

# Seal Rock Rural Fire Protection District

## Board of Directors Meeting – September 10, 2020

### Phone Conference

**Directors Present:** Peter Benjamin      John Soltau  
Larry Henson      Tina Fritz

**Director Absent:** Dustin Joll

**Others Present:** Chief Sakaris      Chief Woodson  
Mike Burt      Al Anton  
Paul Rimola      Paul Highfill  
Larry Silverthorn      Karl Kowalski  
Skip Smith      Mary Lou Morris

### Call to Order – Board of Directors Meeting

- President Benjamin presided and called the meeting to order at 18:31. There was a quorum.

### Approval of Minutes for August 13, 2020 Meeting

- President Benjamin asked if there were any corrections to the August 13, 2020 minutes. President Benjamin stated under Board Comments, Director Fritz comments, the third sentence in the first paragraph isn't correct – "Director Fritz stated President Benjamin should continue looking at the IGA which isn't signed but is working." This sentence should be taken out. The IGA has been signed. Under Public Comments, Al Anton, the second and third sentences should be taken out – "President Benjamin said the Interagency Agreement has not been signed yet. There are still items that have to be decided." Director Soltau stated under Old Business, Goal Planning Meeting, Director Joll was also absent. The minutes will be corrected.

President Benjamin asked for a motion to approve the minutes as amended/corrected. Director Soltau made a motion to approve the minutes as amended/corrected. Director Henson seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Mr. Silverthorn said he had to submit a list of his concerns in writing so they could appear in the minutes. He wants public comments to be recorded so they don't have to be given in writing. Chief Sakaris said he is recording this meeting. President Benjamin said the public has received written responses to the attachments from last month's meeting.

### **Approval of Minutes for September 4, 2020 Special Meeting (Budget)**

- President Benjamin asked if there were any corrections to the September 4, 2020 Special Meeting minutes. There were none. Director Soltau made a motion to approve the minutes. Director Henson seconded the motion. Motion passed.

### **Approval of Minutes for August 4, 2020 Planning Workshop**

- President Benjamin asked if there were any corrections to the August 4, 2020 Planning Workshop minutes. There were none.
- President Benjamin asked if there were any comments on the Goal Plan. There were none. Director Fritz made a motion to adopt the Goal Plan. Director Henson seconded the motion. Motion passed.
- Mr. Anton suggested the plan be reviewed every quarter. It was agreed the plan would be reviewed at the December meeting. He also feels the public should be allowed to make comments.
- A discussion followed regarding the budget document, the budget meeting and public comments. Chief Sakaris, the Budget Officer, presented the budget to the Board at the Budget Meeting in May. The meeting was open to the public but no public comments were allowed, only Board comments. Director Henson asked for an update on the number of firefighter positions. There are three full time firefighters and two other positions are used for fill in, working per diem. Director Henson said he can't support the budget unless there are four full time firefighters and one extra. President Benjamin has given board members a spreadsheet with the costs for firefighters. Chief Sakaris stated the new contract for firefighters includes overtime. If the firefighters don't want the overtime then others are available at per diem. It was suggested to take money from the Truck and Building Fund for an additional firefighter. Chief Sakaris stated those funds are needed to replace the engine.
- President Benjamin asked for a motion to accept/approve the budget from the September 4<sup>th</sup> meeting. Director Soltau made the motion and President Benjamin seconded the motion. The vote was Director Soltau and President Benjamin in favor and Director Henson and Director Fritz opposed. The motion failed.
- The original vote to approve the budget took place at the May Budget Meeting and passed unanimously.

### **Financials (handout)**

- President Benjamin discussed the financial reports.
- Balance Sheet as of August 31, 2020 – Summarized Current Assets and Liabilities. The total for Operating Funds was \$306,575. Total for LOSAP Funds was \$42,129. Total for Truck & Building Reserve Funds was \$184,295. Total Accounts Payable was \$4,592. Total Credit Card Payable was \$4,118.
- Income and Expense August 2020 – Total Income was \$3,478. Total Firefighters Fund Expenses was \$19,858. Total Chief Fund Expenses was \$7,725. Total General Fund Expenses was \$13,118.
- Expense Detail August 2020 – No questions or comments.
- Budget vs Actual Report July through August 2020– This report year to date would be 17% of budget. Total Income was 2% of budget. Firefighters Fund Expenses was 15% of budget. Chief Fund Expenses was 14% of budget. General Fund Expenses was 20%

of budget. Total Expense was 17% of budget. Truck and Building Fund Expenses was 15% of budget.

- Director Soltau made a motion to approve Financials. President Benjamin seconded the motion. Director Soltau and President Benjamin voted in favor of the motion. Director Henson and Director Fritz voted to oppose. Motion failed. (Mr. Smith gave a point of order. The vote was two in favor, two opposed, motion failed, move on.)
- Bills Paid September 2020 – No questions or comments.
- Credit Card Charges August 2020 – No questions or comments.
- Director Henson made a motion to approve Accounts Payable. Director Fritz seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimous.
- Cash Requirements September 2020 – President Benjamin stated \$28,300 needs to be transferred from the General LGIP account to the General Bank account to pay bills/payroll.
- Director Henson made a motion to make the transfer. Director Soltau seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimous.

### **Old Business**

- COVID-19 Virus Update:

Chief Sakaris stated Lincoln County wanted to move into Phase 2 on September 8<sup>th</sup>. The Governor has delayed Phase 2, which might take place on September 29<sup>th</sup>.

- Goal Planning Meeting Update:

Chief Sakaris stated the five year Goal Plan has been approved. President Benjamin will proof read the document for any errors and then it will be posted on the website.

### **New Business**

- Chiefs Report by Chief Sakaris:

Chief Sakaris talked about the last three days with the fires in Lincoln County. Seal Rock Fire helped other neighboring districts. On September 7<sup>th</sup> there was a wind event. Newport south was cut off by trees falling on Hwy. 101. The fire districts to the south could not help Lincoln City or Depoe Bay. There was a major wild land fire on Alsea Bay. Every piece of equipment except Lincoln City and Depoe Bay responded. The fire covered four acres with no structure or other damages. Personnel with the water tender went to Corvallis to assist on another fire. Chief Woodson, from Central Coast, stated those helping with this fire had to come back on Hwy. 20. Both Seal Rock and Central Coast were manned during this time and local citizens were protected. Newport, Yachets and our area only had one call with a slight delay. All calls were staffed.

All stations helped with the Echo Mt. Complex fire. It started on September 8<sup>th</sup>, on Hwy. 18. The fire is not contained but has been knocked down. On September 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> 2,435 acres with many houses were destroyed. State police are checking every house for deceased then authorities will be allowed to go on with the investigation of cause of the fire. During this time, all stations were manned. Chief Sakaris assisted Chief Murphy in Newport. All of Oregon has no one able to assist other districts because of the number of

fires burning. Director Joll assisted Chief Sakaris all day on September 9<sup>th</sup>. Director Joll is currently working on evacuating a hospital in the valley. Director Fritz helped evacuate the Lincoln City hospital. Chief Sakaris stated all departments did a great job during the evacuation. The District may not get reimbursed for their expenses because no deaths have been reported.

Chief Sakaris recommends putting the water rescue skis in surplus. Central Coast wants the skis. Chief Woodson said there is currently joint training for water rescue. He'd like to get the skis in operation and do joint training. The Board will review the plan.

Chief Sakaris reminded everyone on September 11<sup>th</sup>. He stated fire service lost a lot on that date and asked everyone to reflect back and take heart for firefighters. He wanted to thank all firefighters and stay safe.

### **Public Comments:**

- President Benjamin stated public comment would be limited to three minutes and is not transferable. There will be no response from the Board. All of the comments are being recorded.
- Skip Smith asked if the budget wasn't passed. President Benjamin said the original budget was passed. The only thing that didn't occur at the Budget Meeting was public comment. The budget is operating as it stands.
- Larry Silverthorn stated he is disappointed in the Chief and Board. He has a list of questions and statements that are available on the recording of the meeting. His time expired before he was done.
- Al Anton said he has not received a response on his comments. He had comments on the number of calls by Central Coast and Seal Rock. He has a concern about reimbursement if one station goes on more calls than the other. He questioned the number of full time firefighters for Seal Rock.
- Paul Rimola referred to the June 2020 board minutes regarding hiring firefighters. He feels the comments were not complete in the minutes. Mr. Rimola doesn't believe the Chief and President are not hearing the things that were in the minutes. President Benjamin stated he has sent responses to last month's comments.
- Paul Highfill said he wants to be a volunteer but until things change he can't volunteer.

### **Board Comments:**

- Director Fritz stated she is disappointed in the Board. Deadlines have not been met. They talk about things but nothing is getting done.
- Director Henson asked Director Soltau and President Benjamin about the IGA Oversight Committee. He wants to know if they are going to give a report on what the committee is doing. President Benjamin stated there has only been one meeting, he will get the minutes and distribute them to board members. He will put on the agenda for next month to give a report and each month after.
- President Benjamin stated the 2018-2019 audit is done. It was a full audit. The board membership page was corrected. The 2019-2020 audit is now being completed. Board members will get a copy of the audit report. The report is also available for public review. Director Henson said the audit report is also available on the Oregon Secretary

of State website. The public can look at the audit report for Seal Rock. In the past the audit has been a review instead of an audit report.

President Benjamin adjourned the meeting at 19:54.

Minutes prepared by Mary Lou Morris.