

Crook County Fire and Rescue
Board Meeting
July 28, 2022

Call to Order: Dennis Merrill called the meeting to order at 0830.

Board Attendance: Board members in attendance were Dennis Merrill, George Ponte, Steve Lent, Jerry Brummer, and Gary Abrams

Staff Attendance: Matt Smith, Dave Pickhardt, Russell Deboodt, David Parks, Eli Peacock, and Chris Bocchi

Public Attendance: Jerimiah Kenfield, Sam Scheideman, Todd Olheiser, Emma Levert, Cathryn Hardman, Dave Pancoast

Minutes: Steve Lent made a motion to approve the minutes, George Ponte seconded the motion, passed unanimously.

Consent Agenda:

- Bills: Chief Smith reviewed the bills since last board meeting.
- Quarterly Report: Chief Smith reviewed the quarterly report. He informed the board this report is as of July 13th, due to processing accounts receivable and payable and other year-end requirements, and reminded the board that the yearly audit will be the confirmed final numbers.
- Consent Agenda: George Ponte moved to approve the consent agenda, Steve Lent seconded, motion passed unanimously.

Old Business:

- None

New Business:

- Senate Bill 762: Chief Smith started discussing the state process which has led us to where we are today. Chief Deboodt then described how the process was created legislatively, and how state agencies were mandated to develop the map, Oregon Defensible Space Code, and the new impacts on building codes. Senate Bill 762 mandated Oregon Department and Forestry to develop a state-wide wildfire risk map to the tax lot level. The Office of the State Fire Marshal was mandated to create the Oregon Defensible Space Code, and Building Codes Division was instructed to adopt home hardening rules for new construction. These new codes or requirements will possibly be applied to tax lots that are designated as High/Extreme AND within the Wildland Urban Interface. Tax lots that do not fall under these simultaneous designations will not be required to follow any of the new rules or codes. Chief Smith reviewed the purpose of the map and described in the published technical guide. Chief reviewed several other key points described within the technical guide including its impact on future development and land use decisions. Chief Smith read a written comment that he received through the department email.
- Update on Staffing Capability: Chief Smith gave a review of our current staffing. He described that we still have a few vacancies. He continued that the employment environment is extremely

tight and competitive at the moment, and many fire agencies, large and small, are actively hiring at the same time. The district has an active entry level firefighter list and expects to exhaust the list through hiring. The district has plans to create a new list in the near future. With the few vacancies and the amount of overtime employees have been required to work, the substations have not had consistent staffing.

- Presentation on Firefighting PPE: Chief Pickhardt gave a presentation on firefighting PPE and cancer prevention in the fire service and CCFR. Gary Abrams suggested that an extra compliment of hoods and gloves be kept in the Battalion Chief vehicle. He then reviewed the financial impact of purchasing additional turnouts and how it impacts our other projects. Dennis Merrill stated that he thought the staff should manage the operational aspects of the district. Steve Lent agreed. The board is interested in keeping this topic on the radar. Everyone agreed that focusing on the process and decontamination policies, in conjunction with turnouts is a good focus. Chief Smith stated that we will keep this topic on the agenda next month.
- OSFM Immediate Response Program: The district received a grant through OSFM to increase our wildland response resources. The district has been successful in staffing this resource, and it has been available for other EMS and fire calls within the district. The funding for this program is expected to extend through September 30th. This program does require the district to respond outside of the fire district.
- Seismic Grant: Chief Smith recapped that we had received a grant for seismic upgrades to the main station. Chief Smith stated that he has signed the grant but that doesn't obligate the district to accept the money or proceed. Chief Smith recommended that the district hit "pause" on the grant for a month or two to develop a facility plan to evaluate the impact the district could see based on construction, costs, and other facility priorities.
- Board Officer Elections: Chief Smith reviewed the duties as described in the board policies. The current officers have been in their respective positions for approximately one year. Steve Lent made a motion to elect the current slate of officers for another year. Gary Abrams seconded, motion passed unanimously.

Public Comment:

- Cathryn Hardeman stated she appreciated being a part of the meeting today, and that she would call Chief Deboodt with specific questions relating to the Wildfire Risk Map.

Good of the Order:

- Review Call Data: Dave reviewed the call data for May and June.

Adjourn: Dennis adjourned the meeting at 1056 hours.

Respectfully submitted,

Russell Deboodt

Dennis Merrill