

# **Seal Rock Rural Fire Protection District**

## **Board of Directors Meeting – October 8, 2020**

### **Phone Conference**

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

**Others Present:** Chief Sakaris      Mickie Lindquist  
Mike Burt      Al Anton  
Paul Rimola      Paul Highfill  
Larry Silverthorn      Pat Wilson (left meeting and returned)  
Skip Smith      Tina Gust (left meeting)  
Lyle Beard      Mary Lou Morris

### **Call to Order – Board of Directors Meeting**

- President Benjamin presided and called the meeting to order at 18:30. There was a quorum.

### **Approval of Minutes for September 10, 2020 Meeting**

- President Benjamin asked if there were any additions, corrections or comments to the September 10, 2020 minutes. There were none. President Benjamin asked for a motion to approve the minutes. Director Soltau made a motion to approve the minutes. Director Joll seconded the motion. Motion passed.

### **Financials (handout)**

- President Benjamin welcomed Tom Wilson as the new accountant for the District and thanked Mel Beery for his years of service.
- President Benjamin discussed the financial reports.
- Balance Sheet as of September 30, 2020 – Summarized Current Assets and Liabilities. The total for Operating Funds was \$272,895. Total for LOSAP Funds was \$41,924. Total for Truck & Building Reserve Funds was \$181,781. Total Accounts Payable was \$8,963.
- Income and Expense September 2020 – Total Income was \$2,395. This amount will be higher next month after taxes are paid. Total Firefighters Fund Expenses was \$19,747. Total Chief Fund Expenses was \$7,727. Total General Fund Expenses was \$6,693. Director Henson questioned the difference in the amount shown for Building Maintenance/Repairs and Grant Equipment from the first draft of the financials and the final. There is approximately a \$2,000 difference between the two reports. President Benjamin will check on the difference, get a response to Chief Sakaris who will forward the answer to the Board.

- Expense Detail September 2020 – Director Fritz questioned the expense for a cell phone. Chief Sakaris said this is so the crew have a cell phone while on duty.
- Budget vs Actual Report July through September 2020– Total Income was 2% of budget. Firefighters Fund Expenses was 23% of budget. Chief Fund Expenses was 21% of budget. General Fund Expenses was 24% of budget. Truck and Building Fund Expenses was 23% of budget.
- President Benjamin asked for a motion to approve Financials with the exception of the two items in the Income and Expense Report. Director Soltau made a motion to approve Financials with the two exceptions. Director Joll seconded the motion. Director Soltau, Director Joll and President Benjamin voted in favor of the motion. Director Henson and Director Fritz voted to oppose. Motion passed by majority.
- Bills Paid September 2020 – No questions or comments.
- Credit Card Charges September 2020 – No questions or comments.
- Unpaid Bills Detail as of October 8, 2020 – President Benjamin explained this is a new report showing the bills that have come in since the last meeting so the Board will know what's coming.
- Cash Requirements October 2020 – President Benjamin stated \$38,000 needs to be transferred from the General LGIP account to the General Bank account to pay bills/payroll.
- Director Joll made a combined motion to approve the bills and make the transfer. Director Fritz seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimous.

### **Old Business**

- COVID-19 Virus Update:

Chief Sakaris stated Lincoln County moved into Phase 2 on September 29<sup>th</sup>. Face masks and social distancing are still required. There may be more cases with the start of flu season.

### **New Business**

- Chiefs Report by Chief Sakaris:

Chief Sakaris stated on October 12<sup>th</sup> burn season may be opened. Chief Sakaris went over his Monthly Fire Chief's Report October 2020 as follows:

Attended Monthly Fire Defense Board Meeting (phone conference)

Weekly IGA Meeting (CCFD)

Meeting with Water Department re: Water distribution 13 of October

Meeting with contractor re: bedrooms at Bayshore Project to start as soon as possible with a completion date of November 1, 2020. (Director Henson asked if the contractor has a CCB number since it was not shown on the estimate. Chief Sakaris stated he has the CCB number.)

Meeting with Nick Hendricks re: Engine purchase

## Meeting with Board Member Fritz and Henson regarding Firefighters Position

UPS meeting regarding the use of our facility Satellite Station (Chief Sakaris said UPS would like to use Seal Rock Fire District property during the peak season of November through January. UPS is willing to pay approximately \$100 for the rental. This would have to be approved by the attorney. Attorney costs would be more than the amount received for rental. Mr. Silverthorn said UPS will be working in the Seal Rock area and wants to use a pod or the metal building for storage. Director Fritz questioned the Satellite Station. It was explained this would be used to pick up packages and deliver. Director Henson feels it would be more trouble than the worth. Director Soltau thinks it's not a good idea. Director Fritz said no. It was agreed it is not a good idea to have UPS use Fire District property.)

I met with Skip Smith and we will be focusing on the district's annual report and will be submitted in to the Board of Directors March of 2021 for the year ending in 2020.

On October 20, 2020 engine pump tests will be conducted at the Yachats main station.

Chief Sakaris asked for the Boards ok to surplus the following:

2000 Dodge Ram Laramie

1999 Yamaha Personal Watercraft

2007 Kawasaki Personal Watercraft

2007 Kawasaki Personal Watercraft.

The items would be donated as surplus to Central Coast Fire District. Mr. Silverthorn asked if the wet suits would be given to Central Coast. Chief Sakaris stated the suits are old and outdated. Director Henson asked that the justification to the public be posted on the website. Chief Sakaris said he'd do that once the approval is granted. Outbursts from the public had Director Fritz ask for a "point of order".

Director Fritz made a motion to donate the surplus items to Central Coast Fire District. Director Soltau seconded the motion. All directors voted in favor except Director Joll who abstained. Director Joll explained that after the motion was made and seconded, he felt the public should be allowed input.

### **Public Comments:**

- Director Fritz asked if there would be a time limit for comments. President Benjamin stated public comment would be limited to three minutes.
- Larry Silverthorn stated he is insulted that he would be limited to three minutes.
- Paul Highfill said he agrees with Mr. Silverthorn. He continued until President Benjamin declared him "out of order".
- Larry Silverthorn wanted to use his three minutes. He feels the Board of Directors is doing a poor job. His questions have not be answered from last month's meeting. He received a response from a previous meeting. Mr. Silverthorn wanted to know if the

Board saw the letter President Benjamin wrote or did President Benjamin just mail it. Mr. Silverthorn wanted contact with the directors but got none. He is concerned about the Chief traveling out of District.

- Al Anton said he has not received a response to his question regarding reimbursement in the IGA. He was told by the Chief that reimbursement is in the agreement. Mr. Anton questioned Director Fritz making the motion to surplus items to Central Coast since she works for Central Coast. President Benjamin stated he has asked the attorney about Director Fritz and was told there is no conflict of interest.
- Mickie Lindquist said she has had issues with Chief Sakaris but has talked with him and come to agreements. She feels the Chief should have use of a car 24/7 since he has to leave the district for various reasons related to his job.
- Pat Wilson has been told the Chief wants to get rid of Seal Rock Fire District. President Benjamin tried to explain that Seal Rock Fire District has an agreement with Central Coast Fire District. President Benjamin suggested Mr. Wilson talk with Chief Sakaris. Mr. Wilson wanted to know where the trucks are going to be. President Benjamin explained that this section of the meeting is for public comment not a public question and answer session. Director Joll tried to explain the relationship between the fire districts but Mr. Wilson was out of control and out of time.
- Lyle Beard read a statement regarding volunteers. He said the rules are too difficult to be volunteers now. The District used to have volunteers and now there are none. He feels there needs to be a solution.
- Paul Highfill was a volunteer and wants to volunteer again but he's been told he can't because he's older. The guys don't understand this. He feels the Board of Directors is not serving the public.

### **Board Comments:**

- Director Fritz said she has three comments: 1) A PIO needs to be appointed. 2) She wants to meet in a building. 3) She wants a special executive session to be held on October 15<sup>th</sup> to go over a contract. It is not about a person but real property and investments.
- Director Henson also wants the meeting on October 15<sup>th</sup>. President Benjamin will schedule a time for the meeting. Director Henson said he's attended four classes. He knows that years ago volunteers just had to sign up and then go on calls. Now it is required volunteers have met certain hours of training and standards, what becomes more difficult as volunteers age.
- Director Henson made a motion to authorize a Citizen Advisory Committee that would report to the Board. He read the guidelines for the committee which are attached to the minutes. President Benjamin said the Board has already talked about this suggestion and would like Director Henson to be in charge of this committee. Director Fritz seconded the motion. Motion passed.
- Director Henson stated the Board of Directors sets policy. He read a statement/policy regarding the Chief. Director Henson proposed the policy and President Benjamin stated he would like to make suggestions. President Benjamin also wants to discuss the policy with SDAO. President Benjamin asked Director Henson to send a copy of the proposal to Chief Sakaris, Mary Lou Morris and President Benjamin. The proposal is attached to the minutes.
- Director Henson asked Chief Sakaris where is the suburban and the tanker? Chief Sakaris said the suburban is at 6200 and the tanker is currently at Central Coast but will

be moved to an area in Seal Rock. Director Henson wanted to know if all individuals are qualified to drive and Chief Sakaris said “yes”.

- Director Henson wanted to discuss the surplus equipment. He said Central Coast has a training officer, they will get the equipment running and personnel will be certified to do water rescue. Director Henson thinks working with Central Coast is a way to have enough personnel. The past volunteers need to understand and thanked them for their service. He stated the Board of Directors is not trying to destroy the Seal Rock Fire District.
- Director Joll feels all of Director Henson’s statements were important. He agrees there are new restrictions for volunteers and he wants to applaud the Chief for following the requirements. He thinks there is a lack of understanding between the Board and the public. He said other fire districts have agreements that increase services with low tax rates.
- Director Soltau said he appreciates what Director Henson said and is in agreement with him.
- President Benjamin stated he agrees with Director Henson and Director Joll.

President Benjamin adjourned the meeting at 19:58.

Minutes prepared by Mary Lou Morris.