**Umatilla County Fire District #1**

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**Regular Board Meeting Minutes**

**November 9, 2022**

***Present:***

The meeting was called to order at 1900, November 9, 2022, in the meeting room at Station 23, 78760 Westland Road, Hermiston, Oregon by Board President Ric Sherman. Those present included board members Mike Hawman, Spike Piersol, Jim Whelan, Eldon Marcum, Fire Chief Scott Stanton, Division Chief of Operations Jimmy Davis, Division Chief of EMS & Training Richard Cearns, Fire Marshal Scott Goff, Battalion Chief of Training Corey Gorham, Chaplain Terry Cummings, David Hansen, and Clerk Reta Larson.

***Pledge of Allegiance:***

Director Marcum led the pledge of allegiance.

***Guests:***

None

***Minutes of October 12, 2022 Board Meeting***

Director Hawman moved to approve the October 12, 2022, board meeting minutes with the correction as noted by Clerk Larson. Correction was on page 4, three lines from the bottom of the page should be Local 2752, not Local 252. Director Whelan seconded the motion. Motion passed.

***Financial Report:***

Clerk Larson started with the Balance Sheet for the bond. The bond balance sheet shows a balance of $1,648,878.57 in the bond LGIP account, $20,681.56 in the Banner Bank bond account and $-47,014.75 due from other accounts for a balance of $1,622,545.38. The bond transaction report shows five transactions totaling $273,447.91 for the month of October. The next report reviewed was the Balance Sheet for the General Fund. This report shows a balance of $412,281.35 in LGIP, $500.00 in Petty Cash and $57,756.76 in the Banner Bank checking account and

$-219,175.77 due from other accounts for a total of $251,362.34. The Budget Report for the general fund show taxes collected during October total $8,962.96, Ambulance revenue collected during October total $250,887.35. No Maintenance Service fees were received during the month of October. Grant funds collected during October total $8,143.00. No Intergovernmental Agreement fees or Fire Suppression Fees were collected during the month of October. Miscellaneous Revenue collected during October totaled $6,213.33. Total revenue collected during the month of October was $274,206.64. For expenses $543,526.34 spent in Personal Services. Materials and Services expended during the month of October totaled $121,371.45. $4,113.25 was spent in Capital Outlay during October. With no questions regarding the budget, the final report to review was the bank transaction report. Clerk Larson reviewed unusual transactions and noted October expenses total $670,542.84. Director Marcum questioned if the Umatilla County Dispatch payment (check number 10748 in the amount of $36,185.66) was the final payment for this budget year. It is the second payment of four payments. With no questions regarding any other items on the transaction report, Director Piersol moved to pay October expenses in the amount of $670,542.84. Director Marcum seconded this. Motion passed.

***Communications:***

Chief Stanton presented a brief overview of the district’s financial challenges. Chief then turned the meeting over to Commissioner Dan Dorran who presented board meeting minutes from the Umatilla County Board of Commissioners board meeting on October 5, 2022. Commissioner Dorran directed attention to the business items where the minutes explained the distribution of funds received from Amazon. Director Whelan expressed concern regarding the sustainability of the Amazon funds once they come on the tax rolls. Director Whelan also expressed his opinion in that in the negotiation process if would be nice to get some assurance that after the 15-year period ends, that Amazon doesn’t just up and leave the campuses with not tax money ever having been received. Director Whelan also would like for the fire district to be involved in the negotiation process to cover the up-front costs of inspections and other costs related to Amazon construction in the first 15 years. Commissioner Dorran responded that it isn’t the cost of the facilities themselves that cause extra cost to the fire district, but the personnel that the facilities attract to the area. Commissioner Dorran had the district’s 4A tax form that showed that the district’s tax revenue had increased by 15.33 percent in the last four years with only a 7.1 percent increase in population. His point was that the district’s revenue was increasing faster than the population. Chief Stanton responded that the call volume is the issue. Chief Stanton asked about the series of bonds that will be sold later this winter and if it would be paid on by Amazon. Commissioner Dorran thought that it would not but suggested that communication by the district with Amazon would be the only way to know. Chief asked how to apply for funds down the road that will be available from the impact funds. Commissioner Dorran responded that a procedure has not been established yet for how the funds will be distributed or to request funds. Commissioner Dorran did say that the district needs to identify a need and identify other partners that we work with and their needs. Commissioner Dorran said that the County will not get involved operationally with funding for the district. He said the commissioners would not respond to a request for money. The commissioners will allocate funds based on needs identified specifically. Chief Stanton’s frustrations lie with the fact that by the time the fire district finds out about the enterprise zones, the negotiations are finalized, and the deals are struck. Chief wonders why if the county, the city and the fire district and every other entity is struggling with funding, why the county and city continue to make the deals with Amazon. Commissioner Dorran understands Chief’s concern, but it doesn’t make sense to him because without the deals, in his opinion, there would be no growth. Board president Sherman thanked Commissioner Dorran for his time and information.

The board took a recess at 2012 and reconvened the meeting at 2017.

***Chief’s Report:***

See attached report. October calls totaled 567. This is the fourth month that the district has had over 500 calls.

***Old Business:***

Bond procurement and

Station work update:

Station work: Phase 1 work at Station 23 is basically complete except for the overhead doors. The overhead doors are scheduled to be delivered December 4. Station 24 soft demolition could start as early as tomorrow. The permits should be available any day if they are not already obtained. The schematic design was completed today for Station 22. The construction design is due in 30 – 45 days. The work is scheduled to begin on Station 22 in April but more than likely it will be May. The permitting process is what is holding up all the construction projects. The work at Station 22 must be complete due to the seismic grant requirement by the end of December 2023. Chief continues to work on design for Phase 2 at Station 23. Chief has a meeting with the police chief after Thanksgiving to work on Station 21 pre-design and on getting the property donated from the school district to the City. A survey has been completed regarding the property transfer.

Apparatus work: The 2nd Tahoe is scheduled to be here by the end of the year. The remount ambulance should be ready to come home from Nevada in January or February. The Road Rescue ambulance should be here in June. The engine may be completed earlier than expected maybe April, but the aerial will be delayed into September. The reps are saying the delay is due to issues with the supply chain. The bids for the slip in units for the brush trucks came in at approximately $40,000.00 each. Bond funds will be used for this. Director Marcum moved to proceed with purchasing the equipment at a cost of $80,000.00 for the slip in units. This was seconded by Director Hawman. Motion passed.

Single role EMS hire

New hire status: The academy started Monday for the new employees that will last for approximately 2 ½ weeks. By January they will be on shift 24 hours a day.

OMD Mutual Aid

Agreement: They wanted an all-inclusive mutual aid agreement. Chief Stanton said that this will not work for the district. Chief is having them take the agreement back to the way that he originally drafted with mutual aid for wild land and direct bill for all other emergencies.

***New Business:***

Audit: Chief presented all board members with a copy of the audit. The same deficiency that the district has every year regarding the financial statement being done by our auditing firm continues to be the only issue that is noted. There is no fee for this deficiency and the cost to have Barnett & Moro prepare it is just too expensive in Chief’s opinion. Director Whelan moved to accept the audit as presented. This was seconded by Director Hawman. Motion carried.

Presentation by Terry

Cummings: Terry Cummings briefly thanked the board for letting him come to the meeting. He invited the board to the Christmas dinner for first responders sponsored by the chaplains on December 18. Terry just wanted the board to know that the 501C3 has been established for the Chaplains association and is now in place.

Surplus old Cascade

System (MAKO): One part of the bond was to purchase a new Cascade system at Station 23. The old one may be worth as much as $5000.00 when the district is ready to get rid of it. Director Marcum motioned to surplus the old cascade system. This was seconded by Director Piersol. Motion carried.

Solar Farm Project: There is a solar project in the very early stages of development southeast of Hermiston. It encompasses 300 acres. This is a commercial project. Chief intends to keep the board informed on any deals that the county may negotiate.

LDH Hose & Appliance

Purchase: 7 new valves and 1000 feet of hose needs to be purchased at a cost of $29,000.00. This is being purchased as a bond expense. Director Hawman moved to purchase the valves and hose at the $29,000.00 cost. This was seconded by Director Piersol. Motion carried.

Resolution 2022 – 2023

#2 (Bank loan): This is a resolution regarding the $300,000.00 line of credit with Banner bank. There is one change in the counsel of record. Counsel of record is Local Government Law Group in Eugene, Oregon. Director Whelan motioned to adopt Resolution 2022 – 2023 #2. Director Marcum seconded. Resolution 2022 – 2023 #2 adopted.

**Board Member Comments:**

Director Sherman wanted to make sure everyone remember why we celebrate Veteran’s Day and for everyone to have a happy Thanksgiving.

Chief Stanton presented the Hall of Fame award to Director Sherman.

**Adjournment:**

There being no further business before the board, the meeting was adjourned at 2042.