

Sheridan Fire District
Board Meeting
2/10/26

Attendance: Ray Bottenberg, Tammy Heidt, Gary Giddings, Cory Chrisman, Pete Gutbrod
Others Present: Chief Phillip Riggs, Marguerite Alexander, Tobias Watson, Jay Payne, Jason Neumann came at 6:51. There was no one online.

Tammy called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

Approval of Minutes: Tammy requested more information on the security grant mentioned in the January 13 meeting minutes. Chief clarified that we didn't have all the tools on hand to drill through the walls to install the cameras.

Gary moved to accept the minutes from the January 13, 2026 meeting. Ray seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Approval of the financials:

Questions:

1. Tammy asked about our progress on the checkless bill payment system. Progress has been delayed due to the change in banking accounts and the cost.
2. Gary asked about the credit card charges which show two different amounts in two different places. It was explained that one was likely the charges made and the other for the payment made for the previous month's charges. Marguerite to get clarification from Kathie.

Board Treasurer Gary Giddings stated that he had reviewed the financial reports for both December and January.

Gary made a motion to approve the financial report for January. Cory seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Audience Participation: None

Old Business:

1. Ambulance billing.

Chief Riggs presented the Board with Resolution 2025-2026-03, an amendment to the fee schedule. Changes include adjusting BLS transport to match ALS transport and adding a fee for ALS evaluations on refusals. Aligning our assessment fee to match both EMS and MVC, addition of administrative hours for records requests and some other miscellaneous.

Ray voted to approve the first reading of the resolution. Cory seconded the motion. The motion carried.

2. Update on the Safer Grant.

In order to submit a request for amendments to the Safer grant we received for hiring three line staff, Chief Riggs needed to accept the grant. FEMA would like people to be hired by March if they approve the changes we have requested for the Safer Grant. We can't afford the 25% of the cost for the first year. He asked for more help the first two years and believes we might be able to pay

more the third year. We can't ask for changes that would increase the amount we were awarded. Chief worked with the numbers to come up with something that was under that number. If FEMA approves the modifications, we will need to have a resolution ready to pass to accept grant funds into the budget. (They are currently not responding to any updates due to the federal government shutdown.

Ray made a motion to approve the first reading of Resolution 2025-2026-04. Gary seconded the motion to read. The motion carried.

3. Maintenance on vehicles. The Heavy Brush is back. Next is discussion on the maintenance needs of Tender 98. It will be costly as it needs clutch. (We were looking at putting in a used automatic transmission instead of that clutch but that is a huge expensive and not an option. He is ordering parts and will also do a DOT inspection on it.

New Business

1. It was a busy month. The report has a new look as we move from NFIRS to NERIS.
2. Audit Results – Tammy requested corrections to the last paragraph of the letter to the Audits Division and asked to include the full date. Chief made the corrections.
3. The bank forbearance letter states the 2024-25 audit is due by June 30.

Gary made a motion to accept the 2023-2024 Audit as prepared by Accuity. Ray seconded the motion. The motion carried. No questions on letter.

4. Consolidation of the two Umpqua loans would extend our loans out 10 years and lower our payments by \$70K per year. One loan is taxable, the other is not. The interest rate is a little lower. The fee schedule pays off the taxable loan first. It will be three years before we can pay it off without penalty. Discussion: Should we roll the June 2026 payment into the loan also?

Cory made a motion to accept the debt consolidation proposal from Columbia Bank and roll the \$40K June payment into that consolidation. Pete seconded the motion. The motion carried.

4. Budget Calendar

Ray moved to approve the budget calendar with a correction to the date on line 2 and to appoint Chief Riggs as budget officer. Gary seconded the motion. The motion carried.

5. Budget committee vacancy: Tammy suggested posting the vacancy on our website and on Facebook.

For the good of the order:

1. Pete asked about SW Polk charging for cancelled move-ups. Pete doesn't like it. Chief doesn't like it and shared his comments with Dean Bender of Polk County Emergency Management.. He feels like most agencies don't like it either. There is a Polk County Fire Chief's meeting tomorrow that he will be attending. There will be discussion on dispatching the closest units.

Gary moved to adjourn. Cory seconded the motion. The motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 7:24 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Marguerite Alexander, Administrative Assistant