**Umatilla County Fire District #1**

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**Regular Board Meeting Minutes**

**September 8, 2021**

***Present:***

The meeting was called to order at 1900, September 8, 2021, 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 Spike Piersol and Jim Whelan, Fire Chief Scott Stanton, Division Chief of EMS & Training Richard Cearns, Billing Clerk Whitney Sitton and Board Clerk Reta Larson.

***Pledge of Allegiance:***

Eldon Marcum led the Pledge of Allegiance followed by a moment of silence for all first responders especially fire fighters for the twenty year anniversary of the attack on the Trade Centers on 09/11/2001.

***Guests:***

Many paid on call and career fire fighters as well as some of their spouses were in attendance.

***Minutes of August 11 Board Meeting:***

Director Piersol moved to approve the August 11, 2021, board meeting minutes. Director Marcum seconded the motion. Motion passed.

***Financial Report:***

Clerk Larson presented the financial report beginning with the balance sheet. The balance sheet shows a balance of $735,215.57 in LGIP, $18,681.57 in Banner Bank with a total balance of $754,397.14. This balance is approximately $400,000.00 more than what the district had at this same time last year. With this balance the district should not have to borrow any money to make it through until tax money comes in November. Also the bond money should be available by October 20. The next report was the budget. The taxes collected in August total $24,915.39 with $47,359.73 collected since July. The ambulance revenue collected during the month of August was $187,493.74 for a total of $380,037.98 collected this budget year. Maintenance Fees collected during the month of August totaled $3306.53. Money collected from Intergovernmental Agreements during the month of August totaled $19,085.80. This was from Pilot Rock. Miscellaneous Revenue collected during the month of August totaled $69,975.23. Total revenue collected during the month of August was $304,776.69. On the expense side of things, Personal Services totaled $583,081.69 for the month of August. Materials and Services totaled $93,977.16 for the month of August. Capital Outlay totaled $22,229.00 for the month of August. Expenses for the month of August totaled is $679,288.05. The final report is the bank transaction report. Check number 9866 for $1,325.31 to AT & T Mobility is a new vendor. This is the new carrier for our cellular service. The district is transitioning from Verizon to AT & T. The transition is not complete so check number 9885 for $1135.60 to Verizon should be the last time we pay them. Check number 9894 for $12,231.16 to Intermountain ESD is the annual IT fee. Check number 9900 for $6,693.82 to Tom Denchel Ford is for a new transmission for Medic 21. Check number 9901 for 1,555.98 to True North is for equipment for apparatus. Check number 9912 to City of Hermiston for $3,094.75 is for our portion of the insurance on the Station 21. Check number 9915 to JD Dietrich for $3600.00 is for the installation for the load systems. Check number 9919 for $846.20 to Sea Western is for PPE. Check number 9923 to Dr. Bradley Adams for $1800.00 is for Physician Advisor fees. His monthly charge is $600.00 so this is several months of expense. Check number 9924 to SDAO for $1198.08 is for vehicle insurance. With several new vehicles added to the fleet, this is the additional cost to insure them. The final expenses include the monthly payment to CIS for Medical, Dental and life insurance premiums for $71,633.38. Director Whelan inquired about check number 9931 to Umatilla County Fire District #1 for $787.88. This is money collected from those employees who choose to have life insurance from CIS and is included in the payment mentioned above to CIS. The total expenses for August is $667,360.30. Revenue expected to be collected in the next thirty days include GEMT money in the amount of $57,000.00. Oregon State Fire Marshals Office should pay approximately $40,000.00 for conflagrations the district responded to. We will receive our deposit back from True North for $15,000.00 as they are no longer making the ambulance that we ordered. Next week Pilot Rock will pay $15,900.00 for the final payment on the Intergovernmental Agreement with them. Outstanding Haz Mat revenue totals $8,000.00. As reported earlier, bond money is expected to fund on October 20. Director Piersol moved to approve August expenses in the amount of $667,360.30. This was seconded by Director Hawman. Motion passed.

***Communications:***

Jesse Brown representing local 2792 as their president presented a statement regarding Governor Kate Brown’s COVID 19 mandate requiring vaccinations by October 18. Tyler Rock, President of the Fire Fighters Association reported that their association is in agreement with the union’s position. Board President Ric Sherman thanked all for their presence and assured them that the board is very aware of the situation.

***Chief’s Report:***

See attached report. The district responded on 532 calls during August. Chief reported that the call volume is up approximately 13 percent from last year. Lieutenant Armstrong is doing much better, but his recovery is expected to be a long haul. The Dodge vehicle that Ryan Campbell had been using has been sold through a sealed bid process for $3000.00.

***Old Business:***

Bond update: Chief Stanton is working with Piper Sandler for an upcoming virtual meeting scheduled for September 14. The bond is expected to fund on October 20.

Station 25 state

Permit update: No updates.

Dispatch Update: Chief Stanton sent an email to the dispatch manager regarding the contract language that the center is not meeting. Chief received no response, so he sent an email to Sheriff Terr Rowan. Chief has not signed a contract, nor has he sent any funds to them and won’t until some of the questions and issues are addressed. Chief Forquer has done some checking with Morrow County dispatch and has ahd some discussion with them regarding taking on our dispatching. A consulting firm is to be hired to come in to evaluate the inner workings of the Umatilla County dispatch center.

Board Policy Review: A meeting will be scheduled with Director Whelan and Director Hawman to review the policies.

OMD fire protection

Contract: This contract has been in the works for several years. The Oregon Military Department has emailed Chief Stanton regarding protection for their facility. Chief has sent them a proposal to bill them per incident.

GEMT – managed care: The Oregon Health Authority has been working for the last 18 months on getting the managed care side of this. This is the more lucrative piece of this and will be retroactive to January 1, 2021. This will be monthly funding, just not sure yet at this point how much that funding will be.

Transport ambulance

Status: Chief Stanton received information about a week ago that the Ford transit van that was ordered is no longer being manufactured. Battalion Chief Clark is looking into the options available to the district.

Cyber Security

Insurance: This has been discussed previously but with recent incident it has now become necessary to address it again and act. Josh Burns with Swanson Agency has been contacted and is working on a proposal that should be ready for the next board meeting.

The board took a five-minute recess prior to continuing with new business.

***New Business:***

Computer & Server

Issues: Chief Stanton reported one computer in the district had been compromised with data mining. ESD caught it pretty quickly. The computed is now being sent to SDAO’s contractor for further evaluation to see how much if any data was stolen and to determine who did this. With this compromised the Finance Director with the City of Hermiston has emailed Chief Stanton suggesting that it is time for the district to get its own server. Chief says that is will be very expensive for the district to have its own server and then the IT contract with ESD will be more expensive. Chief just wants the board to know that bond money may need to be used to purchase a new server.

Finding of facts

notice for CM/GC: This notice needs to be published for 14 days. Once this is done a public hearing will be held for the public to voice any concerns. Director Whelan moved to start the process for the finding of facts for the Construction Manager/General Contractor. This was seconded by Director Marcum. Motion passed.

Governor’s Mandate: Chief Stanton overviewed the mandate for the requirement for vaccination by the October 18 date. Chief reported that in discussions with the district’s legal counsel, the district cannot take a stand to not comply with the mandate. The cost is just too great with potential lawsuits that could ensue. Chief Cearns reported that the options for employees are to get the vaccination, file a religious exemption or file a medical exemption by the deadline of October 18. Chief had a discussion with the State Fire Marshal regarding the impact the loss of employees could have on communities around the State of Oregon. Tyler Rock with the Fire fighters Association has had a meeting with the paid-on-call staff. The same options were presented to those individuals.

Set special board

Meeting date: A special board meeting will be held on September 29 at Station 21 at 1900 to hold the hearing for the findings of fact for the CM/GC.

**Board Comments:**

Director Marcum responded that he did not know if the Union of the Fire Fighters Association expected the board to act on the COVID 19 Governor’s mandate, but he is of the opinion that the board will follow the recommendations of the Chief.

Director Sherman reported that Carry Munro’s shoulder surgery went well. He also reported that the Chaplains have been very busy which is good news that the employees are taking advantage of this service. Director Sherman also reported that the board is not happy with the Governor’s mandate. He feels that unless someone can put an injunction in with the courts and have the mandate stopped, the board cannot do anything but comply with the mandate. He did reiterate that he appreciates all for the work that they do.

**Adjournment:**

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