

HARBOR RURAL FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

P. O. Box 2001 / 98069 W. Benham Ln, Harbor, OR 97415 • (541) 469-5301 • www.harborfiredept.com

Board Meeting Minutes for August 8, 2023

Chair Andy Gagliardo called the monthly meeting of the Harbor Rural Fire Protection District Board of Directors to order at 6:00pm on Tuesday, August 8, 2023. Those in attendance were board members Chair Andy Gagliardo, Vice Chair Eric Bengali, Director Cusumano, Director St. James, Director McClintock, Secretary Pearson, three guests and nine firefighters.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Director St. James made a motion to approve the agenda for the August 8, 2023 meeting. Director Cusumano seconded. All members were in favor. Motion carried.

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS: Chief Lancaster approached the board with a suggestion that the Harbor Fire Board work with the Winchuk Fire Board since both agencies are already working closely together. Board Chair Gagliardo agreed it would be a good idea and said the Board will follow up on the proposal.

APPROVAL OF JULY MINUTES:

Director Cusumano made a motion to approve the minutes from the July 2023 board meeting. Director Bengali seconded the motion. All members were in favor. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF JULY FINANCIALS

Director Bengali made a motion to approve the July financials. Director Cusumano seconded the motion. All were in favor. Motion passed.

ACTION ITEMS:

1 – Director McClintock made a motion to pay the SAIF Worker’s Comp balance of \$6,292.84 by monthly payments of \$786.62 rather than in one payment so that more interest can be earned on savings. Director St. James seconded the motion. All were in favor. Motion passed.

2 – Director McClintock made a motion to add Directors Eric Bengali and Mark St. James as signers on the Umpqua general funds account, as well as to remove previous Directors DeAnna Rogers and Thomas Sorrentino as signers on the account. Director Cusumano seconded the motion. All were in favor. Motion passed.

3 – Director Bengali made a motion to change the date of the September board meeting from Tuesday, September 12 to Monday, September 11 at 6pm. Director St. James seconded the motion. The change in date is due to the secretary’s availability, and Chief McClintock felt it would be better for the consistency of the minutes to simply adjust the date for September’s meeting. All were in favor of the change. Motion carried.

WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS: None.

REPORTS:

Harbor Rural Fire Association Report:

President Amber Winegarden reported that jackets were brought from Thomas Sorrentino courtesy of the OVFA. Money originally intended to purchase jackets will now be used to add personalization to the jackets. The association decided not to have pancake breakfasts.

Chief’s Report:

Chief McClintock reported the run stats for July. There were 40 calls, of which 12 were Fire, 19 were medical, 1 MVA, 5 Public Assist and 3 False Calls. The Chief reported that we are starting the new fiscal year with an operating budget of \$317,610.

Chief McClintock reported that the OSFM Wildland grant is running smoothly. We are staffing Harbor 3 ten hours a day, seven days a week. The number of beach fires have been reduced and there has been effective cooperation between Harbor Fire and Coos Forest Protective Association.

Chief McClintock noted that the Fire Capacity Grant is no cost to Harbor Rural Fire Protection District, because there is no matching required for a small agency under 5 staff. With this grant, we are receiving training and supplies as well. The firefighters working the grant have been coordinating with the local OSFM representative, Aubrey Krause. Our team is employing a proactive approach to do building inspections to help our community business owners prepare for actual inspections. Harbor Fire is not giving out citations.

The Chief reported that the Harbor 4 and Harbor 3 engines passed recent pump tests performed in Gold Beach, and were deemed “good.”

Harbor Fire has been spending more on fuel the last month, but that is a direct result of patrolling the community. Chief McClintock said this was to be expected, but the benefits of patrol outweigh the cost.

Chief McClintock made it very clear that nobody is to park in “Harbor Water Only” parking zones – for any reason and regardless of day or time.

The Curry County Cruisers donated \$500 to the Harbor Volunteer Fire Association, as well as to Winchuk Fire District and Cape Ferrelo Fire District.

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A water update was given regarding the recent problems with Harbor Water. The Chief clearly stated no hydrant water was to be used for fires unless for a life-threatening situation. He has neighboring agencies on auto-dispatch for any fire calls. The Chief also reported that Harbor residents were told to cut down on water usage.

Chief McClintock mentioned that Harbor Fire has been helping Winchuck Fire District cover calls as needed.

The Chief also informed us of a young firefighter who was killed in the line-of-duty in Gold Beach. Harbor Fire will attend the procession in Gold Beach to salute the family. Chief McClintock also mentioned the tragic loss of Chief Ron Roy.

A note to the Association – the Chief said it is the Association’s responsibility to ask the port to be part of any events. The port is not going to approach the Association.

Rumors of a Letter of No Confidence were addressed by the Chief. This letter does not exist and is purely hearsay. Chief McClintock stated that yes, he bought a house in Nevada, to be used for his retirement. He wanted talk and rumors of his retirement to stop, and said Harbor Fire will know when he’s ready to retire.

Director Cusumano had a question for the Chief regarding the Flat Fire and why our staff wasn’t sent out as part of the Coos Forest agreement. Chief McClintock said we do have an agreement, and every Monday, our equipment status shows as available. He explained that whoever’s jurisdiction the fire is located in, and arrives on scene first, they are responsible for the Initial Attack. In this case, Gold Beach was the first responder. The Gold Beach Fire Chief requested South County to cover their district, but due to miscommunication with the dispatch, plans for coverage didn’t occur.

Guest Paul Dollar stated that going out on calls was the intended use for Harbor 3. The Chief agreed, but reiterated that Harbor Fire was not requested and that an AAR would take place to discuss the communication breakdown.

Director Cusumano thanked the Chief for providing drinking water to the community during the Harbor Water shortage, and asked if there is training to prep the firefighters for wildfire work. Chief responded and said the gym is available to everyone.

Director McClintock asked for confirmation that Harbor Fire is signed up to primarily provide structural protection and not extended attack. Chief McClintock confirmed this is true. Director McClintock also asked if there could be a plan to notify the elderly about water loss. Chief McClintock suggested there could possibly be phone trees or apps that can provide notification.

DIRECTOR’S COMMENTS AND REQUESTS: Director St. James mentioned there is an app called Everbridge that could possibly be used for communication.

FINAL AUDIENCE COMMENTS: Paul Dollar asked if the board has ever seen Chief McClintock’s contract and recommended that they review it. Director Cusumano asked about the intention behind Paul Dollar’s question. Paul Dollar responded and said the Board should know what the contract says and that the Chief needs a valid contract. Chief McClintock reminded the board that nobody before him ever had a contract, and he has worked for three years without any pay increase. Board Chair Gagliardo said the Chief never lets a call drop while he is away on assignment.

Board Chair Gagliardo recommended having a special session at the September board meeting to discuss the Chief’s contract and whether or not it needs any revisions.

ADJOURNMENT: Director Cusumano made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Director St. James seconded the motion. Meeting adjourned at 6:45pm. Next board meeting will be Monday, September 11 at 6pm at 98069 W. Benham Lane in Harbor.