**Board of Directors Regular Monthly Meeting**

**Minutes For February 20,2025**

**Call to Order:** 1700

**Roll call to establish Quorum:** Directors Karl Kowalski, Russell Harley, Paul Rimola, Mike Burt, Skip Smith

**Invited Guests:** Garrett Jaros, Yachats News

**Acceptance of December Minutes:** Accepted as is.

**Public/Guest Comments:**

**REPORTS:**

* Treasurer’s Report: Paul Rimola

1. A motion to ratify transfer $32,827.00 from LGIP to general account by Paul Rimola, Skip Smith seconded. Passed unanimously. Reviewing January purchase orders Paul stated replacement furniture had been ordered for station 62, a more heavy- duty couch and recliners designed for fire stations. SCBA bottle storage racks had also been ordered so bottles could safely be stored. The funds for these purchases had been taken out of the truck and building fund, from money earned during the wildfire conflag. Firefighter turnouts were previously purchased from the same fund. Leaving the Truck and Building Fund balance at about $82,000.00.
2. With the cash flow summations and spreadsheets, Paul stated, next year it would be easier and quicker to look up comparison numbers for reference and reports.
3. July of 2026 will see the final payment made on the Green Building.

* Chief’s Report:

Since we made the move to have all bookkeeping moved to in-house staff and an outside consultant have spent many hours to work out hiccups and make the system concise, efficient and easy to understand. This move has

saved the district approximately $24,00.00 a year. It has also made it possible to have ready access to accounts and other needed information. \*see “Chief’s Report” attached to these minutes for further updates.

* EMS Chief: Jeff Mathia

The district received the grant money for EMT classes. Twelve individuals from South County will be taking part. Eight from Seal Rock Fire, four from East Lincoln Fire. What the grant did not cover, came from business or personal donation. The Idaho Medical Academy was gracious enough to extend the discount to those not covered by the grant money. This also extended to two individuals from Newport Fire. Our thanks to them. We will soon have twelve more EMT’s on our roster!

* Volunteer Report: Erik Dedijer-Small, S.L.E.R. President

The banking account is now set up for the Volunteer Association. Erik thanked all the volunteers for showing up to the board meeting.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

* Director Mike Burt handed out a letter to all attending titled ”The Value of Experience” dated from 1-20-2022. In part it quoted statements made by authors, philosophers and others on the value gained from experience. He stated his love for Seal Rock and for Seal Rock Fire. From there he moved onto read from a current letter directed to the Board and Chief explaining his former actions and statements. While defending some accusations, others he accepted accountability. In the end he stated he would not resign but would like to move forward and be inspired by the Chief. He then approached the chief to shake his hand upon which they agreed the conflict was over.
* Director Paul Rimola followed Director Burt in stating that moving forward he would agree to disagree. He felt pursuing a recall of Mike Burt was not something they should do. In response to Director Burt’s, and others, concern over out-of-district volunteer’s he explained that it has been an issue from the start. Since 2021 when the new Board of Director’s was established, several went door to door trying to recruit new volunteer’s the response has been miniscule. However the demographics don’t support our needs. The district is small and aged. Local recruiting is always taking place. Our culture is drawing the volunteer force we have now. They want to be here and show up every week staying and pulling shifts. The numbers do not lie.
* Director Skip Smith asked if there was a succession process established for the chief’s position. Chief Ewing stated there was and had been for some time. Many have been aware of it and it’s not been kept secret. Upon former PacWest manager, Jeff Mathia’s, hire with Seal Rock Fire he has been trained and prepared to move into that position when the time comes. He has years of qualified experience in management, EMS qualifications, and is quickly learning the fire side and other aspects of the position. He is currently our EMS Chief. Captain Joe Munger is second in that succession line. Chief Ewing added that Captain Munger has been a driving force behind the culture we have here at our district. With a little more time under his belt Joe will make a great leader for the Station.

**New Business:**

* Director Skip Smith asked about the budget report for the month. Chief Ewing stated he had given one out last month but changes were needed to be made for a new report due to mis-coding of items. A new report will be available for March. With it getting straightened out in Quickbooks it will be easy to print out these reports at anytime.
* Director Smith stated he would like to return to video feed of the board meetings on You Tube and wanted an update on that progress. Chief Ewing responded that while the laptop for that was still in the shop being repaired it is not mandatory to record meetings. Several comments were made on this issue. While it was mandatory during covid that was repealed. Many opinions were shared and it was then put to motion by Skip to check with our attorney on the legalities of it. It was seconded by Director Burt seconded and it passed unanimously.

**Board Comments:**

* Director Paul Rimola announced he is on the Ballot to run again for Treasurer position.

**Good of the Order:**

* Former longtime volunteer Larry Silverthorn spoke of how proud he was of the Board for all they were doing, that for the future he would like to see unity in the Board. These volunteer’s would not be here if not for the leadership from Chief Ewing. His hat is off to the responders.
* A thank you card was read by Chief Ewing from a local resident that responders have assisted on several occasions. The citizen expressed gratitude for our responders help and kindness.

**Adjourn: 18:04**

Submitted for approval by Lisa Welch, Human Resources/Board Clerk