

DRAFT

Seal Rock Rural Fire Protection District

Board of Directors Meeting – June 11, 2020

Phone Conference

Directors Present: John Soltau Peter Benjamin
Dustin Joll Larry Henson
Tina Fritz

Others Present: Chief Sakaris Chief Gary Woodson
Jamie Mason Andrew Licon
Mickie Lundquist Windy Rush
Mike Burt Paul Highfill
Paul Rimola Al Anton
Mary Lou Morris

Call to Order – Board of Directors Meeting

- President Soltau presided and called the meeting to order at 18:32. There was a quorum.

Approval of Minutes for May 14, 2020 Meetings

- President Soltau explained that he had discussed approval of minutes with Skip Smith, who stated minutes do not need a motion for approval. President Soltau has decided to still ask for a motion for approval.
- President Soltau asked for a motion to approve the May 11, 2020 minutes for the Board of Directors meeting. Director Benjamin made a motion to approve the minutes and Director Joll seconded the motion.
- President Soltau asked if there were any comments or corrections regarding the May 11, 2020 minutes. There were no comments or corrections.
- The minutes for the Board of Directors meeting were approved unanimous.
- President Soltau stated the minutes for the May 11, 2020 Budget Committee meeting had been reviewed and did not need approval.

Financials (handout)

- President Soltau thanked Mel Beery for his years of service to the Seal Rock Fire District. Since Mr. Beery was not in attendance, President Soltau will contact him.
- Director Benjamin discussed the financial reports.
- Balance Sheet as of May 31, 2020 – Summarized Current Assets and Liabilities. The total for Operating Funds was \$478,242. Total LOSAP Funds was \$46,203. Total for Truck & Bldg Reserve Funds was \$131,776. Total Accounts Payable was \$6,903. Total Credit Cards was \$800.

- Income and Expense May 2020 – Total income was \$3,658. Expenses for the Firefighters Fund was \$15,114. Expenses for the Chief Fund was \$7,453. General Fund Expenses was \$13,243.
- Expense Detail May 2020 – Reviewed with no questions or comments.
- Budget vs Actual Report July 2019 through May 2020 – This report is for 91% of the total budget. Total Income is 99% of budget. Total Firefighters Fund Expenses is 88% of budget. Total Chief Fund Expenses is 81% of budget. Total General Fund Expenses is 71% of budget. Total Truck & Bldg Fund Expenses is 56% of budget.
- Bills Paid June 2020 – Reviewed with no questions or comments.
- Credit Card Charges May 2020 – Reviewed with no questions or comments.
- Director Fritz made a motion to approve Financials and Accounts Payable. Director Joll seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimous.
- Cash Requirements June 2020 – President Soltau stated the current month payroll and bank debits include \$16,100 for payroll & payroll taxes – Chief & Firefighters, \$3,100 for health insurance benefit – Chief & Firefighters, \$2,700 for bank debit – PERS – Chief & Firefighters, and \$700 for bank debits – PUD electric. Amount to transfer from General LGIP to general bank account is \$28,600.
- President Soltau stated \$29,300 needs to be transferred from the Truck/Building LGIP to the Truck/Building bank account and \$60,000 needs to be transferred from the General LGIP to the Truck/Building LGIP.
- President Soltau made a motion to make the transfers. Director Benjamin seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimous.

Budget Hearing

- Resolution Adopting the 2020-2021 Budget (#2020-01)

President Soltau read the resolution which is attached to the minutes. President Soltau made a motion to accept the resolution. Director Benjamin seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimous.

Director Henson stated he feels there has been some misunderstanding about the budget since there couldn't be the usual budget meetings. He is not in favor of the way the budget had to be done this year and not able to get public input because of Covid-19.

- Resolution Making Appropriations (#2020-02)

President Soltau read the resolution which is attached to the minutes. President Soltau made a motion to accept the resolution. Director Benjamin seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimous.

- Resolution Imposing the Tax (#2020-03)

President Soltau read the resolution which is attached to the minutes. President Soltau made a motion to accept the resolution. Director Joll seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimous.

- Resolution Categorizing the Tax (#2020-04)

President Soltau read the resolution which is attached to the minutes. President Soltau made a motion to accept the resolution. Director Benjamin seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimous.

Old Business

- Firefighter Contract

The finalized version of the contract has been received. President Soltau suggests putting this into action effective July 1, 2020. President Soltau made a motion to make the Firefighter Contract effective July 1, 2020. Director Joll seconded the motion. A discussion followed. Director Henson is concerned that the contract doesn't have an ending date and there's no statement regarding termination in the contract. The vote was four in favor and Director Henson opposing. Motion passed. President Soltau stated the Board can look at the contract again at a later date.

- COVID-19 Virus Update:

Chief Sakaris gave a report on the virus in Lincoln County. On June 10, 2020 there were 163 cases in Lincoln County. Seven more cases were added on June 11th, bringing the total to 170 cases.

- Intergovernmental Agreement:

Chief Sakaris has received the agreement from Adam Springer and board members have a copy. Director Fritz doesn't think the agreement should be tabled. Mr. Springer has commented concerning the legal side of the contract and his opinion is the Intergovernmental Agreement is valid since it has been signed. Chief Sakaris said another attorney could review it if the Board thinks it's necessary. Director Fritz stated two board members need to be elected to work on the agreement. Director Benjamin agreed with Director Fritz to go forward. Director Joll is in favor of forming a committee to look at the agreement and move forward. President Soltau and Director Benjamin agreed to be on the oversight committee. Chief Woodson, from Central Coast Fire, reported Central Coast has their two committee members. Director Fritz made a motion to have President Soltau and Director Benjamin on the oversight committee for the IGA. Director Henson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimous. Chief Sakaris will set up the meeting with Central Coast. Director Fritz feels the meeting should be next week.

- Station 6200 Update (Board Member Fritz)

Director Fritz has talked with Lincoln County and was told the building is not zoned for a fire station. Chief Sakaris wants to explore a conditional use permit for the station. Director Henson has talked with Chief Sakaris and gave him information for Lincoln County. The property has to be R3 or R4 to get a conditional use permit which doesn't include a fire station. Chief Sakaris has looked at the information and needs to contact the Zoning Commission. Director Fritz was told the Fire District can't get R4. She

understands it would cost one million dollars to make the building a fire station. She wants to know if there are funds in the budget. Is it feasible? She thinks the building should be given back or sold if the building can't be used. Director Henson stated the building is currently being used as a storage unit that costs \$30,000/year. Director Fritz suggests getting rid of equipment that can't be used. President Soltau thinks another person should contact Lincoln County because someone else might get different answers regarding zoning. The question was asked why the Seal Rock Water District building is ok but Seal Rock Fire District building isn't. President Soltau thinks the Fire District should explore the zoning issue first before making any decision. This topic should be discussed further if the building can't be used as a fire station.

- Submission of Written Comment to the Board of Directors

Chief Sakaris stated there were no submissions. Anyone wanting to make comments can email them to Sealrockboardofdirectors@gmail.com. Letters can be scanned or emails can go to all board members.

- Insurance Payments Issued to Firefighters

President Soltau suggests giving \$500 to the firefighters toward their general income taxes. President Soltau made a motion that Andrew Licon and Derek Udoutch receive \$1200 total toward their general income taxes, which includes what has already been given to them. Director Benjamin seconded the motion. Director Henson asked if they will have to pay taxes on this amount. It was explained that the District can't give money without the withholdings. The motion passed unanimous.

- Letter from Public on IGA

The consensus of the Board is to move forward, review the agreement and make adjustments. Mr. Springer suggests making no comment. The agreement can be reviewed by contacting Chief Sakaris.

New Business

- FLSA Resolution #2020-05

President Soltau read to resolution which is attached to the minutes. President Soltau made a motion to accept the resolution. Director Benjamin seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimous.

- Chiefs Report by Chief Sakaris:

The Chief's monthly report is attached.

There were 46 calls in May including 37 EMS. Central Coast, Yachats and Seal Rock Fire Districts responded to two CPR calls, one at the Seal Rock park with 14 individuals responding and another call with 11 individuals responding. Chief Sakaris wants everyone to stay safe with Covid still around us. Director Fritz asked if it is easy or hard for Central Coast and Seal Rock to go together on calls. Are they now dispatched

simultaneously? Chief Woodson said it depends on the station that receives the 911. If the tones are set off and heard, both stations are able to activate.

Public Comments:

- Paul Rimola asked if anyone checked on the building before it was bought? He said this is an illegal meeting since the public didn't get reasonable notice.
- Paul Highfill asked the Board if they want volunteers – yes or no. President Soltau stated there would not be an answer, that the Board was just taking comments.
- Mike Burt said the May 14, 2020 minutes stated the letters would be put on the agenda for next month. The letters were not on this meetings agenda. He is notifying the Attorney General that this is an illegal meeting.

Board Comments:

- Director Fritz read a letter she wrote. The letter is attached to the minutes. President Soltau asked that Director Fritz email the letter to the other board members. A discussion of hiring additional firefighters followed. Director Fritz wants the hiring resolved by a certain date. President Soltau suggested August 1, 2020. Directors Henson and Benjamin agreed to August 1st. Director Joll thinks it is more important to make the right decision than setting a deadline. Chief Sakaris stated the budget needs to be considered and look at the options. Chief Sakaris and President Soltau have talked about the options, don't want to be hasty and want to find the best. Andrew Licon agrees with Director Fritz. Currently if he is dispatched, he can be by himself. The District is understaffed and it needs to be fixed now. Director Fritz made a motion to have qualified firefighters that have been through the interview process, met the minimum standards required set by the District and hired by August 1, 2020. Director Benjamin seconded the motion. President Soltau is opposed to the motion because he doesn't like the time restraint. The motion passed four in favor and President Soltau opposing.
- President Soltau reminded the Board that new officers will be elected next month. He doesn't want to be Chairman for next year and wants the other members to think about volunteering. Director Henson stated it takes at least 30 hours per week if the Chairman is going to run the Board in a good manner.

President Soltau adjourned the meeting at 20:04.

Minutes prepared by Mary Lou Morris.

Respected colleagues of the Board,

Our actions as members of a government body, responsible for the protection of the community, have weighed heavily on my mind over the past few months. As a Board of Directors, I feel we are not representing our community, our volunteers, and our employees as well as we could and should be. I have separated my concerns out as follows:

- ❖ I feel we talk about issues to no resolve; Merely talking is not satisfactory. We need action as a result of talking. Our minutes reflect our conversations and provide a means for holding ourselves accountable but the actions resulting from our minutes fall to ignorance.
- ❖ I support our career Firefighters; I support the concept of utilizing career Firefighters to ensure responses are covered no matter what. We have had multiple discussions regarding the hiring of additional Firefighters, whether part-time or not, and multiple options provided from the Fire Chief with no results. I feel the Fire Chief needs guidance from the Board including required dates resulting in outcomes of our expectations. I personally would like to see results in hiring within the next 45 days. We know there is a position, previously held by Kyle available, so we need to decide if it's a full time employee or part time employees and set a date required to have this issue resolved by the Fire Chief.
- ❖ I feel we need to support and help create a Citizens Advisory Committee, I believe community feedback and support is more so now than ever important in how we hold our District accountable. We need a committee of community members who can provide us with feedback, support, and yes at times point out conflicts for which we are responsible for addressing. I would like to see a public request sent out through media such as information station or even through something as simple as mailers to reach out and try to recruit at least 5 or more members of the community to be an advisory committee to help and support us. I would like to have a plan with a date selected, to send the information out, formulated tonight and I would like to be able to discuss their feedback at our next board meeting.

Overall, I am tired. I am tired of a lack of results. I am tired of open-ended dates with no plan or even outlook for future growth. The talking about issues merely for conversation with no expected plans for results needs to stop. As members appointed by the public for the public, we have a responsibility to seek action and resolve. I hope that my thoughts and frustrations are shared by my fellow colleagues. I hope we can use this time to be humble and start a path to action as a result of conversation with expectations.

Sincerely, Director Fritz