

Sheridan Fire District
Work Session 8/12/2025

Attendance: Tammy Heidt, Gary Giddings, Cory Chrisman, Pete Gutbrod,

Absent: Ray Bottenberg

Others Present: Chief Roy Hari, Division Chief Phillip Riggs, Marguerite Alexander, Dan Heidt, Captain Daniel Cummins, Jose Chavez (6:23p.m.)

Tammy called the work session to order at 6 p.m.

Oregon State Law requires us to have an acting fire chief. Chief Hari stated that the candidate for the position is perfectly capable of handling the position. The Board will be requiring more of this person and would effectively be eliminating the deputy/division chief position. He estimated that it would take 30 months to get out of the fiscal hole the district is in.

Gary asked, "How do we compensate this person?" Division Chief Riggs said he is comfortable with his wages until November. Pete assured him that the Board would make it right.

Pete then broached the subject of eliminating the ambulance service. He wanted the Board to consider discontinuing ambulance transports and staffing an ALS engine with two people to respond on calls.

Tammy wanted to know what it costs per month to run a medic and how much revenue it brings in each month.

Marguerite stated that she felt uncomfortable talking about this topic when it is not included on the agenda. Both Tammy and Pete disagreed and said it was okay to discuss this crisis situation. They were simply adding an agenda item to the work session, and they could do that since there was no action that would be taken during the meeting.

It was stated that the fire district is only responsible for fire protection. The County is in charge of the ASAs and ambulance coverage. The fire district has taken that responsibility.

Chief Hari stated that he had written a letter to Chief Riggs mentioning five options for making it through the current fiscal crisis.

Tammy talked about eliminating the paramedics on the engines to cut cost.

Tammy called George Dunkel from SDAO this morning. He strongly encouraged the District not to dump the ambulance as it is a source of revenue. He suggested going back to the see the costs vs. revenue. George may have some information as the result of an email from David Albrecht. Options presented by David Albrecht in regard to SDAO working with working District to solve this crisis include the possibility of

- A restructuring plan to deal with the creditors
- A restructuring plan by working with the county
- The District working with the county and a neighboring fire district

Will need to make a motion and set up a 2-person committee to work with SDAO to solve this problem. SDAO is willing to work with us and give us a hand.

Tammy said that if we stop transporting we will have no need to keep paramedics.

Pete recommended keeping on the path we are on. "These folks are our lifeline," he said. He doesn't want to lay off any more people.

Tammy would like to see the numbers to determine how much we are losing on ambulance transports. She said that we owe it to our community and our staff to try everything we can.

Chief Hari mentioned that McMinnville has an ambulance stationed in Amity and asked if we could do the same. He added that voters like the ambulance service

The work session was closed at 6:38 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Marguerite Alexander
Administrative Assistant