

Seal Rock Rural Fire Protection District
Monthly Regular Board Meeting Minutes
September 16, 2021, 17:00 hrs. / 5:00 PM, Seal Rock Fire Main Station
10349 NW Rand Street, Seal Rock, OR 97376

Meeting called to order by Board Chair Anton at 17:00 hours / 5:00 PM.

Roll Call of Directors:

Directors Present: Anton (Al), Rimola (Paul), Burt (Mike), Joll (Dustin)

Directors Absent: Fritz (Tina)

Others Present: Chief Sakaris, Derrick Udoutch, Skip Smith. Paul Highfill

Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes:

Chair Anton asked if all Directors have read the minutes of the previous meeting (September 9, 2021) minutes.

Chair Anton asked if there were any changes. Directors Rimola and Burt stated they had read the minutes and no changes were submitted. Burt made a motion to approve the minutes. Rimola seconded. Unanimous approval of the minutes.

Financial Report:

Treasurer Rimola reviewed financial statements for Tom Wilson with Directors.

Chair Anton asked for a motion to approve the financial statements. Joll made a motion to approve financial statements. Rimola seconded. Financial statements unanimously approved.

Chair asked for a motion to transfer cash to Pay the Bills. Rimola made a motion to approve. Burt seconded. Unanimous approval of Board.

Rimola explained signature card confusion at Columbia Bank.

Old Business

Water Rescue Equipment:

No news yet from Central Coast on sale of equipment.

Communications:

Burt reported on Changes to the website. Secure access has been created on the Board of Directors tab for Director only material, i.e. Executive Session audio file. Secure area is not usable until security is confirmed.

Burt also reported that Karin Ellison (webmaster) is being asked to do more on the website than in the past. Burt requested that Ellison be paid a fee of \$150.00 month for the additional work. Joll asked if there is a document for what her responsibilities will be? Burt said he will prepare an outline (scope) of the tasks Karin will be performing for the Board to review.

Burt made a motion for the Board to approve Burt to investigate a cost, need and benefit for a part time Administrative Assistant for the Board. Board decided to wait on the motion until the preliminary information is presented next month.

Levy:

Rimola said the Levy for .40 per 1000 is on the ballot. Rimola hopes someone (other than a Director) will write an argument in support of the Levy for the ballot.

New Business:

Skip Smith Letter:

Anton explained that he had a discussion with Skip Smith and confirmed that Will Ewing is not hired at this time. Anton said there was a misunderstanding and until we get a scope of work or an explanation of services to present to the Board Mr. Ewing is only a consultant available with a projected cost for his services. Anton said Ewing is willing to give a presentation to the Board. After that presentation the Board can consider his proposal.

Green Building:

Rimola stated that the actual discussion should be deferred to a later date. Rimola offered that SWRD may be interested in purchasing the building if we decide to sale. Rimola is searching for an commercial property appraiser.

Local Government Law Group (LGLG);

Anton stated that Adam Springer notified SRFDBOD that he could no longer represent SFRD. The Board has approved LGLG to be our primary counsel.

Chief's Report: See attached

Public Comments:

Skip Smith said; "I don't have anything".

Derrick Udoutch mentioned that he was attending the meeting as the union representative. Anton mentioned that he had still not received a letter about the contract. Derrick said Amy Parker is working on it.

Board Comments:

Joll; No comments

Burt; Not at this time

Rimola; Distributed a petition from past volunteers created by Paul Highfill. Highfill explained when the signatures were gathered.

Petition is attached;

Board Chair Anton called for Regular Meeting adjournment at 5:28 PM.

Board moved to Executive Session per Agenda

Board adjourned Executive Session at 6:06 PM.

Board reopened Regular Meeting at 6:07 PM.

Others present; Derrick Udoutch.

Fritz (arrived during executive session) asked that Lori Cooper (LGLG) remain on the line during the reopened Regular Meeting. Board approved the request. Fritz stated that per the Policies and Procedures (Board Policy) a change in meeting date requires a notice in consecutive meetings before the change can be made. Fritz also said that she has had to take time off work and wants to be reimbursed \$50 per day per the Board Policy. Fritz also stated she has an attorney bill from LGLG before they were approved by the Board. Fritz believes a secret meeting was held.

Fritz asked the other Board Members; "Where are the volunteers you said you have?"

Rimola interjected that that has nothing to do with what we are talking to Lori about.

Lori Cooper offered opinions on information flowing between Board Members outside of public meetings. Cooper also explained how in a transition of counsel there will be some overlap, "somebody has to do the hand-off".

Chair Anton stated that the meetings will move back to the 2nd Thursday of the month at 6:30 PM.

Burt to explain the statement about the Board President is to conduct an Orientation to the new Board Members per the Board Policy.

General discussion about confusion at Columbia Bank on signature cards.

Chair Anton asked if there was anything else;

Burt asked for the floor to make a motion:

“I move that we recognize our duty to the taxpayers of this District by immediately terminating, without cause, the current Fire Chief Employment Agreement. After review and discussion with Legal Counsel, the Section 2, “At Will” clause is hereby utilized. The 30 day notice requirement in Section 2, will be delivered to the Fire Chief by the Board President, within 24 hours of a majority approval of this motion by the Seal Rock Fire District Board of Directors. Notice to the Fire Chief will follow Section 17 in the Agreement. The 30 day severance pay, accrued vacation pay and any other earned income due the Fire Chief will be issued as soon as possible by the accountant.”

Chair said; “there is a motion on the floor”. Chair asked for a second, Rimola said he would second after discussion. Rimola wants to discuss a structured buyout soon. Rimola rescinded his second, motion failed.

Further general discussion about the Fire Chief's performance.

Joll said he has a question for the attorney about current Board Members “poisoning the well” by attending meetings before they were on the Board arguing for the Chief's dismissal.

Anton said he would ask the attorney that question. Joll said OK.

Chair Anton called the reopened Regular meeting adjourned at 6:47 PM

August Chiefs Report For the September Meeting 2021

COVID 19 update. Lincoln County is now open but cases in Oregon are increasing.

- Attended Monthly Fire Defense board meeting
- Attended Firefighter extravaganza for the Seal Rock Fire District
- Met with the Garden Club regarding the Christmas wreath project
- Payroll prepared and submitted to Tom Wilsons office
- Bill prepared for payment and submitted to Tom Wilsons office
- Reviewed report regarding driveway on Bayview Court
- Met with the two hire one week prior to start date (orientation, paperwork)
- Met with Chief Harvey regarding box alarms
- Prepared board packet
- Contacted Newport signs to change wording on sign (green building)

Call volume for August 2021

Calls for service-94

Medical – 58

Fire – 17

Lift Assist – 14

Crash – 3

Water/Surf – 1

Other – 1

Central Coast – 55

Seal Rock – 24

Yachats – 10

Newport – 5

Exhibit A

To: Seal Rock Fire Board of Directors

From: Past Seal Rock Fire District Vounteers

Subject: Reestablishing volunteer firefighters within the Seal Rock Fire District

We the undersigned, acknowledge the desire to return as volunteer firefighters, EMRS, and EMTS to better the service to the Seal Rock community. We do understand there are compliance issues and are willing to work towards bringing a volunteer contingency back to the district. With this being said there must be a leadership change to achieve this goal. With the change in the fire district board and a change in operational leadership we will make our community emergency response adequate and safe

Thank you for your consideration

Ken Wood

Bill Kenworthy

Paul Hightfill

Bob Beard

Ly Silver

Sam Mc

Erntell

Walter

Shelley