

Scappoose Rural Fire District

BOARD OF DIRECTORS SPECIAL MEETING Board Members and Required Staff met in-person at the Scappoose Senior Center

Also held electronically via GoToMeeting and telephone call-in number
June 25, 2020
Following 7 pm Budget Committee

After due and legal notice, President Graham called to order the Special Board meeting of the Scappoose Rural Fire District at 7:00 p.m. and led the flag salute.

The following members were in attendance: D. Graham, D. Sorenson, A. KriECK, R. Cairns and M. Gift.

Others in attendance: Interim Chief Pricher, D/C Marks, FD Salisbury, and FF Maginn.

Budget Hearing: President Graham opened the Scappoose Fire District Budget Hearing and invited comments on the 2020-21 Budget approved by the Budget Committee. Hearing no comments, President Graham closed the Budget Hearing.

Public Comment: FF Maginn spoke on behalf of IAFF Local 1660. The Kriecks welcomed baby Juniper on June 13th. The Mathews' baby is expected in August and the Ahlers' baby is due in September. FF Maginn said that he plans to step down from his union representative role to spend more time with his family. FF Booth has been elected to fill the position.

Old Business

- **Addendum to SDW contract for additional billing services:** Mr. KriECK moved to approve the addendum to the Systems Design West contract for additional billing services included in the 2020-01 Billing Ordinance effective July 1, 2020. Mr. Cairns seconded the motion. Ms. Salisbury explained that this is the same company that currently handles our EMS billing and has done so for over a year to the District's complete satisfaction. Chief Pricher said that he has previously had successful experience with this kind of billing in another district. He said the fees were not burdensome and typically bills were paid without dispute. Mr. Sorenson confirmed that the 2020-21 budget contains no expectations of revenue from this new billing activity and therefore no planned expenses are dependent on those receipts.

The vote to approve the SDW contract addendum was unanimous.

- **Miscellaneous:** None

New Business

- **2020-21 Budget Resolution 2020-04:** Mr. Gift made a motion to adopt the 2020-21 Budget for the Scappoose Fire District as outlined in Resolution 2020-04, to make appropriations in the total amount of \$6,351,705, impose taxes, and categorize the taxes as required by local budget law. Mr. Kriek seconded. Mr. Gift said that he was impressed by how the crews and everyone involved worked to reduce expenses prior to fiscal year end and he thought it was a good effort by everyone involved.

The vote to approve Budget Resolution 2020-04 was unanimous.

- **Rebound LLC contract:** Mr. Sorenson made a motion to approve the 3-year contract with Rebound LLC to oversee the treatment of orthopedic injuries for employees, volunteers, and their family members. Mr. Kriek seconded the motion. Chief Pricher explained that this program was brought forward by our Health & Wellness committee. It puts injured members at the front of the line for healthcare treatment services, thereby speeding recovery and return to work. This saves on overtime expense to cover vacant shifts as well as wear and tear on staff. Chief Marks said it covers both on-duty and off-duty injuries for all members. Rebound works with the member's health insurer to assure that the most qualified service provider is obtained at the soonest possible time. Service providers will bump other appointments and cancel surgeries in order to make time for Rebound members. Right now Rebound only provides this service for injuries, but they are moving toward offering it for other health issues, including mental health. Rebound will give us a phone number to call, and we will work with one person for each issue. While the District averages only one staff injury per year, this program also covers staff's families and alleviates the strain of injury management on the family unit.

The vote to approve the Rebound LLC contract was unanimous.

- **Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) contract for EMS services.** Mr. Kriek made a motion to approve a contract for the District to provide EMS services for ODF at wildland fires. Mr. Cairns seconded the motion. Chief Pricher said that he is recommending approval of this contract on a one-year trial basis. It provides that if ODF calls on us, we will send 2 single role staff to the fire location for 2 weeks. ODF will pay their wages and will pay for the ambulance we send, which will help the District financially. It will also help staff financially because they will have the opportunity to earn 90-100 hours of overtime pay. This will help with employee retention. The ambulance revenue will help us with the budget and could fund important District projects.

We have worked to generate appropriate service protocols for this and Dr. Sasek has approved these.

One possible downside is that if we send 2 people to the fire, we may not be able to send out 2 ambulances at home. However, we have spoken to volunteers and part-time and they have expressed interest in helping to fill that gap. We have also discussed the possibility of rearranging the single role schedule at home to

assist with this. The payment from ODF should be enough to cover some overtime at the station as well.

A second concern is that we had hoped to use the old ambulance parked in the back for this purpose and have now been told we cannot. It has been out of compliance with current standards for many years, but was grandfathered for our use as long as we kept it licensed. Since we had newer ambulances, we let the old one lapse and cannot get it relicensed. Therefore, we will have to send one of our newer ambulances. There is an exception to this if we are called to a fire on federal land. A 4-wheel drive rig is required by contract. If we are able to use the old ambulance, we will make sure that it is insured and fit to drive before sending it out. The crew would go out for one or at most two calls, each for a 2 week period. The District can decline to respond to a call if it chooses.

The Board comments included support for the program as outlined subject to the restrictions Chief Pricher described.

The vote to approve a contract providing EMS services for ODF at wildland fires was unanimous.

Miscellaneous: The True North estimate for repairing the tower truck cabling and other items will be at least \$15,000. Chief Pricher said that he will probably recommend that the Board approve the repairs in an amount not to exceed \$20,000. While this is expensive, this truck is a key component to our ISO rating. Mr. Gift noted that Sutphen makes a well-designed truck with versatile uses. Having a bucket truck is the best plan for a volunteer organization.

Centerlogic, our Information Technology contractor, recently replaced our firewall at the station. We will need a new server (around \$10,000) in next year's budget because this is the last year we can get a repair contract on the old one. Centerlogic will conduct staff trainings in Office 365 at the station in July.

All the new SCBAs were put on the apparatus in less than 24 hours. B-shift did an excellent job with this. Chief Marks and FF Gandara trained everyone, and all staff appreciates having their own masks. We have enough of this equipment for a while and can establish replacement plans in future with the Planning Committee for items like air bottles. At the next meeting, the Board will be asked to surplus the old equipment and other items so we can donate to a needy agency.

Chief Marks is investigating our telephone issues and concerns and determining what to recommend in order to resolve them. Hopefully there will be a report for the next board meeting.

At the next meeting we will discuss the new engine. We may need to add an external tank gauge as well as LED rope lights in the compartments so you can see inside them. Not painting the rollup doors will save about \$5,000 which could cover the additions.

There will be a presentation at the next meeting. (Note to minutes: CRFR's purchase plan includes adding these items to their engines in their shop after taking delivery.)

Chief Pricher drew the Board's attention to a large sign listing the District's Strategic Goals which were established years ago. He hopes this visual aid and others at the station with the Mission and Vision statements will help remind the District of its core values and culture.

Executive session: President Graham adjourned the open session at 7:45 to go into executive session. This session was held pursuant to ORS 192.660(2)(d) to conduct deliberations with persons designated by the governing body to carry on labor negotiations. President Graham opened the executive session at 7:46 p.m. The session was adjourned at 8:09 p.m.

President Graham re-opened the special meeting to the public at 8:10 p.m.

Public Comment: No comment.

Good of the Order: Chief Pricher thanked everyone – the Board, the volunteers, the career staff, the admin staff, and Chief Marks – for all their hard work over the last month and for coming together as a team to work toward common goals and put the organization back where it needs to be.

Adjourned at 8:11 p.m.