



NESTUCCA RURAL FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

Minutes

Regular Board Meeting
December 11th, 2024
Station 87 Hebo, Oregon

Turn off all cell phones

All Please Stand for the Pledge of Allegiance

Call to Order: Time: 4:00 pm

Assure all guests have signed the sign-in sheet.

Note those who will be speaking, the subject and that there is a three (3) minute time limit.

This meeting is recorded

Roll Call: Dorothy Gann x Steve Shiels x Mark Menefee x
Shelley Cully x Anne Price x

Adjustments to Agenda: None

Audience Participation: None

Three (3) minute time limit.

Approval of Minutes: Regular Board of Directors Meeting November 13th, 2024.

Motion to Approve: Shelley Cully 2nd Anne Price

Motion Passed by: Dorothy Gann x Steve Shiels x Mark Menefee x
Shelley Cully x Anne Price x

Payment of Bills: Oregon Coast Bank online bill pay, electronic fund transfer, bank charges, petty cash expenditures and LGIP charges, direct deposit payroll and payroll taxes in the total amount of \$145,060.79

Motion to Approve: Steve Shiels 2nd Mark Menefee

Motion Passed by: Dorothy Gann x Steve Shiels x Mark Menefee x
Shelley Cully x Anne Price x

Treasurers Report for: November 30th, 2024, funds and account balances of \$2,062,158.08

Motion to Approve: Anne Price 2nd Steve Shiels

Motion Passed by: Dorothy Gann x Steve Shiels x Mark Menefee x
Shelley Cully x Anne Price x

Chief Oeder noted that this is the highest amount of tax receipts this early in the year he has seen in his career.

Correspondence:

See packet- plus a Life Flight letter report from the last call at Sandlake.

Old Business

None

New Business:

SDAO Conference will be held February 5-9 in Bend. Chief Oeder will be attending the Western Fire Chiefs conference in Las Vegas at this time. No NRFPD board members plan to attend the conference in 2025.

Discuss lawyer-reviewed draft of resolution to adopt cost-based fees and rates for District-provided services. Shelley asked how false alarms will be tracked to assess fines after first 3? Answer: easily done through First Due software, the only likely offender might be some hotels. This won't apply to 911 calls from individuals. Steve asked if the fire department is automatically dispatched to alarms? Answer only to fire alarms linked to smoke and CO2 detectors. Further asked if we are early adopters of this kind of ordinance? Answer: no, middle of the pack. The text of this ordinance was shared from other districts already billing for EMS, and updated by our lawyers. Is this a controversial choice? Not really, the rising cost of EMS supplies has led to the need for support- current taxation is only for fire suppression. Most calls are EMS related, and many are for non-district residents. District will bill for all EMS supplies, but will forgive the bill for District residents. Further discussion of the liability around outdoor burning and camp fires (warming fires can't be regulated at the district level because that is determined by OR statutes). Chief Hays noted that this resolution is intended to replace the piecemeal ordinances related to cost recovery currently in place. Shelley Cully stated that nationwide fire districts are currently billing insurance only for transport, and asked how coding and billing for supplies will be handled? ORS allows for the billing of EMS supplies to patients. District is hoping to recoup costs mainly from insurance companies and non-residents. Expect that the billing can be handled in house, at least to begin with. The biggest con of adopting this fee schedule would be community mis-trust of the department and people not calling 911 out of fear of high billing costs. The pro of adopting this ordinance is that a single combined ordinance will be easier to keep current and clearer to cite. Shelley Cully also suggested that the initial ordinance review happen after one year to assess the impacts of EMS recovery billing. Anne Price asked if this resolution replaces others, will there be language stating that this one takes precedence? Answered: Yes, and that the next step will be a public hearing and discussion after today's opportunity for Board of Directors to give feedback and discuss.

Executive Session Per ORS. 192.610 to 192.690 None

Reports:

See packet- Special Ops and Station 82 reports distributed today. No discussion.

Good of the Order:

Board members may be asked to send letters of support for upcoming legislation. The Oregon state budget for the next biennium does not include any funding for the OR State Fire Marshall summer staffing grant. These \$35,000 awards support adding an extra person Friday, Saturday and Sunday from July through October. There may be a bill presented to divert some of the 70% of the tourism tax that is currently reserved for re-investing in tourism to fund infrastructure such as fire districts. This will likely be opposed by the hotel lobby, who have defeated efforts to redirect these funds in the past. More to come once the bill leaves committee.

The Christmas Banquet was a nice event held in the Hebo Community Room this year.

Tillamook Creamery had an inter-department contest to raise money for a holiday food drive and \$500 in groceries are being donated to the Christmas Boxes put together by the Lions Club.

Firefighter/EMT Weston Luthi was hired to replace Michael Jensen. Micheal Boydell was initially selected, but could not pass some required medical benchmarks, so the other candidate on the list was hired. It was a very close ranking, and Weston is an excellent candidate. Back to full staffing for the time being, though three firefighters have applied for openings at Woodburn/Aurora, so further changes may be afoot. Starting wages there are around \$80,000 (almost \$30k more than here). NRPFD's compensation is in the lower end of the comparison scale, though no longer the lowest.

Next Meeting: January 8th, 2025

Agenda Items for Next Meeting:

Adjourn:

Motion to Approve: Shelley Cully 2nd Mark Menefee

Motion Passed by: Dorothy Gann x Steve Shiels x Mark Menefee x
Shelley Cully x Anne Price x

Time: 4:40 pm