**MINUTES**

**Umatilla County Fire District #1**

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**Regular Board Meeting**

**February 13, 2020**

***Present:***

The meeting was called to order at 1902, February 13, 2020, in the meeting room at Station 21 located at 320 S First Street, Hermiston, Oregon by Board President Ric Sherman. Those present included board members Bruce Naugher, Eldon Marcum, Spike Piersol, and Mike Hawman via remote connection, Fire Chief Scott Stanton, Operations Chief Jimmy Davis, Battalion Chief Corey Gorham, Lieutenant Matt Hodge, Firefighters Trevor Phillips and Kelly Shelton and Board Clerk Reta Larson.

***Pledge of Allegiance:***

Director Bruce Naugher led the pledge of allegiance.

***Minutes of January Meetings:***

Clerk Reta Larson noted 3 corrections to the minutes. The first being the date on the regular meeting minutes. The date was originally stated as January 8, 2019. This was corrected to January 8, 2020. The Work Session minutes from January 25 contained two errors. The first was to the title of Mr. Ulbricht. He is the Director of Advisory Services for Special Districts Association of Oregon. The final correction is to the loan amount that Mr. Ulbricht was looking at getting a quote on. The stated amount in the minutes was originally $325,000.00. The correct amount is $350,000.000. With those corrections, Director Marcum moved to approve the minutes from the January 8, 2020 meeting. Director Piersol seconded the motion. Motion passed. Director Piersol moved to accept the minutes from the January 25 work session. This was seconded by Director Naugher. Motion passed.

***Financial Report:***

Chief Stanton noted that our ambulance revenue is about $30,000 more than has been budgeted for this time of year. Our balance sheet is about $20,000 less than last year. The difference appears to be in the taxes and when they were received last year compared to when they were received this year. Chief Stanton expects that we will receive the same tax revenues for the remainder of the budget. If that happens then we will be about $82,000 more than budgeted. We are expecting a GEMT payment of approximately $200,000.00 by May 15. Chief Stanton also noted that the ambulance rate Resolution coming up later in the meeting, if passed could generate an additional $30,000 - $35,000 in revenue. This will put our overall cash carry over between $1.4 and $1.5 million. Last year’s cash carry over was approximately $1.27 million. The balance sheet reflects a balance of $2,765,701.49, but as noted by Chief Stanton the taxes that we receive in February have not been received as of February 13. The January expenses included the large annual disbursement to VEBA of $85,000.00 to put the total at $663,399.83. Director Marcum moved to pay January expenses of $663,399.83. This was seconded by Director Naugher. Motion passed.

***Communications:***

Director Marcum reminded everyone about the upcoming awards banquet at Good Shepherd Medical Center on May 15.

***Chief’s Report:***

See attached report.

***Old Business:***

Station 25: Director Hawman reported via remote that the building will be delivered by the end of the month. The area where the building will be has been leveled and is ready for concrete work that should start the end of the month. Mike is still working on getting the building permit.

Station 24: Chief Stanton reported that a turnout room needs to be added to the plans. The neighbor who lives next to the property that we purchased in Stanfield next to Station 24 is interested in buying a piece of property as his house is nearly on the property line. Chief Stanton has assured him that the area next to his house is going to be a parking lot. He was happy with this.

Annexation Updates: Chief reported that one last signature is required from Oregon Parks and Recreation. Chief reports that they are not very good at returning telephone calls. Chief is going to go to the state level to get some movement. Chief has already emailed Representative Greg Smith regarding this matter. Nothing new to report on Umatilla Rural Fire Protection District and annexation. Chief is still expecting the Columbia Development to be transferred in the spring. Representative Greg Smith will be in contact with us regarding annexation when transfer has occurred.

Tyler Technologies

Payroll Status: Implementation continues with work on importing data from July 1, 2016 from Quick Books. Jordan Standley with ESD is working with Tyler to make this happen. Training will occur March 3 - 9 for all involved with working with the new software.

Strategic Planning

Process: A draft document is being crafted. Once this is done then the stake holders will be called back in to look at the draft. A meeting has been scheduled for February 20. Special Districts will see and put their stamp of approval on it once the document is complete.

County Commissioners

Meeting: Chief Stanton is working on setting up a meeting with the County Commissioners. The topics of discussion will be the money in lieu of taxes. All commissioners have agreed to the $2,000,000.00 that was committed to. Chief is just wanting to get it in writing. The other topic of discussion is Resolution 2019 – 2020 #2 passed at the December 2019 board meeting. This Resolution serves as a guide for the district regarding the creation of or development in enterprise zones, strategic investment zones (SIP), renewable energy zones, and any other development that is seeking exemption in property taxes within the district. Chief hopes to have a meeting set up within the next 30 days.

***New Business:***

Future Funding

Options: David Ulbricht with SDAO is still working on numbers for the debt service for Station 25 and the possible bond. Chief Stanton’s wish list is just shy of $10,000,000.00 and this would cost the voters approximately $.21/1000 of assessed value. Director Hawman was interested in what amount we could get for $.25 - $.30/1000 of assessed value. Chief Stanton recently received a call from police Chief Jason Edmiston regarding possibly working together for a City of Hermiston one percent sales tax with proceeds going directly to public safety. This sales tax could generate 3.5 million a year that would be split between the City and UCFD1. Chief Stanton after further discussion with Director Sherman doesn’t think this is a good idea. Director Sherman and Chief Stanton meet with city management on February 25. Chief Stanton also mentioned that there was discussion at Monday night’s City Council meeting regarding a business opportunity coming sometime in May that could result in additional possible development in the City of Hermiston’s enterprise zone.

Ambulance Rate

Addition: Candice conducted an ambulance rate survey which is attached. After further consideration, Chief Stanton is proposing an increase in ambulance rates. Chief Stanton estimates that the new rates could generate an additional $100,000.00 a year in ambulance revenue with approximately $30,000 generated the remainder of this fiscal year. Resolution 2019 – 2020 #5 reflects the increase and if adopted would go into effect on March 1, 2020. Director Sherman read Resolution 2019 – 2020 #5 in its entirety. Director Naugher moved to adopt Resolution 2019 – 2020 #5. This was seconded by Director Piersol. Resolution 2019 – 2020 is adopted.

AFG Grant Application: Chief Stanton reported that the grant is a request for cancer prevention items. This grant consists of asking for a second set of turnouts for everyone and an additional washer, extractor and dryer for turnouts. If the grant is for $300,000.00 then the cost share would be 10 percent or $30,000.00. The due date for the grant is March 14. The request is very similar to the grant that was submitted last year.

Presentation: Cancer

Prevention: Chief Gorham presented a brief overview on what the district is doing currently for cancer prevention and what future things can be done. Firefighter deaths related to cancer have risen dramatically in the last 20 – 30 years. The statistics show this is because of the combustibles that fire fighters are exposed to. A lot more synthetic, oil-based petroleum exposures than in earlier years. Rates of cancer occurrence were not tracked very well prior to the ‘80’s. Sixty percent of firefighter deaths are attributed to cancer. UCFD1 has taken measures to prevent cancer by disallowing use of tobacco at any district property, limiting areas where wearing turnouts is allowed, purchasing washing machines specifically made for washing turnouts, gross decontamination at scenes, encourage showering as soon as possible after an incident, sun screen use on training grounds and during brush fire season, encourage a healthy lifestyle (diet, sleep, exercise) and provide clean uniforms. The most important things that UCFD1 could do to provide cancer prevention is provide a second set of turnouts, get a better exhaust system in the apparatus bays and provide enclosed storage for turnouts.

**Board Member Comments:**

Directors Piersol and Naugher both thanked Chief Gorham for his presentation.

Director Marcum felt that even though UCFD1 Is not trained specifically in flood response, the response went well regarding communications and coordination.

Director Sherman asked about a location being found for fire works in Stanfield for July. A location has not yet been secured.

**Adjournment:**

There being no further business before the board, the meeting was adjourned at 2015.