**Umatilla County Fire District #1**

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**Regular Board Meeting Minutes**

**November 13, 2024**

***Present:***

The meeting was called to order at 1900, November 13, 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, Mike Hawman, Fire Chief Scott Stanton, David Hansen and Clerk Reta Larson.

***Pledge of Allegiance:***

Director Hawman led the pledge of allegiance.

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***Guests***

Chief Stanton introduced Timber Hunt; the new Communications Coordinator hired by UCFD1. Timber was born and raised in the Tri Cites and attended Washington State University and received a Bachelor of Arts degree in strategic communications majoring in public relations. She learned a lot about digital marketing, marketing strategies and to really target your marketing efforts to specific groups of people. After attending Washington State University, Timber served an 8-month internship in Northern Minnesota where she was a communications intern for a large cat sanctuary where the sanctuary had approximately 1.2 million followers on social media. Following the internship in Minnesota Timber went to work for a humane society on the West side in Washington State. Timber is excited to join the district. Welcome Timber!!

***Minutes of October 9th, 2024, Board Meeting***

Clerk Larson informed the board that the date on the minutes being approved appearing on the first line of page one is incorrect. It should read October 9 board meetings minutes, not August 14. With this correction, Director Hawman moved to approve October 9, 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 $57,316.24 in bond taxes LGIP, $7.84 in bond debt services, $26,459.71 in the Bond Debt Services checking and $-5,000.00 due from other accounts for a balance of $78,783.79. There is a bond interest payment of $225,000.00 due on December 15, 2024. The bond capital outlay balance sheet shows $2,094,205.31 in the Bond LGIP account, $22,372.90 in the bond account and $-70,828.80 due from other accounts for a balance of $2,045,749.41. There were 3 checks written in the bond transaction report. Two checks (check number 1209 and 1210) to McCormack Construction totaling $533,943.61 and check number 1211 to Schlager Zimmerman Architects, LLC for $4,680.00. Chief Stanton noted that check number 1210 in the amount of $107,892.23 was a September payment that was missed. Total bond expenses for the month of October are $538,623.61. Director Marcum moved to pay bond capital expenses in the amount of $538,623.61. This was seconded by Director Hawman. A roll call resulted in a unanimous vote. Motion passed. The balance sheet for the General Fund shows a balance in LGIP of $738,661.97, $500.00 in petty cash, $39,707.09 in the Banner Bank checking account, $51,804.44 in Reserve Fund LGIP and $520,749.22 due from other accounts for a balance of $1,351,422.72. This is approximately $500,000.00 more than what the district had last year at this time and is in part due to the apprenticeship funds. The budget report was then reviewed showing taxes collected during October total $48,581.64. $4,172.75 was Fire Med collections, with total ambulance revenue collected at $224,686.05 and $12,305.79 collected from GEMT for total Ambulance Service Fee Revenue of $241,164.59. Maintenance Service Fees of $9,204.00 were collected during October. No Grant funds were collected during October. $1500.00 was collected in Intergovernmental Agreement funds. $11,996.75 was collected in Fire suppression fees during October. Miscellaneous Revenue of $27,341.79 was collected in October. No other revenue was received during the month. Total revenue collected during the month of October was $339,788.77. For expenses, $663,464.20 was spent on Personal Services. Materials and Services expended during the month of October totaled $97,892.66. $35,385.17 was spent on the General Fund Capital Outlay fund in October. Chief Stanton reported that the federal government owes the district approximately $55,000.00 for firefighting during the summer. The bank transaction report was reviewed as the next report. Multiple transactions were reviewed with October expenses totaling $831,696.24. The final report reviewed was the Reserve Fund Account that shows a balance of $51,804.44. Director Whelan asked about the $28,105.33 payment to Clerk Larson (check number 12507). Chief Stanton reported this was deferred compensation that was funds due to Clerk Larson as she withdrew her funds from Kansas City Life. Director Whelan moved to pay October general fund expenses in the amount of $831,696.24. Director Marcum seconded this. A roll call resulted in a unanimous vote. Motion passed. Chief Stanton reported that he pulled form 4A from the county that shows the valuation and taxes expected to be received. The valuation of the district has increased significantly from 2.9 billion to 3.3 billion. This would be an increase in taxes of approximately $758,000.00 higher than what was budgeted. With the districts usual 95 – 98 percent collection rate, the district could see an increase in tax revenue of $619,000.00. Chief is optimistic that this is correct but has an email in to the tax assessor to confirm that the increase in valuation is correct.

***Communications***

Director Marcum reported that 180 hot dogs were distributed during October Fest on October 25. The firefighter’s association distributed hot dogs on Halloween and ran out of hot dogs at Station 21.

***Chief’s Report:***

See the attached report. The district responded to 531 calls during October. Chief reported that the new medic has been put in service. It is Medic 23. The training division is busy preparing for the upcoming academy on April 21, 2025 for the 17 new fire fighters. A $30,000 grant was received from Round house funding the new fire prevention trailer. With the $35,000.00 received from Amazon, this fully funds the cost for the fire prevention trailer. Still waiting to hear on the Fire Prevention and Safety grant. The Shearer’s food fire in 2022 made the NFPA news as the third highest fire incident loss in the nation at $100 million. Director Hawman asked when funds will be received from the Safer Grant. Chief Stanton reported that we could start receiving funds from that grant immediately if we need to.

***Old Business:***

Capital Improvements

And Purchases:

Equipment: All rolling stock that was ordered has been received. As ported last month, the next vehicle that the district needs to think about replacing is a staff vehicle. Director Hawman asked about other ways to purchase vehicles, possibly leasing. Chief Stanton says that many departments are leasing their large fire apparatus, but not sure you would do that with the less expensive staff vehicles, but it is something the district can look at. Director Whelan feels that once you start leasing vehicles, you get stuck in that mode due to the interest that you pay.

Station work: Station 23 is getting closer to being completed. December 2 is the target date for move in.

Lawsuit updates: As reported last month the deposition for the ambulance lawsuit will be conducted in January. This is a $700,000.00 lawsuit. The Gillette lawsuit for $1,000.000 continues with discovery ongoing. SDAO attorneys for the district feel that both lawsuits will be settled out of court. Chief Stanton wanted the board to know that the district may be gong to arbitration with the union over a member being sent home with a day off without pay.

AP Triton work: The work is underway for the community risk assessment, standard of cover and strategic plan.

PILT funds: Genoa Ingram, Executive Director, Oregon Fire District Directors Association is working on this. Chief doesn’t know if a bill will come before the legislature or not from her efforts.

Chief’s Contract: Paperwork was distributed regarding the contract Chief Stanton. The two changes were highlighted. The contract is for five years. There was a 90-day clause which has been extended to 180 days. This just protects the district is Chief Stanton wants to retire early. The other change is a VEBA contribution to fund Chief’s health care cost upon his retirement. This will be readdressed under old business at December’s meeting.

***New Business:***

Training Division update: Chief Stanton updated the board on potential changes to the district’s training division.

Approve temp building

purchase: The board was phone polled regarding the temporary building purchase in the amount of $15,900.00 Director Silaski moved to approve this purchase. Director Hawman seconded the motion. A roll call vote resulted in a unanimous vote. Motion passed.

**Board Member Comments:**

Director Sherman appreciates all the words of support after his pacemaker surgery.

**Adjournment:**

There being no further business before the board, the meeting was adjourned at 1957.