Sheridan Fire District

Board of Directors

12/13/2022

The meeting was called to order by Tammy at 6:38 p.m.

Board members present: Harry Cooley, Ray Bottenberg, Pete Gutbrod, Tammy Heidt

Others present: Chief Les Thomas, Division Chief Phill Riggs, Gary Giddings, Blake via phone, Marguerite Alexander, Michaela Woods, Crissy Watts, Bekah Law

Approval of minutes: Tammy made a motion and Ray seconded the motion to approve the minutes from the 11/08/22 meeting as presented. The motion carried.

Financial report: The Board tabled the financial report until the January meeting as the information presented was incomplete.

Old business:

1. Seismic update: We are finished finally. The last of the reimbursements have been deposited. Chief recommended that If we are ever asked to do this again, say no. Parts of the project aren’t done. It will take all of next year to complete things. Reimbursements – Gloria is just doing her job, but she has been a bear. We got most of our money back. They gave us half of the cost of the heat in the CEC building. There is a leak at Station 9 and we are waiting until heavy rain to assess it.
2. FireMed/Life Flight report reviewed by Chief Thomas and Marguerite who answered questions. Not all of the volunteers have completed the application. The district will set a date for the volunteers to turn in forms for membership.
3. Community Outreach report. Included in board packet. We have been sending equipment and personnel to Willamina events. We do not have enough personnel to keep doing that.

New Business

1. Yamhill County Defense Board. Steven Warden is the leader. Chief Trampas is after Chief Warden. We are working in a cohesive manner with the county. Working well together. Expanding training. Working on uniformity throughout the county.
2. Chief Thomas’ evaluation. Board members need to complete the evaluation and be ready to turn that in by the beginning of the year. “ + 6” Will plan for an executive session in January.
3. Civil Service. It is not helping SFD. We sent out applications but only two met the criteria. We need three. The Chief needs guidance on what we’ve done. Other agencies around do not use it. Not McMinnville. Tammy: There is a whole section in the ORS on civil service. (Minimum population: 10,000?) We are going to do the best we can to meet the civil service law. Tabled until January. Pete: Can we get rid of it? Crippling us. Can we change the rules. If it’s hurting us, we either need to change it or get rid of it. Chief: We want to do it right. Other agencies around are giving sign-in bonuses. We have a good group of ff/paramedics now. Chief Doesn’t want to bring in someone that will mess up a good dynamic. If we can’t figure this out, do we need to pay the attorney? (Pete) May refer us to labor organization (Chief).
4. SAFER Grant: Proud members of “You didn’t get it” club. The chief was told we did not have a good narrative, but he found out they sent that response to everyone. They won’t send specifics on why the grant was not awarded. No one around us has gotten the grant. “Were not going to give up. We’ll do it again,” Chief Thomas told the Board.
5. McMinnville calls and move-ups. Our rigs are going to McMinnville. Multiple runs. That trend will show up In the ASA report. Chief Thomas hopes to expand our services a little. Our revenue is doing well. We completed a “No spend” November. We are doing a really good job documenting expense. According to Accuity, who is doing the audit, we are at an 18 – 21 % increase from last year. The addresses with the most runs: 1350 W. Main and Pine Tree. We asked McMinnville specifically what is their plan? There is a shortage of nurses. We are giving our officers the opportunity to say no to diverts so we can get our ambulance back in service. Adding a daytime ambulance from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. would help us. The number of transfers from Dallas has increased. The Chief said we will only take Code 3 transfers. Chief has broken the trauma of crews working 96-hour shifts. The Chief’s goal – next year he will push for 6 crew members giving us 5. We have some of the best paramedics in the area who are working on their ff status. Working to get us back on McMinnville first alarm status. How often do our medics end up in McMinnville or at Pine Tree? (20 – 30 % of the time.) At least 500 times this year Riggs said. TVFR has put foot down. Pete expressed concerns that we went to the public and promised them more personnel. While we want to be a good neighbor, He doesn’t want to see us left without coverage. Pete is okay with one ambulance going there. Not comfortable with leaving our community with less than one ambulance. Mac will send their last ambulance to Pine Tree. Dallas? Probably send it to Salt Creek. (Leave us without fire coverage.) Warden will not send CTGR ambulance to Sheridan but will have crews respond from WVFD. No board over them. Tammy said, “I’m not happy with this situation at all.” We promised the voters a second ambulance and a day ambulance. Eventually we will have a tragedy here while our ambulances are in McMinnville. We’ll keep offering what we can. We need to talk to our representatives. We aren’t being fairly represented. We’re the only ones in this area that staff ALS ambulances all the time. CTGR staffs an engine with a paramedic. Goal to have staffing for a day rig. Les believes Polk County will award part of Polk County to SW Polk. Volunteers are giving it all they can. We have one volunteer In Ballston, and he gets up at 1 in the morning. Chief Thomas will work at maximizing all the people we have in this building next year. McMinnville is adding a BLS rig. The Chief said they lost another paramedic. Peter is concerned about public perception.
6. Loan payment. Chief Thomas does not like that the loan payment is split with the interest and the principal due at different times. One payment is due close to the end of the fiscal year. He would like to pay them both at the same time.
7. SDAO safety grant. The district has received a $1,500 grant for security and safety. Chief Thomas would like to either apply it toward the cost of the security cameras we recently had installed or use it to have magnetic door openers installed, which would move us closer to ADA compliance for the lobby. In the future he would like to see the drinking fountain lowered to meet ADA requirements.
8. 0FSM matching grant. The district has received a $4,900 matching grant for wildland gear. It will be used for wildland shelters. Chief Thomas explained that OFSM had awarded Sheridan a grant which he had written under the previous fire chief, but he was never told that it had been awarded to Sheridan. The first he found out about it was when he received a letter stating that they were rescinding the grant offer as they had not received any follow-up documentation. Chief Thomas explained the situation. OFSM said they would keep an eye open for available funds.
9. Sheridan FCI Community relations board. Chief Thomas, Chief Riggs and Tammy Heidt attended the recent FCI Community Relations Board meeting.
10. Looking at multi-use vehicles. We were able to pick up a cutter/spreader and a ram.
11. We received one application for the vacancy on the Board. The application is in the binder. The applicant is an Integral part of fire investigation team (FIT team). He started as a SFD volunteer in 1980 and was one of the initial crew members on the ambulance.

Harry made a motion to offer the open position to Gary Giddings. Pete seconded it. The motion carried.

1. Three of the board members will need to run for reelection in the spring as their two-year terms will expire: Tammy, Pete, Gary.) We need to research when Harry’s term expires. This year? He was appointed to fill Parrish’s position.
2. Gary will be sworn in at the January meeting.

Good of the order:

1. Keith and Ramona brought 15 pizzas and donuts at last big fire. Cody bought over $200 for food for the fire. (No receipt submitted.)
2. Pete asked about the status of Rescue 9. It is in auction and bids close on 12/15. Bid for $25K. It is listed on a couple websites. Everything has been stripped off of it. Everything we can use is off. Pete asked recommendation if no one bids on it. “We’re not going to get $50,000.” Every freight liner sold last year went for $30,000. Pete asked if the Board could authorize staff to make the decision.

Pete made a motion which was seconded by Harry to give Les and Phill the authorization to make the decision as to whether to let R9 go to the highest bidder. The motion carried.

Tammy asked about moving one of the crew to Buell during the day. There is a nice facility there. Big thing to Pete. All about coverage. Gap. Farthest area to go. Where are we at in that process? Something we can look at trying. Les said it’s a good idea. We’re running out of space. We are waiting for the ASA decision. Show that we can also go into Willamina to back them up. It deserves serious conversation. Time frame…staffing one EMT per shift. We need to talk to the union as to what we are doing and why we are doing it. We would need recliners and to redo the kitchen area. Better coverage is one of the things we promised the voters. Progression needs to happen. It’s going to be perceived that we are blocking. Tammy doesn’t care about what they think over the hill. Chief Thomas is to run the numbers. Chief to look at plans and the cost. Chief, I will never advocate using a trailer. Pete said we need to look at it and give it a try. Chief Thomas thinks both Station 97 and 98 deserve more.

Ray moved for meeting adjournment. The motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 8:04 p.m.