

Seal Rock Rural Fire Protection District Board Meeting
February 11, 2021

The Board of Directors of the Seal Rock Rural Fire Protection District met for its regular session at the Seal Rock Main Station, 10349 Grebe St, Seal Rock, OR 97376. Due to COVID protocol, the meeting was held by ZOOM and by Phone. The meeting was called to order by the Chair, Tina Fritz at 6:34 PM aka 18:34 hours

Chair Fritz: So, it is February 11th today, at 18:34. We are going to call the meeting to order.

Roll Call of Directors:

Present: Dustin Joll, John Soltau, David Oliver, Larry Henson, Tina Fritz, all Directors present

Staff Present: Chief Tom Sakaris, Accountant Tom Wilson, Firefighter John Townley

Guest: Central Coast Staff Firefighter/EMT : Shi Bucher

Others Present: The meeting attendee count number was 25 at start of meeting

Chair Fritz: We are going to do previous minutes, did everybody get the previous minutes?
They are in the packet.

David did you get them?

Director Oliver: No, Oh wait I did

Did you get them, Dustin?

Director Joll: Oh yes. Thank you.

Chair Fritz: Okay. John, did you get them?

Director Soltau: Yes, I did.

Chair Fritz: Okay. And Larry, you obviously got them. So are there any

questions on the minutes?

Chair Fritz: Okay. So, do I have a motion for the approval of minutes?

Director Joll: I move to approve

Chair Fritz: Okay. Do I have a second?

Director Soltau: I will second it.

Chair Fritz: Okay. All in favor of approving the minutes say Aye,
All voted Aye. Motion passed unanimously

Chair Fritz: Okay. So minutes are going to be approved and put on the website. Next item is Tom Wilson with the financial report.

District Financial Accountant, Tom Wilson: Thank you.

Chief Sakaris: Excuse me real quick. Before we get to Tom Wilson. Larry, when the minutes have been approved, can you take off the word draft and email them to me so we can put them on the website?

Director Henson: Okay.

Chair Fritz: Alright Mr. Wilson, you are up.

District Financial Accountant, Tom Wilson:

The balance sheet and standard reports were sent out this afternoon. The base position is \$638,000 operating funds in the General Bank Account, the General Local Government Investment Pool and Cash on hand. In the Length Of Service Award Program, there is \$34,330. And, reserved for the Truck and Building fund is \$171,628 giving the District a grand total in Checking and Savings of \$844,843 And still looking at \$34,666 in taxes and property taxes receivable.

Next Liabilities and Assets, The District has a prepaid expense for Insurance Premiums that totaled \$12,044 in January and the District in January paid a \$1,000 of it. The District will continue to prepay the remaining amounts currently totaling \$11,040 by another thousand monthly throughout. That gives the District the current base position of asset acquisition of \$890,549 dollars. So very good.

There are no due fixed assets, you would know about which ones those are. Then, we have our accounts payable which is \$12,273 and credit card payable of \$3,291 and have cut the checks for paying that and they are available for pick up tomorrow from my office.

Next are the total Liabilities and Equities, matching with Total Assets at \$1,339,207 So very good. Our next item looking at Ordinary Income/Expense the District received some more tax income from the county and LGIP fund interest bringing the income this month to \$9,771 dollars. In expenses there were \$14,295 for the firefighters and another \$6,715 for the fire chief plus various General Fund Expenses of \$5,967. And if you will note beside cap number 8230 – Property/Liability Insurance, it is expensed as \$1,004 which is out of the \$12,044 for payment this month.

District Financial Accountant, Tom Wilson: And then, pretty much, the other expenses are as normal. There is some for clothing and grant equipment. Total expenses were \$17,206 plus these other expenses of \$3,818 bringing total expense to \$21,024 for the month.

District Financial Accountant, Tom Wilson: Concerning The Budget vs Actual report. The first section is income. The District is 7 months into this fiscal year that started in July of 2020 and that converts to 58% being the target amount. Moving to the "percentage of budget" column, we see that for most of the items they are at or below that so the District is doing good. The Firefighters salaries is a little higher at 61% so very slightly over. The cellphones, yes they are 87% but that only reflects a hundred dollars of increase over the budget. Payroll taxes, they are on target as well. And the worker's comp, that is over because it was paid earlier this year. Also legal and professional services were higher because of the audits that were required to done, there was payment for an audit and a review, so that is why that is a little bit higher than normal.

Other than what was spent on the grant equipment, which was a 156% percent of budget because more income came in with that equipment. So it is not overspending, instead, more income came in than was budgeted, meaning more equipment could be purchased. And the building improvements are higher only because of the element of the improvements at the Bayshore Station, and that is the reason why those were a little bit higher in budget. The bills paid here, they are in the month of January enlisted, and they are \$3,132.25 and credit card charges are \$2,945 dollars. And we list all of the transactions on the checking and saving transactions. That was just the detail of everything that was paid for during the month of January.

Next are the cash requirements for February and we started out with our pay-outs of \$31,631 and estimate a need of \$34,625 for the month of February plus an estimated cash needed for February payroll in an amount of \$21,428 with a \$6,000 cushion what will leave the District short by \$30,421 dollars. I recommend the District make a transfer of \$31,000 to the general fund. That will take care of the cash needs for February.

Chair Fritz: Okay. Thank you, Tom. Anybody have any questions on any of these? No? I see a lot of heads shaking. Okay. So, do I have a motion to pay the bills? You guys are all on mute.

Director Oliver: I make the motion that we pay all the bills and transfer \$31,000 from the General LGIP account to the General Bank Account.

Chair Fritz: Okay. So a motion for thirty-one thousand, is that correct?

Director Oliver: Correct.

Chair Fritz: Okay. Do I have a second for the thirty-one thousand?

Director Henson: Yes, I second the motion.

Chair Fritz: Okay. All in favor say Aye

All: Aye

Chair Fritz: Motion is passed. Thirty-one thousand will be transferred into the General Bank Account from the General LGIP account tonight. And Tom, I will make sure I email you that paperwork.

Chair Fritz:

So then, next on the agenda is going to be responses to last month's questions. Most of last month's questions were answered. The big one was Mickie Lindquist's who wanted more than three minutes for public comment. I think three minutes is appropriate because that is pretty much the standard set by others. I do feel that there may be times such as with concern over ordinances and resolutions, yes that might take a little bit longer but other than that, there were not really more questions that did not get answered. Now addressing public letters, Skip I did get your letter and I always appreciate when you send me letters and give actual facts and

information. So thank you for that and I always do take everything you say into consideration.

Chair Fritz: The next thing I am going to address is going to be Mr. Silverthorn. I do not know if he is on ZOOM here tonight. I do not know if there is anybody listening for him but I am going to read this and will have it sent to him also, so he is aware that I am responding to him.

Chair Fritz reading summary of letter highlights intended to be sent to Mr. Larry Silverthorn

Mr. Silverthorn, as always, it is nice to hear your opinion. All of the last few months' recordings and the meetings are on the information station, you may go to the internet and listen to them. If you want a written copy of the minutes, they are on the Seal Rock website. If you want us to provide them, there will be a fee associated with it, including the cost of personnel, their overtime fees of copies of pages.

In an attempt to be transparent, I am trying to address each letter at the beginning of district board meetings rather than in writing. As for the green building, I will be addressing this item during the meeting. As related to the vehicles and staffing, refer to the last meeting and the Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA).

I have read the current contract with the fire chief, and per his contract, the fire chief was not hired to work 24/7/365. As for your opinion, Seal Rock does not in any way pay PacWest for their services. You, as a retired volunteer, should be aware that personnel does not just show up for any cause into a service issued for another district without being tapped-out.

As for why people have left, I cannot speak for them and as stated many times, everyone who agrees to follow the laws, protocols, DPSST, and OSHA requirements, and is willing to work towards achieving proper certification and training, please volunteer.

I, as the board chair, sent the letter after the attorney approved it for distribution. I appreciate your pivotal role as a volunteer in the past and thank you for your service. During your lengthy time of service you observed various changes and how the fire and EMS services change and adapt accordingly in order to provide the best service available to those within the district you served. Now, the direction needs to move forward not backward. If you would like to talk about issues you have to help your district move forward, please

join the CAC - the Citizen Advisory Committee - and work together with your district to achieve the solution as a citizen as you have concerns over.

He also did address that he wants to have a personal meeting in regards to the IGA for up to one or two hours. I, as a board person cannot sit down for one to two hours for a personal meeting to go over the IGA. I do not know how any of the other board members feel about that, but I think if he has questions, then he may certainly go to either the fire station or talk to one of the fire chiefs to get questions clarified. How do you guys feel about that?

Director Joll: I think we need to be proactive with what is going on with IGA, not only in a passive role of answering people's questions. But I think the IGA is a very positive thing. And we need to take an active role in advertising to both communities concerning the benefits that each realize in terms of improved service as well as mitigating some of the financial burdens of having that improved service. So I think it is a good opportunity for us to go out actively and explain to people what is going on and why it is a good thing.
Chair Fritz: So you would be okay to get together and have an IGA meeting for a couple of hours sometime in the future?

Dustin: I would be happy to sit down and talk to Larry Silverthorn about it but I think the greater picture is that we should have the conversation with the community as a whole.

Chair Fritz: Yes and I believe that is true because I do think there is a very vast misunderstanding on the IGA. And there is a lot of misinformation being spread in terms of the IGA. So yes, we do need to figure out how we can get the community to understand the IGA. I just do not know how we can do that.

From the Participants Chat Box: Question from audience asking what is IGA

Director Joll: The IGA is the Intergovernmental Agreement that explains in detail Written agreement between jurisdictions and the bureau of fire.

Chair Fritz: Thank you, Dustin. Okay. I guess we will talk further and get a better kind of platform to do the thing for the community for the IGA so that they can come and do a question and answer section. Does that sound good to everybody?

Director Joll: Yes I think that is a good idea. The chief secures some work with

IGA, you wrote a white paper, didn't you, Chief?

Chief Sakaris: Yes, I did. Regarding the differences between IGA and the misconceptions on what the IGA is compared to, a complete version.

Director Joll: I would be happy to sit down with them to work clarification out. I would also like to try and anticipate some of the questions that may be asked by the community so we can present accurate informational dialog to the community, and then have the community follow up with questions. But as from looking at some of the Intergovernmental Agreements that have happened in Lane County, say the F&R for example, there are common themes that if we take notice of and sat down to discuss we could answer some of those questions right out of the gate.

Chair Fritz: Okay.

Chief Sakaris: I have just received a voice mail from Mr. Silverthorn regarding that he does not have the number for this meeting. So I am going to contact him and give him the Zoom number.

Chair Fritz: Okay.

Chief Sakaris: I will be doing that so excuse me for one second.

Chair Fritz: Okay. What were you saying, Larry?

Director Henson: Hopefully, Larry Silverthorn will be able to join the meeting. What I am finding and would like to know is, if Dustin was finding this to be the situation also. People are asking me why do we need an IGA when there are mutual aid agreements throughout the county. I think this to be the misconception, in that people think, one is okay and the other results in being taken over by a different entity.

Director Joll: There are several different ways to answer that question. I hope you answer from a purely financial perspective. A Mutual Aid Agreement between two fire districts does not benefit a homeowner's insurance, to do so there has to be an automatic date agreement. If we look at it from a pure fire tactics perspective, the Intergovernmental Agreement affords us the opportunity to have the correct amount of firefighters on a single piece of apparatus which has been demonstrated to be more effective than having the same number of firefighters on two separate apparatus. So there is a lot of different ways to crack that egg. Those are just two ways to answer why it is

beneficial to have an IGA. There are other ways to answer that because there are many benefits to having an IGA.

Director Henson: Yes, as I said that is the issue. As people ask, why do we need an IGA, we already have a mutual aid agreement throughout the county. If we can get the benefits gained from an IGA across to the people, so they understand why this is happening, then I think they would understand that this is an improvement in their service.

Chief Sakaris: Just for information, I contacted Larry Silverthorn and I left him a message on his machine giving him the phone number, the meeting id, and the password.

Chair Fritz: Okay.

Chair Fritz: Well, hopefully, he figures out how he can get on and we can talk with him. But like I said, I will get the final draft of this letter out to him so that he does know it was addressed.

The next thing I am going to address, at this time is the Green Building and concerns over the ability to use it as a fire station. This is a reoccurring question that people keep bringing up.

1. To be a fire station, the building has to meet the State of Oregon requirement for a essential service structure.
2. The past board hired and paid over a thousand dollars for the Shoreline report that was provided to attendees at the last meeting and will continue to be provided upon request to those desiring a copy. The Shoreline report clearly stated on page two that retrofit of any building or masonry of a building that does not have solid fill with reinforcement throughout to the requirements of the essential service structure category IV in the D2 seismic zone, and full ocean exposure to 105 mph wind in residential, and 145 mph wind in an essential service structure is probably not worth the costs which inevitably will be encured.
3. Both the Shoreline report given to the previous board and the Mckenzie report obtained in 2019 estimate the costs ranging from fifteen thousand to twenty thousand dollars to determine what the costs would amount to in order to bring the green building up to essential services standards.
4. At that time after getting both reports, it was determined that the green building cannot be made a fire station because the costs of doing such would be prohibitive to the District.

So now I would ask for a motion that the signage currently at the green building be removed and replaced with the wording "Fire Training Center".

Director Oliver: I will make the motion in that reading.

Chair Fritz: Okay. Did that make sense?

Chair Fritz: Okay. Do I have a second?

Director Henson: Change the building to what name?

Chair Fritz: Instead of saying "Seal Rock Fire Station" remove that and have it say "Fire Training Center".

Director Henson: Repeat, "Fire Training Center". Okay, thanks.

Chair Fritz: There is a motion, do we have a second?

Director Joll: I'll second it.

Chair Fritz: Okay. All in favor?

Board: Aye with no objections, passed unanimously

Chair Fritz: Okay. So that is a unanimous vote. Chief please change the signage at the green building to "Fire Training Center".

Chief Sakaris: Yes, What I will do is take the lettering off and find a company that would just change it over to "Fire Training Center".

Chair Fritz: Okay. So the next thing on the agenda is I have a three-page response to the petition. I think that at this time, instead of reading it I will have it put on the website. Does anybody have any problem with that, there are a couple of taxpayers on here? I can read it if you would like, do you want me to read that or do you guys prefer just to have it put on the website?

Attendee Ti: The website is fine with me.

Chair Fritz: Okay. Thank you. How about anyone on the board? Do you

guys have any objections to putting it on the website?
Board at Large: No objections

Chair Fritz: Next item is the Chief's report

Chief Sakaris:

Crews are now responding from the Bayshore station and engines are fully crewed

Staff has completed all Covid injections

I also completed one construction check request from a citizen building a new structure within the District

Call Volume for the month was 57 medical related and 32 fire related totaling 89 calls for service

Of those calls 47 were from Seal Rock District patrons; 33 were Emergency Medical Service requests and 14 were Fire related

Also around midnight this morning there was a fire at a barn on North Beaver Creek Road. 6 agencies responded with 4 engines, 3 Water Tenders and Depoe Bay Fire was called to Newport to cover there

There were 17 personnel on scene 10 Engine related, 4 Tender related, 1 Command Officer,
1 State Fire Marshal and 1 Investigative Marshal

Overall the fire required +/-18,000 gallons of water and I have notified Seal Rock Water of the usage

The cause of the fire is currently under investigation and unless there are questions that is the end of my report

Chair Fritz: Anyone have questions? Hearing none I now ask for the CAC report

Director Henson: The Citizens Advisory Committee did not meet during this month due to lack of interest from the community and the current situation facing CAC chairperson Jamie Mason who lives within the Seal Rock Fire District.

As all should know by now Central Coast District has appointed Mr. Mason as Interim Fire Chief there and Mr. Mason believes it would be difficult for him to continue on as Chair of the CAC.

This means that only 3 people are currently willing to serve making it difficult for the CAC to operate as designed.

Question from an Attendee: That is why I wanted to attend tonight's meeting to find out more about the CAC

Chair Fritz: Director Henson can you explain some of the functions of the CAC

Director Henson: The CAC was formed with the desire to give District Citizens the opportunity to seek out and discover ways to build a better fire district through group discussion and working together in order to build upon solutions

Note! At this part of the meeting around 7:15PM, the meeting was hacked by +/- 200 individuals who took control over ZOOM posting pictures, making lewd comments within chat box and vocally The meeting was suspended while the hackers were being confronted however the hackers were never fully stopped from disrupting the meeting afterward

Chair Fritz as meeting moderator drops off in attempt to stop hackers and returns in a few minutes to resume meeting

Chair Fritz: Not sure how this is happening but will try to continue with the meeting

Next is Shi Bucher on behalf of Central Coast Chief Mason: Shi do you have anything to report

Shi Bucher: Things appear to be going well with trainings and both staffs. Thank you

Chair Fritz: Next is a call for public comment. Yes, Karl Kowalski

Karl Kowalski: I want to state how difficult it was for me to get online for this meeting

Skip Smith: I had the same problem as Karl, however I called Chief Sakaris and he walked me entirely through the process so that I was able to join in with the meeting over my phone

Chair Fritz: Are there any more who desire to make public comment

Unidentified person Ti: I would like some clarification and will stop by the Fire Chief's office sometime tomorrow, Thank you

Chair Fritz: Please do and thank you for attending. Now I want to walk through the re-election list. Coming due for re-election in May are the following District Board Directors: Larry Henson position 1, David Oliver Position 4 and John Soltau Position 5 anyone wanting more information on applying for election to any of these positions please contact the Lincoln County Oregon website "County Clerk" or call the Lincoln County Clerk's office for more information on how to apply

Chair Fritz: Is there any other business the Board wants to discuss at this time? Hearing none I now call the meeting adjourned at 19:38 hours aka 7:38PM

Meeting Adjourned

The next regularly scheduled meeting will be March 11, 2021 at 18:30 hours aka 6:30PM



Seal Rock Fire District

PO Box 220
Seal Rock, OR 97376

Phone: (541) 563-4441
Fax: (541) 563-3175

First, I am going to address the petition that was circulated in October: The people that have started this petition have one agenda and that is to fire the fire chief, this has been stated on numerous occasions and is on the record in board meeting minutes. They have stated that they want transparency in the management in the budget and finances. You are all encouraged and welcome to join the budget committee. The finances are always available to anyone in the community as they are public record.

Next, they claimed that there is unequal subsidizing to other fire districts along with equipment: This is a false allegation, there has been no money given to any other fire district. And Under the IGA Both Seal Rock and Central coast staff use all equipment to best keep both districts covered with adequate staffing, so that if there is a major incident or multiple incidents all at once there is adequate staffing and appropriate equipment for each event, this is different than mutual aid because the District's do not have to take time requesting mutual aid through dispatch calling for additional resources from other districts, that may or may not be able to immediately respond and possibly causing delays in services.

The petition also stated that we have complete disregard for and do not utilize district volunteers: These past volunteers' complaints can be summarized as they want us to fire the chief and allow unsafe practices to be implemented that will affect staff and the citizens of the Seal Rock Rural Fire District. The State of Oregon, our Insurance carriers, the Oregon Department of Safety Stands and Practices, the Oregon Health Authority and the Seal Rock Oversight Physician have set standards and protocols that have evolved throughout the years to improve the safety of firefighters, their long-term health, their safe return at the end of the day and the quality of care being received by the people they serve. We value the lives of the people who take their time to help others with no pay and lots of hours away from family and loved ones.

Our first priority is for them to be safe and we offer training and equipment to help insure this, with that being said we have had a loss of some previous volunteers due to their not wanting to keep up on state and federal laws that mandate training or physical agility testing and responding in a district vehicle instead of a personal operator's vehicle as required for insurance and safety reasons. We want volunteers and we were sad when the past volunteers decided that the only way they would stay is if "we fire the chief" as they have stated in public meeting several times.

They state there is no strategic plan for the future of the department, there is a plan and it has been placed on the district's website.

They then state that the District Board depletes district resources to benefit neighboring districts. I have already addressed this with the IGA, the district is covered and the IGA has been part of our strategic plan and a great evolution of the two fire districts working together to better serve their citizens.

They claim the District does not abide by Oregon state open meeting laws: This is a matter of opinion; during the Covid Pandemic every Agency has experienced difficulties when trying to conduct necessary business. The District has tried to establish a simple effective system for Taxpayers interested in following meetings to be able to do so. The District has implemented holding of the meetings live through Information Station's news media resources. Information Station has also provided recorded meeting sessions that are available for those not able to join a meeting when in progress.

Addressing the item; Need for replacement vehicles and equipment not prioritized

Not true, the District Board has implemented a search for an appropriate response engine. The District board has set a series of desired options for the type engine that would be a best fit for the Seal Rock District. However, the District is hampered by not having enough monies to purchase the desired engine. The District has continued to upgrade and maintain equipment regularly and fully acknowledges the need for new response vehicles as the current fleet is aged and somewhat obsolete when needing repairs.

In closing;

Thank you to those offering concern over issues they have been led to believe are ongoing and current within the Seal Rock Rural Fire Protection District. It is interesting to note that the only solution being offered is to remove the Fire Chief, District Board of Directors, Financial Director, District's Legal Counsel and other Management personnel immediately what would result in a rather chaotic and disastrous event. If such action were to be undertaken as requested by the Petition, District Taxpayers would have no personnel to oversee the Fire District, District Staff or District Finances. No progress or action would be taken on purchasing, upkeep of equipment buildings or Training. The District would also lose its attending physician under whose protocol's emergency medical response by qualified personnel function, the result being that response times and level of care would be reduced.

Your District Board has attempted to open every avenue for public comment. The District Board has initiated the Citizens Advisory Committee in order to have an unlimited open forum for District Taxpayers to come together and provide the District Board with ideas and actions that solve issues.

For those unawares the Seal Rock District Board is composed of persons having expertise in the fields of Emergency Response and Firefighting. Two Board Members are certified Paramedics and Firefighters, one is an EMR, another having retired from the Fire service with a long history of rural firefighting and EMR experience who is well acquainted with the ins and outs of how a rural fire district should operate and another has many years of experience as a Seal Rock Rural Fire Protection District Board Director that makes their position the most valuable

because they know and understand the history of the District, it's goals, passions, and needs. Also, the Fire Chief is a dedicated professional who sincerely loves this District under his care. If he did not have devotion to his district, he would not be on call 24/7 almost every week something very few Fire Chiefs now do. Also, the District's Financial Officer is a licensed CPA and follows strict guidelines as per their profession and is held in the highest regard by his peers.

Respectfully submitted,

Tina Fritz, Seal Rock Fire District Board Chair

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Tina Fritz". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the typed name.