

# Seal Rock Rural Fire District

## Board of Directors Special Meeting

When: January 6, 2022 5:00pm/17:00 hrs

Where: 10349 NW Rand St Seal Rock Oregon 97376

DIRECTOR'S PRESENT: Tina Fritz, Mike Burt, Paul Rimola, Karl Kowalski. A quorum was met.

OTHERS PRESENT: Mickie Lindquist, Erik Dedijer-Small, Chief Will Ewing, Quinton Smith (Yachats News reporter)

**CALL TO ORDER:** 5:00 pm

**PREVIOUS MINUTES:** Karl K. made a motion to approve the minutes from the Dec 27, 2021 meeting. Seconded by Paul R. Passed with no necessary changes.

### **TREASURER'S REPORT:**

- Workshop for 5 yr budget plan has been moved to late Jan/Feb to discuss future needs. Paul will consult with Chief Ewing on this. The use of the green building was discussed as a possible place for volunteer mechanic, Jeff Steere, to work on the trucks. OSHA and zoning codes will be looked at.
- Mike B made a motion to have Chief Ewing investigate The Green Bldg. for apparatus Fire Station use. Passed unanimously.
- Current Budget: PERS is over budget because of non-payment in the past and last years having to come out of this years budget Accountant Tom Wilson has taken over paying PERS for the district. Discussion between Paul R and Director Fritz as to by whom and when the payment errors were made. Director Rimola stated he speaks with Wilson Accounting weekly and is having invoices and receipts to verify expenditures.
- IGA agreement: Negotiations are still underway. Sometime in February Chief's Mason and Ewing along with 2 others will sit down to discuss it

further. Tina Fritz stated that she thinks the IGA is being violated currently by Seal Rock.

- Chief Ewing spoke as to the work being done in the District: Trucks being serviced by the County (50% complete), breathing apparatus is ready to go except for waiting for results of air quality testing. Bayshore generator is being serviced. The preventative maintenance program is being created using new volunteer, Jeff Steere.
- District water hydrants are now on a spreadsheet and identified so that a preventative maintenance can be scheduled. Paul Highfill and Lyle Beard are most familiar with where hydrants are and will be meeting with the SR Water Dept within 60-90 days.

AUDIT: A letter was read by Paul R that he had written to past Board President, Al Anton, regarding the issues with gathering all of the requested information for the auditors. Several resolutions and money matters around contracts, bonuses handed out and transfer of District equipment are yet to be resolved. Tina Fritz shared what she knew about the bonuses and stated she has Board Minutes from 2020 she will hand over to new Board President.

#### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

- Board Vacancy: Skip Smith was voted in by a majority vote to fill position #5. Oath of office was provided by Board Secretary Mike Burt. All board positions are now filled.
- Director Fritz letter regarding Chief Ewing: Mike Burt read a letter dated 12/10/21 that Paul Rimola wrote to past President, Al Anton, following an investigation of the charges Director Fritz leveled against Chief Ewing. In the letter, Paul R determined the charges were “without merit.” Fritz made a motion for the investigation to continue and it was seconded by Director Smith. Substantial discussion continued on Director Fritz accusations. Director Rimola called for a substitute Motion to drop the discussion and close the issue. The Rimola motion was voted on with a majority confirming. Motion carried.
- Chief Hiring Committee: A discussion by Board and public comments on whether to put together a hiring committee while looking for a new fire

chief. Director Mike Burt read a motion he'd written on the subject which changed the date from April to March for a final selection of candidates but this was determined to be too soon. How far afield to advertise for the position and whether the person should be living in the district were looked at. Mickie Lindquist offered her past experience when on a hiring committee for a past fire chief. Chief Ewing also offered some insight and whether they wanted a "white shirt vs blue shirt" guy for the job. Medical skills needed? In the end it was decided the Board should first decide the job description. Director Smith made a motion to regroup at the regular meeting with all Directors creating their own Chief Job Descriptions. Directors should get a copy of the current Job Description, then incorporate their own ideas. Ideas will be discussed at the next meeting in 2 weeks. Seconded by Mike Burt. Passed unanimously.

- New Director Orientation: Chief Ewing pointed out that SDAO will come do the orientation here. However, there are also online classes. Board policy can be shared in-house as well. A SDAO Conference is being held in Eugene in February and the Chief intends to go; Skip Smith offered to attend with him.

## **NEW BUSINESS:**

- Board Officer Nominations: Karl Kowalski (President), Skip Smith (Vice President), Mike Burt remaining as Secretary, Paul Rimola remaining as Treasurer

## **PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

- Erik Dedijer-Small announced he has returned as a volunteer with the fire District but has jury duty this month so may be limited in how he can respond to calls.

## **BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS:**

- Tina Fritz questioned Chief Ewing about rumors he's having volunteers from outside the District move into the Bayshore station. Chief Ewing clarified that it is only during their 2 day shift, as the other paid staff do, not living

there on a regular basis. Tina also asked the Chief about his mentoring a “juvenile delinquent” .....he didn’t know what she was referring to.

- Mike Burt told the other Board Members that if they have items to include on an agenda to send to Lynda, in the office.

**ADJOURNMENT:** Paul Rimola made a motion to adjourn the meeting and it concluded at 6:53pm.

Minutes by LE