

# SEAL ROCK RURAL FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

## Board of Directors Regular Monthly Meeting

When: November 16, 2023 5:00 pm/1700 hours

Where: 10349 NW Rand St Seal Rock, Oregon 97376

**Call to Order:** 5:03 pm

**Directors:** all in attendance. Director Smith attended remotely via phone.

**Guests:** Chief Ewing, Lisa Welch, Lynda Engle, Quinton Smith (Yachats News), Jeremy Garbina, Emily Clark, Greg Dunn & Reda Eckerman (COCFD Board members), Jeff Mathia (PWA). Damon & Tamara Derby (late arrivals)

**Guest Input:** None

Previous month's minutes require 4 corrections (per Director Rimola) Rimola also pointed out that the use or hiring of attorneys is at the purview of the Board, not the fire Chief.

### **Agenda approved**

Request by Director Smith to have an update by Chief Ewing on status of the inventory list at both stations.

- A. Chief Ewing presented the Siletz Tribe grant check for \$9,000. This money will go towards the purchase of a fit-tester which will also be for regional use by other Districts. Actual cost of the fit-tester is a little more than \$10,000 so the grant is paying for most of it.
- B. Director Rimola provided a power-point which outlined some of our history and issues with COCFD since new SFRD Board members took office in July 2021. (Documentation of the power-point is in hard copy along with these minutes.) Discussion ensued around the fact we have 2 different cultures and our perceptions of the value/necessity of being certified when responding to calls. Ewing pointed out that certification is not an OSHA requirement but that training IS. Certification vs qualification. NFPA standards for FF1 are not adopted by OSHA. We are whole and safe and qualified. We may need to verify what COCF's needs are when we are

responding, whether they require ONLY certified responders. No decisions made and no motions put forth.

A female SRFD responder in attendance related her experience when at scenes with COCFD. When Mason was in command he questioned her certifications. She explained she was not certified, however, she has completed her FF1 training and is qualified. Mason still removed her from the scene. Other times, when Mason was not on scene, she has worked well with COCFD responders and was not questioned.

Visiting Board members from COCFD spoke of their willingness to “come together” and work things out. Their board now meets at 3:00pm instead of 5:00 on the same day as ours which makes it possible to attend one another’s meetings.

## **REPORTS:**

### **3.1 Treasurer Rimola:**

**Motion to transfer \$57,515.00 from General Local Gov’t Investment Pool account to the General Bank Account to pay bills & payroll. Passed unanimously.**

Documents to support financials provided with minutes.

**3.2 Chief’s Report:** Chief Ewing briefly went over the run reports from October. Trainings coming up include a live fire training on Parkview St on 12/10 (building used to be the old Seal Rock Post Office!) An EMR course will start in Jan. 2024, being offered 2 nights a week. Building B continues to be worked on and a connex box is being rented to store items in while the remodel is ongoing.

**3.3 Volunteer Report:** Jeremy Garbina stated that SLER now has an open account at a local bank set up, as well as a gym membership for those who want to join. A pumper class has 7 signed up so far and last weeks extrication class was a good exercise for all. Lots of December events coming up including 2 days down at Bayshore for their Bazaar (with a Santa and trucks) and trips through Makai and Driftwood for food collection for South County Resources also. SRFD is having a Dec. 16<sup>th</sup> Christmas party at the main station.

## **UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

**4.1** Last month Director Pelligrinelli offered to contact law firms to see about legal counsel, if/when needed. He provided a print-out of the 12 law firms he was in touch with and their responses. None of them thought there currently was liability regarding the situation with COCF/Mason's wife's accident. Because we currently have no representation, a discussion took place as to how best find one. Chief Ewing pointed out that SDIS does not cover all the situations we may find ourselves in. This matter will be revisited next mo. Currently no atty is needed. No decisions, no motions put forth.

**NEW BUSINESS:** None

**BOARD COMMENTS:**

Director Burt said he thinks we need to clarify our position and what we are willing to discuss with the COCFD Board. He said he appreciates the 2 members of their Board being at our meeting and willing to talk with us as well as their willingness to work together. Thoughts or ideas for matters to discuss with their Board are to be sent to Chief Ewing.

Further comments came from Damon Derby, the motorcycle rider that was in a collision with Chief Mason's wife back in July. Derby and his wife had arrived to the meeting late and he gave personal testimony to our Board on what took place at that incident. He expressed gratitude to DO Joe Munger for remaining on scene even though Mason had cleared him to go, as he stated he did not trust what Mason might do. Because of the different stories that have been spread about the incident he wanted our District and Board to hear from him personally as to what took place.

**ADJOURNMENT:** 7:17