

SWEET HOME FIRE & AMBULANCE DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
January 23rd, 2024
SHFAD Board of Directors Meeting

The **January 23rd, 2024** meeting of the Board of Directors of the Sweet Home Fire & Ambulance District was called to order at 7:04 p.m. by Board President Dawn Mitchell.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL

Roll call was taken by Director Charlene Adams. Directors present were Charlene Adams, Larry Johnson, Rob Younger, Jim Yon and Dawn Mitchell. Also in attendance were Chief Nick Tyler, Deputy Chief George Virtue, Assistant to the Chief Julie Mayfield, LT Jared Huenergardt, LT Jared Richey, BC Eli Harris, AIC Christian Whitfield, AIC Ryan Paul, FF JT Weld, FF Coury Gagne, FF Thomas Bernt, and Ryan Lindsey as well as community members Levi Lindsey, Ron Lake, Lois Lake, and Kristy Tallman from the New Era.

Ryan Lindsey Pinning:

- * Swearing in by Chief Nick Tyler
- * Pinning by Levi Lindsey

READING & APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes of the **December 19th, 2023 Regular Board Meeting** were presented and reviewed.

24-01 A motion was made by Director Rob Younger to approve the **December 19th, 2023 Regular Board Meeting** minutes as corrected. The motion was seconded by Director Larry Johnson and passed unanimously.

24-02 Director Jim Yon moved to approve the **December 2023** Financial Report as presented. The motion was seconded by Director Rob Younger and passed unanimously.

CORRESPONDENCE

none

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FIRE CHIEF REPORTS

Station 21 Generator - Chief Nick Tyler:

- * Generator (probably from original building in 1996) went down just prior to expected weather event due to some faulty electrical
- * Linn County Emergency Management Office (LCEMO) had one to borrow
- * Quote came in at \$3500 to repair
- * Could be a grant process for county to replace if needed in future

Call Volume/House Fires - Chief Nick Tyler:

- * Known weather event coming: took steps to upstaff career, part-time, volunteers and lots of people came in to help
- * 266 EMS calls and 378 fire calls (644 total calls) from December 22nd - January 21st (triple number normal calls)
- * Between January 12th-16th – 174 calls – 64 EMS, 110 fire calls (30 wire downs, 4 vehicle fire, 1 house fire, 1 shop fire, 1 motorhome, 1 water rescue)
- * Ice storm caused many downed trees and lines and both continued to fall
- * Unable to respond to 4 medical calls in Cascadia – never happened before
- * Rick Lentz from LCEMO – investigate responsibilities and notification process possibly in conjunction with other agencies after an event like this
- * Linn County Health Department – Dispatch can give them list of medical 911 calls to follow up in appropriate time increments and this occurred including checking whether an ambulance was still needed
- * Medic 21 went to a call on North River Road, had to cut way into address and trees and lines fell behind them; set up an incident command post at the way station and used partnership with PP&L, Consumer Power, Oregon Department of Forestry, local loggers, and Wright's Tree Service to get everyone out safely
- * Water rescue called out at one point for a minor issue
- * The entire area was very busy, brought very long hospital wait times; partnered with Lebanon Hospital to bring some people home which helped those individuals as well as freed up some needed beds
- * 3 fires along Highway 228 within a couple of days requiring lots of personnel and apparatus
- * Crews responded very well to a very hectic series of days with very unusual events and needs; worked cooperatively, well and smart

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Bond Discussion - Chief Nick Tyler:

- * Chief Tyler brought an info packet prepared by David Albright of Special Districts Association of Oregon (SDAO)
- * Discussion included differences at a rate of \$0.37/\$1,000 between 5 year bond netting \$1.775M, 7 year bond netting \$2.5M, and 10 year bond netting \$3.5M, all with a 95% property tax collection factor
- * Discussion on need for and specifications of new radios with greatly increased communication capabilities to replace outdated and second hand radios as discussed in previous meetings; biggest single cost at \$750,000
- * Discussion on current and in progress towers and repeaters to work in conjunction with the radios
- * Equipment needs include 2 ambulances (\$350,000 each), 2 Type 6 vehicles (\$350,000 each) and a Type 1 chipper as the other big expense items
- * Goal is to include on the May ballot
- * A general obligation agreement with SDAO was discussed
- * Board requested more information and clarification on multiple items
- * Tabled until Chief Tyler can gather requested information to bring back to the board at a later date

Fuels Reduction Update - Chief Nick Tyler:

- * AIC Christian Whitfield and Chief Tyler met with National Forest Service (NFS); hope of funding an in house hand crew to serve as a fuels mitigation crew working with the National Forest Foundation (NFF) and the NFS
- * NFF has 40 miles of forest service road needing potential control line (PCL) where anything 7 inches and under is removed 100-200 feet on each side of the road to use as a fire control measure
- * Potential revenue of \$2M for two years; lots of our partners very supportive
- * Meet in February with NFF and NFS to work out process and agreement

Board Policies, 5 Year Review, Changes - Chief Nick Tyler:

- * Revisited last in 2019
- * Addition of potential stipend for Board President discussed
- * Chief Tyler suggested a change in section 11.1.8: add Pledge of Allegiance
- * Directors will take the policies to review, bring to a work session to be determined with suggestions

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Pole Barn Addition - Chief Nick Tyler:

- * Quote from Savage & Smothers to extend the building in order to park some equipment out of the weather, close part in later to become the gym and create more storage - \$25,000 - will attempt to get more bids
- * \$30,000 exists as a line item in capital improvements in the budget to use for projects like this

OFFICERS REPORTS

Building Maintenance - Chief Nick Tyler:

- * Generator discussed earlier
- * New compressor threw a fault, checked out
- * No other issues so far connected to the electrical issues
- * Lt Jared Richey checked out Cascadia station for damages, none found
- * Chief Tyler and LT Jared Richey will be speaking to the Cascadia neighbors again about encroaching

EMS Officer - Chief Nick Tyler:

- * BC Shannon Pettner submitted a report
- * ESO training almost complete, probably a few more weeks

Fire Training - BC Eli Harris:

Between 12/1/23 - 1/1/2023 crews completed:

- * 26 hours of online
 - * 168 hours dedicated to drills
 - * 79 hours on shift training
 - * 108 hours of outside training (hazmat and mass casualty)
- Total = 381 plus hours of training
- * Audit happened date of this meeting, passed and authorized to teach even more classes
 - * New crew schedule 1-3-2-3 – first day of the schedule expected to be training, new training calendar allows more quality training, crews seem to like it, there will be things to learn and adjustments to make
 - * Peer Support Training and Critical Incident Class canceled due to ice storm, both to be rescheduled with information about that at a later meeting

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Vehicle Maintenance & Equipment - Chief Nick Tyler:

- * Engine 21 & 22 – a couple of minor problems resolved
- * Medic 1 was out of service due to low fuel pressure, waiting on parts
- * During ice event some extra money was spent to keep things going: everyone ran chains; put studs on one ambulance (with tires pre-bought), the Ford and the Chief's truck due to slippery roads
- * Medic 4 put 5,000 miles on in the last month

R & R and Public Interactions - AIC Ryan Paul:

- * Another good month
- * Continuing with lots of young interest – high school students, more almost daily
- * Trying to keep interest until they are 18 (most within approximately 6 months)
- * Spent lots of time on creating a Fire Corp (support program) policy to propose, Chief Tyler has reviewed and approved; first monthly training coming up will include 9 people
- * Peer Support Training (4-5 days) will be rescheduled, Critical Incident Training already in process of being rescheduled: chaplains will be included
- * Grant that has funded this position is coming to an end; Chief Tyler and BC Shannon Pettner are investigating what is the best way to fund this position to make it the most useful and economically feasible

Ambulance Collections & Other Information - Asst to the Chief Julie Mayfield:

- * Coming in February

FIRE DISTRICT PATRONS & PERSONNEL

Volunteer Association New Officers - LT Jared Richey:

President – LT Jared Richey

Vice President – Virgil Kropf, Tyson Rust (shared to help cover President Jared Richey's four month absence on fires)

Secretary – Sarah Cook

Treasurer – Matt Cook

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Group of officers and association members to review the bylaws, make minor changes and ratify them, make them more applicable to the association – most current copy is May 2021

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

Board Training Update:

- * Starting January 2024, new mandatory public meetings training requirement
- * Coming soon online and other options, to be announced
- * Chief Tyler will find out more at the upcoming conference
- * Required once per term

ADJOURNMENT

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Board of Directors will be at 7:00 p.m., Tuesday, February 20th, 2024.

The Board of Directors regular meeting was adjourned by President Dawn Mitchell at 9:08 p.m.

Submitted by,

Charlene Adams, Secretary/Treasurer
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