COMMISSIONER MEETING MINUTES

September 6, 2023

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

1. Baneta (Bonnie) Sheffler, Chairman
2. Steven A. Brown, Commissioner (absent)
3. Gary Frisque, Commissioner

**STAFF, FIREFIGHTERS AND GUESTS PRESENT**

1. Star Orman, Secretary to the Board of Commissioners
2. Robert Webber, Fire Chief
3. Robert Rosencrantz, County Commissioner
4. Adam Micone, Capt. Training officer
5. Thomas Frisque, Firefighter / EMT
6. Jay Foster, Chief of Fire District 5.

Chairman Sheffler called the meeting to order at 18:00; Commissioner Brown led us in the pledge of allegiance, and Commissioner Frisque led us in Prayer.

**Consent Agenda**

* Approve Meeting Minutes – August 2nd, 2023. August 16th, 2023.
* Deposits: $706.45
  + EFT- $606.45, $100
* Vouchers: 8489- 8512
  + General Fund – $22,485.41

**COMMISSIONER BROWN MADE A MOTION TO TABLE THE CONSENT AGENDA, COMMISSIONER FRISQUE SECONDED, AND CHAIRMAN SHEFFLER CONCURRED.**

**Correspondence – See Attached**

* Letter
* Card

**Chief’s Report – See Attached**

* M43 repairs have been made.
* M42 repairs are still on hold until the mechanic has time to work on it. Commissioner Brown inquired how much it was last time to have Freightliner come out, Chief informed $2,300 to $2,500.
* E45 part was installed. There are now other issues coming up. Updates to follow.
* Supporting the Fair went great. Samantha did a fantastic job setting up and manning the booth. The medical standby for the rodeo went mostly smooth.
* We have had at least one rig out on fires pretty much non-stop since the 18th. The night of the 18th, we sent 2 brush engines and a tender to the Oregon Rd. fire. Our crews stated that their actions at the fire directly saved at least 3 houses. For about the next 13 days we had a tender and brush engine out, and since then, we have had a brush engine out. Both Limited Term Firefighters, Caleb, Ryan and Jim have been the primary firefighters out on assignment, but Charlie and Carol have also gone out for a night.
* Our water at station 41 had to be shut off for a couple of days due to a water leak behind the crew quarter. A plumber had to be called, and a deep trench dug in order to perform the work. It is now back in service.
* DNR authorized another computer to be purchased on the grant Adam submitted. Apparently, there was more money than applicants. An additional computer and a vehicle pedestal mount will be purchased on the grant. I will spend approximately $140 of our small equipment money to finish out that project.
* Caleb resigned from the resident program; he is trying to get hired at AMR. Caleb will stay on as a volunteer.
* We had a 5th Wheel Trailer fire. We made a great save, and I have Adam investigating it.
* POFD4 was dispatched to 58 calls in the month of August, with the breakdown being 33 in Newport City, 11 in the Newport area, 10 in Usk and 2 in Cusick. We were also dispatched to 3 mutual aid requests, 2 for South Pend Oreille Fire and Rescue (both were vegetation fires), and for 1 for Fire District 5 for a motor vehicle accident.
* There was 571 hours of training last month.

**Unfinished Business**

* EMS and Newport update:
  + Newport – No changes. Commissioner Frisque asked if we have been pushing it anymore, Chief informed no we are not.
  + Star and I met last week with the stakeholders for the south county paramedic service issue. Discussion included:
    - I explained why D4 is moving to do the deal with POEMS. I did not hear any objections, and we seem to have the support of everybody.
    - I strongly encouraged everybody in the room to continue working towards a “plan B,” as a deal between D4 and POEMS is not guaranteed, even though it looks likely.
    - I have started working on a strategy board to build the business plan for a successful start-up and road map to help insure long term sustainability.
    - Finances have been sent to my auditor.
    - Legal response and direction- we have to acquire the debt; we cannot leave them as a standalone under us. We need to look into the finance closer. Further discussion took place regarding billing through systems design.
    - I will advise John Jackson that our Attorney stated to include the clause for “no ALS license – no deal”.
    - State ALS transport and DEA Licenses are being worked on. Erick Gallanger is working on these.
* Discussion, possible vote, and directive to the Chief on POEMS matter. **APPROVED TO CONTINUE WORKING ON THIS.** Commissioner Brown said as long as our account numbers man chief is working with and nothing is standing out to continue, but if something changes this needs to be rediscussed.
* Chief asked the county with GIS to get us an overlay with ems calls and the locations. This helps show where we should have ambulances in station 42 and 41. Further discussion took place regarding the maps the county gave us.
* Computer security – no updates as of now.

**New Business**

* Discussion and possible vote on acceptance of application for Volunteer Firefighters
  + Wayne Gamber- **APPROVED**
  + Whiteny Gamber- **APPROVED**
  + Boyd Jett- **APPROVED**
* Adam talked about his plan for doing a county wide academy.
* Commissioner Brown asked about the Oshkosh, and the ladder. Chief informed he’s been too busy with other things.
* Commissioner Brown reminded Chief that soon we need to start working on the budget.
* Commissioner Frisque asked about our upcoming audit.

**Open Sesson**

* Chief Jay Foster- He met with his commissioners and they are in support with the plan of Fire District 4 taking over POEMS. Fire District 5 also wants to keep the north in the north and not be in the south county.
* County Commissioner Robert Rosencrantz is strongly in support of Fire District 4 taking over POEMS. It makes a lot of sense for Fire 4 to take over POEMS.

**MEETING ADJOURENED**

As there was no further business before the Board, Chairman Sheffler adjourned the meeting at 19:27 pm.

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Gary Frisque, Commissioner

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Baneta D. Sheffler, Chairman

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Steven A. Brown, Commissioner

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Star S. Orman,

Secretary to the board of Commissioners