

# FIRE & EMS PLANNING COALITION

## MINUTES

May 23, 2019 – 6:00PM

Rickreall Fire Station

275 N Pacific Hwy W, Rickreall, OR 97371

**Present:** Paul Trahan, Jennie Rummell, Frank Pender, Scot Breeden, Rod Watson, Rick Mischler, Chris Greenhill, Tammy Heidt, Harold Leavy, Brad Weaver, Jake Rosenbalm, Fred Hertel, Todd Brumfield, Ashley Harlow

### CALL MEETING TO ORDER at 6:00pm

### FLAG SALUTE

### ENTITY UPDATES

- City of Dallas

Todd spoke for the city of Dallas. The budget is going to the Council for public comment. There were no bumps. Conversations continue with Rod on what the separation between Dallas and SW Polk will look like. The staff is also meeting in order to start making plans for the transition. Paul Trahan asked if there was an IGA drafted. The answer was no. Jennie Rummell stated that there is a Public Safety Facility Steering Committee that is starting to meet. This will include three councilors and three staff. This committee involves all public safety, not just fire. The focus at the moment is a police facility.

- Sheridan Fire District, SW Polk RFPD and West Valley Fire District

Fred started off by saying that the IGA is in place between Sheridan, West Valley and SW Polk, starting July 1, 2019. They are currently hiring for positions, which will be a 40/40/20 split in cost. All budgets have been approved. They will be going to a hearing next Board meeting. All Board members that were up for re-election won as well.

The Fire Defense Board chiefs met. They agreed to have bi-monthly meetings. These will be focusing on conflagrations and mutual aid agreements.

Fred wrote out a chart of the square mileage of each district. This was broken up into Fire zones and ASA. Discussion occurred.

Fred has been in contact with Forest Grove, seeing where they are at with their consolidation. They have progressed, and have made a set of Foundational Principles. This is something that Fred suggested the coalition might want to do in the future.

A private entity has expressed interest in using the current station 130 building as a fleet maintenance. This would happen after the new station was built and in use. A group in Willamina has also been mentioning that they have limited office space. They have approached the Willamina Fire District in regards to possibly hosting their office administrator in their station. This will be discussed at a later date.

Scot Breeden compliments all of the agencies working so well together. He mentioned the letter that was given to the City Council a few months back. He has not heard a response.

Fred wants to bring forth the MAAs and the IGAs that have been made. A lot has been accomplished. The last joint meeting and City Council meeting brought up the feasibility study being done in McMinnville. The city of McMinnville has budgeted for the first \$50,000 of the fee. Any other agencies that want to be a part of the study will split the remaining cost.

Chris Greenhill asked how many groups are considering joining. Fred answered by saying that it won't determine who pairs with whom, but that this portion is just a collection of data.

The West Valley levy focus group will have their results on the next joint board meeting. This process will begin June 1<sup>st</sup>. This will show if the voters are in favor or against the levy.

Scot brought up a shared PIO. They need to discuss the services that will be requested. Jennie said that this was originally including all four entities, but it seems that Dallas is not included anymore. Fred spoke, saying that it will all depend how the service agreement will be written. Rod Watson agreed they need to talk about it. If they are going to make this consolidation work, they need to start getting the correct information out as to what is happening.

Todd mentioned that the lack of progress on the consolidation of all four is heavily on the City Council. They need to be on board in order for all four entities to start making plans together. That being said, in order for Dallas to join, there needs to be a benefit for the City. This would require more work for their employees. Jennie suggests bringing some sort of IGA forward to the Council. If one person is not enough to fill the job of a PIO, they could hire another part-time person. Scot says that from the Board perspective, if the PIO of Dallas is already too busy, they will just hire their own. This may be beneficial anyway to help protect them in case Dallas backs out.

Rod Watson says that if it comes down to hiring someone, it is premature. The budgets need to succeed before they make plans to hire anyone else.

Fred says that currently, the PIO position is covered in the budget. It is split up between the five new admin positions. There is no need to hire a new person. If Dallas agrees, the PIO job details will get split between the new hires and the current PIO of Dallas. The coalition will decide what that split will look like.

Jennie Rummell clarifies, saying that anything that is more cohesive needs a feasibility study in the eyes of the Council. IGA building is just a form of sharing.

Todd and Fred were asked to make a rough draft of what an IGA for a joint PIO would look like. Fred said they would work on it. Fred also said it might be able to be covered under mutual aid.

The feasibility study Dallas wants to do is still on the table for the Council as well. An RFP has been fulfilled by the Matrix group. It will cost around \$39,000. It looks very thorough. Rick Mischler states that this study will not show anything new. Past feasibility studies have only regurgitated information that they already know. They are a waste of money and time.

Scot asked what questions are unanswered for the Council. The Districts would love to work with them and answer them. Rick suggests the City Council make a list of questions for the Coalition to answer.

Chris Greenhill says that they have a lot of the information that the feasibility study will show. He asked if they could have a copy of the submitted proposal to try and answer some of the questions Matrix will be conducting on their own. This will save money, and they can do it themselves. Jennie and Paul said that she will try to get them a copy.

Fred says that the Boards and the Council will make a joint list of questions the coalition will look over and answer. This will hopefully answer any uncertainty. Jennie will send an email the Council so that it can be worked on. They will hopefully be able to have a workshop with the Boards to discuss the future. Open to the floor for discussion:

Jake Rosenbalm briefly spoke, saying that they should use their volunteers more. There is a lot of value in that, and saves money. They can help in many areas including getting information out and social media.

**SCHEDULE NEXT MEETING June 24th at Dallas Fire & EMS, 6pm**

**Adjournment at 7:38pm**