

Sheridan Fire Board  
September 12, 2023

Board Members Present: Cory Chrisman, Gary Giddings, Pete Gutbrod, Tammy Heidt, Ray Bottenberg via Zoom  
Others Present: Chief Les Thomas, Division Chief Phill Riggs, Marguerite Alexander, Captain Jay Payne. No one besides Ray was online.

The meeting was called to order by President Tammy Heidt at 6:32 p.m.

Gary requested delivery of a hardcopy of meeting minutes and financials ahead of time. Chief said he would get them out no later than the Monday morning prior to the regular board meeting. (Saturday morning if the information is more extensive.)

Cory made a motion to approve the minutes from the 8/8/23 and the 8/21/23. Pete seconded the motion. The motioned carried.

Financials: The Board asked if the District had received payment from FCI. Chief Thomas will look into it. He will also speak to Israel or Wes on Thursday at the community meeting at FCI. The current MOU ends in October and renews every 5 years. It did not include an amount. Tammy said Israel doesn't know about it.

Grants: The radio grant was a regional grant split between West Valley and Sheridan. The cost increased which put us under one unit that we couldn't afford to purchase. (\$190 K.) The desk review saved us. They took one unit off. We can finish that grant immediately. The PPE grant won't close for another 1.5 years.

Pete moved to approve the financials with the caveat that Chief and Marguerite find out about the \$4,000 K from FCI listed on the budget vs. actual. Cory seconded the motion. The motion carried.

No public participation.

Old Business:

1. Reading of Resolution No. 23-24-02 Fee change Final Reading by title only. Pete made a motion to approve the resolution as read. Gary seconded it. The motion carried. It will be 30 days until it goes into effect. The Chief will sit down with Heidi to let her know.
2. US Bank loan. The loan has been finalized. The money will be held in a separate escrow account. Chief to fill out a form. The bank carries the note and will send the money directly to the vendor or via an ACH. The District will soon start to see tax revenue drop in. Then we will move money over to Umpqua Bank but the taxes will drop into LGIP which has the best interest rate. Eventually the Chief would like to see all EMS money drop into US Bank so he can estimate income from EMS for next budget year.
3. Ambulance remount update: It has been completed. Chief Riggs and Donna to go get it Thursday. It looks identical to our 2021 ambulance. We must get it OHA certified before we can use it.
4. Brush truck remount: Similar options. The bed for the brush truck is in. Will have to do some modifications. Extend back bumper about a foot. Slide bed forward. There will be 3-4 ft. space between cab and box. We will install a slide-out transverse tray. Storage on top. FF Neumann to work on it. It will cost \$21,000 for the pump and tank. The rest will be fabrication. Estimated \$34,000. The transition won't take place until winter hits due to conflagrations.
5. Chief's report. EMS: There were 75 transports in July and 91 in August. CAD and ESO reporting systems matched up. Future reports will separate refusals/cancelled calls. The Board would like the vehicle numbers to show apparatus maintenance cost. Bad governor for the wipers (Cory).
6. Chief Thomas has received approval from the state to teach Fire Officer 1 and 2.

7. The District purchased a commercial-grade pressure washer after decided not to borrow from a long-time volunteer.
8. Status of Paramedic/Intermediate students: McDowell has been cleared as a paramedic. Jensen has passed his intermediate and Cummins and Neumann have yet to finish the testing process.
9. Community Outreach: See attached.

New Business:

1. Pete suggested an outdoor sign at Station 97 in memory of Chief Herber. Discussion followed regarding the difference between dedication and renaming) Staff will come up with 2 or 3 ideas to bring to the board.
2. The Chief has billed \$93,000 for conflagrations. Five people have been sent and a type 6 used twice. The tires have received a lot of wear and tear and will need to be replaced 6 months earlier than anticipated. They will need a particular type of tire to meet the Type 6 specification. We have been approved for a grant from the forestry service for shelters. It is a matching grant: \$5K + \$5K.
3. Pancake Feed: Oct. 1
4. AVL update: There will be a demo after the meeting to show what it is all about.

Good of the order:

1. LOSAP – Larry Giddings was in charge of that for many years at McMinnville. The Chief will set up a meeting of the Board with Larry to go over it.
2. Discussion regarding the City's decision to provide homeless shelters.
  - The Board noted that it would have a big Impact on our EMS.
  - Funding, which is based on fee for service, would take a financial hit. (If 5 transports per month loss of \$48K.)
  - Resources would be taken away from our taxpayers.
  - Tammy spoke with the City Manager. She was told that Sheridan has accepted \$250K to address the homeless problem. The goal is to deal with the homeless who already live here. The City is establishing a task force to determine the existing homeless needs. They are talking about portables.
  - Concern was expressed about the community drawing in the homeless by offering transportation, gas vouchers, places to sleep, places to shower; free medical; etc.)
  - To be in compliance, health and care must be provided.
  - The Chief said that fire code ordinances for tiny homes/ADU must be followed.
  - The Chief would be happy to talk to the city to get the facts. Then the District can make a plan based on the results. Chief said we also need to talk to Tony Miller of the Oregon State Fire Marshal's office to get clarification on the code.
  - If the District gets no answers, they would like to get on agenda for city council meeting.
  - Tammy would like an MOU with the City like the FCI.
3. ASA updates: Next meeting: Polk County Oct. 11 and Yamhill Co. Oct. 18. Should close out son.
4. The Board requested photos of staff and board for better familiarization.

Gary made the motion to adjourn. Pete seconded the motion. Motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 8:18 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Marguerite Alexander, Administrative Assistant