassis on the box style ambulances. They are also cheaper to maintain, repair and replace. These new gas vehicles will get as good of mileage and have just as much power. There is $100,000.00 budgeted for extrication items. Chief meets with the architect next week. Finalization for stations 22, 23 and 24 should be completed. The permitting for these projects is what is taking some time. Permitting can take 12 – 16 weeks. July 1 is the projected date to start pushing dirt. Chief Stanton is meeting with the City of Hermiston next week to discuss options for some land in the park for further expansion of station 21..

Station 25 state

Permit update: Chief is still looking for any pictures of the foundation when it was being poured to submit to the state. This should be complete in the next three months.

OMD fire protection

Contract: The contract is complete and has been approved by our attorney. It has been sent to OMD and is awaiting their approval.

GEMT – managed care: Chief thinks that we will end up with approximately $482,000.00. The fee for service side of things is about 15% and will be approximately $175,000.00. The managed care side is about 85% and should total $482,000.00 mentioned earlier. The question on how to correct the problems associated with GEMT is hopefully going to be handled through the Chief’s association (OFCA) and maybe OFDDA and SDAO. We will have to work through the long session of the legislature in 2023 and do a carve out to make any policy changes.

Computer Server Update: No new update. The City of Hermiston is working on it. We currently pay $12,000 - $13,000 for our current contract with ESD. We do know that our IT contract with ESD will increase to $20,000 - $25,000 due to having our own server. Chief projects that by March or April we should be operating on our own server.

URFPD Update: Discussed earlier in the meeting.

***New Business:***

FireMed/Life Flight Board

Policy: See attached policy. Policy clearly defines who within the district will receive FireMed and/or Life Flight coverage. With no further discussion, Board president Sherman asked for a motion to adopt. Director Piersol moved to adopt the new FireMed Life Flight policy. Director Hawman seconded. Policy adopted.

Procurement of Lift

Systems for mechanic: This is part of the bond expense. The cost is approximately $56,000.00 for all 4 lifts. Director Whelan moved to purchase the lifts for $56,000.00. This was seconded by Director Piersol. Motion passed.

**Board Comments:**

Director Piersol wished everyone a Merry Christmas.

Director Whelan wished everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Board President Sherman reminded everyone about the Christmas Party on December 18 and the next board meeting on January 12, 2022.

**Adjournment:**

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