

**Seal Rock Rural Fire Protection District
Board of Directors Meeting – August 9, 2018
Seal Rock Administration Building**

Directors Present: Al Anton
Peter Benjamin
Larry Silverthorn
John Soltau
Karl Kowalski

Others Present: Chief Sakaris
Derek Udoutch
Hank Lopez
Mary Lou Morris
Mel Beery
Taylor Jernigan
John Raudsep

Call to Order – Board of Directors Meeting

- President Anton presided and called the meeting to order at 18:33. There was a quorum.

Approval of Minutes for July 12, 2018 Board of Directors Meeting

- President Anton asked if there were any comments or corrections regarding the July 12, 2018 minutes. There were no comments or corrections.
- Director Kowalski made a motion to approve the July 12, 2018 minutes. Director Silverthorn seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Financials (handout)

- Mr. Beery distributed financial reports and discussed each statement.
- Balance Sheet as of July 31, 2018 – Summarized Current Assets and Liabilities. The total for Checking/Savings was \$434,337. Total LOSAP cash was \$76,467. Total Accounts Payable was \$16,601.
- Income and Expense July 2018 – Mr. Beery stated the Income for July was from interest income/general fund. Total income was \$573. Expenses for the Firefighters Fund was \$18,313. Expenses for the Chief Fund was \$7,652. General Fund Expenses was \$14,217.
- Expense Detail July 2018 – Director Benjamin asked about the septic options. This was the permit for the Bayshore Station.
 - Budget vs. Actual Report July 2018– Reviewed with no comments.
- Director Silverthorn made a motion to approve Financials. Director Benjamin seconded the motion. Motion passed.
- Bills Paid August 2018 – Director Kowalski asked about the bill from Samaritan Occupational Medicine. This was the charge for physicals. Total bills are \$21,443.55.
- Credit Card Charges July 2018 – No comments.
- Director Kowalski made a motion to approve Accounts Payable. Director Silverthorn seconded the motion. Motion passed.
- Cash Requirements August 2018 – Mr. Beery stated \$38,200 is required for the month of August to pay bills.

- Director Benjamin made a motion to make the transfer. Director Kowalski seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Old Business

- Number of Firefighters Needed in the District:

President Anton distributed information regarding Funding Options.

#1 Fund Firefighter Positions from our General Fund Budget-This would fund the first 16 months. However, the District can only recoup approximately 26.8 percent the following budget year depleting all of the reserve fund resources. Any unanticipated expenditures would exceed the approved 2020-2021 budget.

#2 Apply for Federal Firefighter Assistance Grant-This is a 110 percent federal grant. However, the grant is for a five year period with no guarantee of renewal. The grant also requires a more extensive record keeping process. (This would require hiring a bookkeeper and the cost can't be paid from the grant.)

#3 Approach the Taxpayers for an Additional \$.30 Levy.-This levy would generate approximately \$141,000. Our existing fire tax rate of 1.27 would go to 1.57 per 1,000 assessed valuation. Compared to Central Coast Fire District at 2.34 per 1,000 assessed valuation and Yachats at approximately 2.88 per 1,000 assessed valuation, which includes their 30 year bond. The Seal Rock Fire District would still maintain a comparable fire tax rate.

Option #3 would be for two more firefighters. There are now four firefighters including the Chief. If two more firefighters are added, the District would have 100% coverage. If the personnel isn't needed, the District can rebate the levy back. The District could go for the levy this November and/or in May. Both would be for next year's budget.

Director Kowalski said he feels Option #3 is the only choice. The sooner the District proceeds the sooner it will know where it stands. Director Benjamin wants to hear about the volunteers before he makes a decision. He feels paid staff is not the whole story, volunteers are needed. Director Kowalski asked how long does it take to get volunteers ready. It takes 14 -15 weeks of classes. Director Soltau wants more time to think about the issues but is inclined that quicker is better than not acting.

- Volunteer Recruitment Report:

Chief Sakaris suggested several options for recruitment – the program offered with the National Fire Council, the State of Oregon can help, fire prevention week, an open house (Oct. 31) offering food, and set up at the post office. Director Kowalski asked about a program with the local high schools. If there is no funding for the program, the District could sponsor their own program, going directly to the high schools. A formal program is one year. There could possibly be a cadet program. Director Silverthorn asked what the District would get for sponsoring a program. The District would get good PR.

The discussion returned to an additional levy to hire more firefighters. Ways to get information to voters included suggestions of putting information in with water bills, placing articles in local neighborhood newsletters, and doing drills in neighborhoods. Director Benjamin volunteered to enter an article in the Bayshore Breeze, maybe the September issue.

Director Benjamin made a motion to put together a proposal to go for a levy on the November ballot. Director Kowalski seconded the motion. Motion passed with Director Silverthorn opposing.

New Business

- **Chiefs Report by Chief Sakaris:**

There were 45 calls for the month with 27 EMS and four auto accidents. There have been a lot of motor accidents with serious injuries. There was another hotel fire in Newport. On August 10 the ABATE group will be in town. They have been told that they cannot burn but have said they will go ahead with the burn. Their burn is advertised as the biggest burn in the NW. The Chief said he may ask the Sheriff's Department to assist. Another event, the Love It Fest, will be held off of Hwy 34 expecting 4,000 – 5,000 people. Kyle Bridges assisted when a forklift went into Depoe Bay. He helped save the forklift driver's life. Kyle will receive a commendation.

- **SRFD Association:**

Hank Lopez introduced himself as the new president for the association. He has been giving much thought for recruiting future volunteers. There will be a BBQ as a kick off on Oct. 6th. Fliers could be distributed door to door. Fire prevention week and an open house are events to recruit. Email could be used as well as go to local high schools to promote community service. The community college may have a program for community service that could include training and learning lifesaving skills. A comprehensive training program is a possibility. Students could be hired full time during the summer months. Mr. Lopez said the paid fire fighters are doing a great job. They are quick to respond to calls.

Public Comments:

- John Rausep said he really liked what Hank suggested. He feels it could be a good way to get training and a possible career.

Board Member Comments:

- Director Silverthorn said Rich Lyons has done a test hole at Bayshore. There will be a \$825 fee for a site evaluation of the system. This evaluation will determine what the options are for both stations. Director Silverthorn reported that the Fire District has not received anything from State Parks in the last 30 days.
- President Anton said he has had no response to the letter he wrote to Mr. Simmons. Director Benjamin said he has not seen the letter.

President Anton adjourned the regular meeting at 19:30.

Minutes prepared by Mary Lou Morris.