



SHERIDAN FIRE DISTRICT REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES

January 11, 2022 6:30pm VIRTUAL ONLY

6:30pm – Board meeting called to order by President Cooley.

Roll-call: Board attendance: President Harry Cooley, Vice-President Tammy Heidt, Secretary Ray Bottenberg, Director Carol Harlan. Absent: Director Pete Gutbord (family death)

Staff Attendance: Chief Les Thomas, Deputy Chief Larry Wooldridge, Office Admin. Susan Shepard

Guest: Jeff Griffin, CEO WHA

Approval of Previous minutes:

*12/13/21 Regular Board Meeting minutes

*12/15/21 Special Board Meeting minutes

*12/23/21 Special Board Meeting minutes

Director Bottenberg - motion to approve all minutes

Vice-Pres. Tammy Heidt - second

All in favor, minutes approved

Approval of Financials: Discussion - none

Vice-Pres. Tammy Heidt - motion to approve financial reports

Director Bottenberg - second

All in favor, financials approved

OLD BUSINESS:

A. Seismic Update:

Deputy Chief Wooldridge – Will be in current situation a while, supplies are a minimum 10 weeks out, working on sprinkler system-can be included in grant. Positive note-upstairs remodel is less than expected \$45k, includes kitchen cabinets, dayroom, some appliances, bathrooms staying as are. Contractors continuing to move forward – HVAC system needs relocated.

Downstairs - walling off window to admin office, will address the window for the receptionist later. No action needed at this time, just info.

B. LEVY:

Deputy Chief Wooldridge – Been working on scenarios; extending current levy, new levy, under or over \$2.00 . In best interest of district, need new levy to better serve community. Will email info to board, scheduling meetings with committee, getting feelers out in community. He and Chief Thomas will be discussing and getting the filing done.

NEW BUSINESS:

A. Part-Time Staffing:

DC Wooldridge - We really have a need to get a 2nd ambulance out. There is some lines in personnel services in budget that won't be used, which give us approx. \$30k for next six months. This will allow us to fill 20 to 30 12-hour shifts a month. Have EMT's working on getting a couple Paramedics. McMinnville is also down on staffing, talking with Tribe it might be end of month until contract done so still need to cover. Part-time employees will also help for pool to draw from. DC Wooldridge has been helping shifts and staying in trailer at CEC building.

Chief Thomas – stated that the analytics are all over the board for high-call volume times. Will do new report with more accurate status concept than used before. The 12-hour staffing will allow for adjustments as needed.

President Cooley - We will do what we can to support our community. Appreciates help, thank you to Tribe for use of the trailer to help separate crews.

B. Southwest Polk Request:

DC Wooldridge – DC Magers requested that since SWPolk has a licensed medic unit and 24/7 ALS staffing at their Salt Creek station would like Sheridan to consider two things:

1. SWP be placed on the list of resources with dispatch.
2. SFD share our Active 911 with them for access to calls.

DC Wooldridge - this is a board decision, however, First- SWP does not have an ASA and it is illegal to have two resources serving the same ASA. Dallas, Polk, and Salem agencies have all done the research on this and he agrees with them. It also goes against our partnering agencies when they can supply the help. Board is the one to make this decision however, we will always do what is best for the patient in the situation. Second-if we share access to our Active 911 it will allow them access to all our calls and be able to see where we are.

Discussion: Unanimous board consensus no, at this time for both requests. We have mutual aid already setup.

C. WHA – Jeff Griffin, CEO:

Jeff Griffin introduced himself and a little of what his company provides for district. WHA and SDAO work very closely together with our vehicle and liability insurance. He showed a power point, and reviewed SFD coverage. Explained Longevity Credit program, which is significant to our rates, Best Practices Program and credits, etc. Our limits on coverage and the total extra coverage benefits we have through SDAO goes beyond most companies. He also covered the most common claims and violations they're currently seeing in the fire industry. He also works as liaison between SDAO and the Oregon Fire Chiefs Assoc. SDAO sends out a yearly letter notifying districts what the projected rate increase/decrease might be so can budget appropriately. He complimented SFD on how well they had done in the overall plan updates Chief Thomas did in October, even with all the additions, changes in reevaluations , we were 5.5% under market.

WHA also does comparisons of the competitors of SDAO's and SDAO has best coverage, and the dollars stay with SDAO to help keep cost down.

He will be working with Chief Thomas and staff in setting up some classes/lectures so we can continue getting credits and training. The three areas SDAO is asking them to address are; Driving, Civil Rights and Cyber Security.

Covid has really taken a toll on the fire service, the guys are tired and there are long waits at the hospital, citizens are tired and angry and suing districts for small situations where they haven't in the past years, raising our risks.

He encouraged the district to keep applying for grants, if he can help with these let him know.

Chief Thomas reported that he now has access to FEMA, so he was able to finish the AFG Grant and move forward with our radio grant we were given of approx. \$190k.

Jeff said is available 24/7 to the board and staff should they need his help at any time and thanked board for allowing him to be on the agenda.

D. Medicare Ground Data Collection-GAD

Susan Shepard reported that she spoke with Blake at Tactical Business about the Medicare Cost Survey for Ambulance Services requiring all providers to do, which Medicare refers to a GAD (ground ambulance collection data) Last Medicare data collection was in 80's, thus the low reimbursements, this data will be used to assess current payments rates and inform future reimbursement rates, hopefully increasing. To compile all this data is huge task and very time consuming. Failure to do this will result in Medicare deducting 10% of payments for one year. Blake said he is doing this for several other agencies and will do ours for 10k. It might sound like a lot, however when you consider the penalty, work involved and possible rate updates for increased reimbursements, it's worth it.

Chief Thomas added that this is how the GEMT program started, so has potential for increased revenue.

Vice-Pres. Tammy Heidt – motion to contract with Blake at Tactical Business to do data collection.

Director Bottenberg - second

All in favor, motion approved

Correspondence – none

Chief's Report – Chief Thomas thanked Larry, board, staff, and crews for carrying the load in his absence. Everyone working so well together is a testament of our good team. Thanks to the Tribe for also helping.

Prayers to Pete and family in passing of their father.

We have some challenges and going through a rough patch but we will get through it, work hard, it will be better. We're moving forward as a family in a positive flow.

Audience Participation – none

Future Agenda Items: Skid unit will get replaced for Ballston crew.

Discussed apparatus needed.

Safer Grant for staffing for 3-years, 100% funded.

AFG grant 190k for radios with 5% district's part.

Next Regular Board Meeting February 8th, 2022 at 6:30 pm.

Vice Pres. Heidt - Motion to adjourn meeting

Director Bottenberg -Second

Meeting adjourned at 7:33pm

Minutes by Susan Shepard