



SCAPPOOSE FIRE DISTRICT

P.O. BOX 625 SCAPPOOSE, OREGON 97056

Scappoose Rural Fire District Board of Directors Regular Meeting Thursday, May 9, 2024

- I. **Call to Order & Flag Salute** - President Reeves called the meeting to order at 8:37 pm.

- II. **Roll Call** – President Reeves, Director Gift, Director Kriek, Director Sorenson, Director Graham, Chief Pricher, Chief Marks, Lt. Heuer, Lt. Anderson, FF Kriek, FF Liebig, FF Hughes, FA Heath

- III. **Public Comment** – There was no public comment.

- IV. **Consent Agenda**
 - A. **Approve Minutes from 4-11-2024 regular meeting** – There were no comments.
 - B. **Approve Mar. 2024 Profit & Loss Detail** – Director Sorenson asked about the expense for CRACKYL Magazine. Chief Marks said it is a magazine that focuses on mental health in the fire service.
 - C. **Approve Mar. 2024 Budget vs. Actual** – There were no comments.

Director Graham moved to approve the consent agenda. Director Kriek seconded.
Motion passed unanimously.

- V. **Statistical Data**
 - A. **Ambulance Activity Report** – Director Sorenson asked if we've had a recent rate change. Chief Pricher said we haven't had a rate change since 2020. Board members discussed EMS revenue, rate changes, and the ongoing Medicare (GADCS) survey which we hope will result in additional revenue once complete.
 - B. **Response Activity Report** – Chief Pricher said the percentage of overlapping calls at night and during the day are both at 43%. Overall, the number of calls has dropped, but we experience more calls at the same time.
 - C. **Community Paramedic Program** – President Reeves thanked the team for the great data. Director Gift asked if there were trends between our community paramedic and call reduction for specific groups. Chief Pricher confirmed they have dropped.

- D. **UAS Flight Summary** –Nineteen flights, two hours and forty minutes of flight time, with 982 photos.

VI. **Staff Reports**

- A. **Chief's Report** – Director Graham asked for a brief description of the chemical terrorism meeting. Director Kriek asked about the inspection at Trojan. Director Gift asked for an update on the Urban Renewal District meeting. Director Sorenson asked if there was an update on numbers for the building project. Chief Pricher has been in communication with the architect and the two continue to work on getting the most accurate numbers. Discussion continued on the proposed bond measure.
- B. **Operations Report** –Director Gift asked if there were locators for the ASA. Chief Marks explained this is still a work in process. Director Sorenson asked for an update on the fireboat. Lt. Anderson explained the current status and projected timeline for returning the boat to in-use status.
- C. **Fire Marshal & Training Report** – Director Sorenson asked if Division Chief Bautista had taken over most of the Fire Marshal duties. Chief Pricher confirmed.
- D. **Member Outreach Report** – No comments.
- E. **Finance Report** – Director Sorenson appreciated the new chart on salaries & benefits. He would also like to see additional graphs on other categories of expenses.

VII. **Old Business - None**

VIII. **Committee Reports**

- A. **Management Team (Reeves & Gift)** – No meeting.
- B. **Long-Range Planning (Graham & Sorenson)** – This group met in April to review the updated Strategic Plan.
- C. **Awards & Incentives (Sorenson & Kriek)** – This group met twice. They discussed setting a scheduled meeting every other month.

IX. **Miscellaneous** – Nothing to share.

X. **New Business** –

- A. Proposed policy revisions. Director Gift said that according to policy, board policies are to be reviewed on even years. He would like to see the policies reviewed this year. President Reeves asked about past practices with regard to policy reviews. Directors Graham, Kriek, and Sorenson shared how this had been done in the past. Housekeeping changes are made as the board reviews a policy or a portion of a policy at regular board meetings. FA Heath will develop a calendar for policy review, make copies of the policies, and distribute them to the members of the board. In this way, board members can all review the policy to be discussed at the monthly meeting and come with ideas for edits, if necessary.

Director Gift referred to a meeting he, President Reeves, and Chief Pricher had in preparation for the Chief's upcoming contract renewal. Referring to the Wage Compression handout discussed in that meeting, he stated he believed there was a conflict of interest in the Chief's contract, stating, "I believe we (the members of the board) need to have more control over the finances of the district since we are the ones financially responsible." Director Gift presented a proposed policy change that he had written and wanted the Board to consider (see Board packet pg. 61). Most other Board members saw this proposed change when the packet was distributed. The proposed changes to policy language focus specifically on the wages of non-represented personnel.

President Reeves read sections from board policy for clarification.

Chief Pricher asked President Reeves if there was an accusation being made of impropriety on Chief Pricher's part. He then clarified that any increases in salary were cost of living increases that all employees received.

Director Sorenson suggested the board address this issue by completing policy reviews. He also stated that policy reviews begin after the fiscal year-end. The first policy to review can be 4.8. Director Graham agreed that reviewing Director Gift's proposed policy change will be something that can be completed when all policies are reviewed, and all board members have a say in what changes are made, if any. Director Gift suggested his proposed policy receive its first reading at this board meeting. Director Sorenson said the entire policy isn't present for the board to review. Director Graham said that he too, was not ready to move forward with Director Gift's revisions. Director Sorenson said he didn't feel there was a need to pull this policy out of all other policies. Director Gift disagreed. Director Kriek agreed that more time was needed and there wasn't a need to push this change through.

Chief Pricher asked the board if they'd like to see this come up in Old Business at a future meeting. Director Sorenson reminded the board that policy reviews will be homework for the upcoming board meetings. He also stated, "Whatever decisions the Chief makes with regard to the people he is the boss over should not influence his salary." The board consensus was to table this proposed policy change until a future meeting, the date of which was left undetermined.

- B. Pursuant to ORS 162.660(2)(i) and 192.660.(8), the Board of Directors for the Scappoose Fire District will meet in executive session to complete the annual performance review of the Fire Chief and conduct labor negotiations for the fire Chief's contract renewal.

The Board entered executive session at 9:37 p.m.

Open session resumed at 10:43 p.m.

XI. Communications - Director Sorenson stated that it is exciting to see Scappoose Fire's logo next to NASA's logo on a webinar announcement. Thank you notes from Columbia 911 Communications District and a family who recently visited the station for a field trip were shared.

XII. Good of the Order – July 11th regular board meeting will have three board members in attendance. President Reeves & Director Gift will be absent.

XIII. Adjourn 10:47 pm.

David Graham
David Graham - Vice President

6/13/2024
Date

Maria Heath
Submitted by Maria Heath