

AURORA RURAL FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

Budget Committee Meeting

Wednesday, May 17, 2023 at 12:00 pm

Station 900 Aurora, Oregon

ATTENDANCE

- | | | | |
|-------------------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Fire Chief Joshua Williams | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Director Rick Olmsted |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Director Deb Barnes | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Budget Member David Dryden |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Director Greg Dyke | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Budget Member Gloria Nicholson |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Director Bobby Meyer | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Budget Member Kris Sallee |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Director Daroll Nicholson | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Admin Assistant Emily Murphy |

CALL TO ORDER

The Budget Committee Meeting was called to order at 12:00 pm by President Bobby Meyer.

BUDGET COMMITTEE INTRODUCTION by President Meyer.

Pledge of Allegiance and Roll Call

ROLL CALL

Director	In attendance
Barnes	Present
Dyke	Present
Meyer	Present
Nicholson	Present
Olmsted	Present

ROLL CALL

Committee Member	In attendance
David Dryden	Present
Gloria Nicholson	Present
Kris Sallee	Present

ELECT PRESIDING OFFICER and VICE CHAIR

Open Nomination and hold election for Budget Committee Chair

President Meyer moved to nominate Director Nicholson as the Budget Committee Chair. Seconded by Director Olmsted. Director Nicholson accepted the nomination. No other nominations so the floor was closed. **All in favor, passed unanimously.**

Board President Meyer passed the gavel to Budget Committee Chair Daroll Nicholson to continue with the meeting.

Open Nomination and hold election for Budget Committee Vice-Chair

President Meyer moved to nominate Budget Committee Member Kris Sallee as Vice-Chair. Seconded by Director Barnes. Kris Sallee accepted the nomination. No other nominations so the floor was closed. **All in favor, passed unanimously.**

ESTABLISH BUDGET COMMITTEE PROCEDURAL RULES

Chair Daroll Nicholson also requested that anyone needing additional information or having a question, please raise their hand so everything can be addressed. He then turned the time over to Chief Williams for the presentation.

FY 2023 / 2024 PROPOSED BUDGET PRESENTATION

Presentation of Budget & Message: Chief Joshua Williams

Reading of the Budget Message and explanation of each section, noting the changes. He went through 2 budgets: one with levy passage and one without. Corrections to line items identified and explained. Small changes overall. Chief explained 6030 – Oregon State Fire Marshal's Conflagration under Materials & Services as well as the Income (General Fund Receipts category) under 4100. Director Meyer asked a question regarding a drop in EMS supplies, and the Chief explained it had to do directly with what was used / unused the previous year. Director Olmsted inquired about utility pricing and its consistency. Fuel did have to go up because the pricing is constantly fluctuating and volatile. Chief Williams then clarified the 6145 account regarding the maintenance of the apparatus fleet, and 6150 small tools and equipment. Any grant expenditures are only used if the grants are received. He shared that several of the firefighters have looked for, applied to, and been awarded grants to provide additional funds for things needed for the fire station. Director Dyke asked if there was a line for the new station utilities, so Chief said he will begin that category under Station 910 and track it to determine amounts for the following year. Director Nicholson asked for clarification for dispatch services, including costs for radios. Nicholson also requested an explanation of the PERS increase, which was provided. Chief explained the payment to pay off the radios at 100% so there is no debt at this district since the flex lease for the engines is also paid off last year. Chief then asked everyone to refer to Debt Service Category 6200 which is the category he said would be used if we do not get any funds from the State of Oregon. Hopefully won't need it, but may have to apply for a loan of around \$100,000.00. Moved the long-term disability typo (\$4,600 instead of \$46,000) money to category 7000 Capital Outlay. The money in and out hasn't changed, just putting in Reserve Funds instead of carrying forward in General Fund. Under Working Capital is where the \$3.6 million has been budgeted – same numbers, just different categories. Grants have been in the same place for the past several years and that money will only be spent if it comes in. He noted that Federal grants have not been as successful as local or State grants. Currently, a SAFER Grant is pending under 7880.20. He continued with category 8000 stating that the most

important number is under category 8900 – the Unappropriated Ending Fund Balance which is the amount he needs to get through the ‘gap’ between July 1 and mid to late November when the tax monies will start coming in again. There is no money in Apparatus Reserve Fund because it has all been spent. The Building Reserve Fund has the changes that were previously outlined. The grand total, if the State gives the \$6.2 million, will be in Reserve and will be spent only if received. That was the end of the budget ‘With Levy Passage.’

Chief Williams then referred to the ‘Without Levy Passage’ budget and highlighted the differences with the Local Option Levy under 4010 ‘Property Taxes.’ He pointed out the difference between removing the firefighters, the overtime, and the PERS since the levy was specifically to hire additional firefighters. Cash carryover will also change, which is where he said things get into trouble. The same number of taxpayers are paying the same amount since the 1980s. He specified that there is only a .7% growth, but the district still has all the increased expenses that everyone else is experiencing. Fire District expenses have been going up every year, yet we are running on the permanent 1997 tax revenue at .84 cents [per \$1000], which is not feasible in 2023 and moving forward. He stated that the numbers for the election were up 16 votes for the levy passing last night, and now it’s only passing by 3 votes. If it doesn’t pass, he will recommend a lesser amount for the November election. If there is no increase, half of the staff will be laid off because there just isn’t enough money. November is the last time we collect funds for the previous levy (from 2019), then we are looking at problems if the next levy attempt in November isn’t successful. Director Nicholson asked for clarification regarding the funds for this fiscal year versus the next. Chief Williams explained that the categories this year are set, it would be next year’s budget that would be affected by the levy passing or not. PERS is set on a two-year cycle, so the State sends the amount and the district must pay it. It generally goes up not down. His recommendation is to approve the budget with levy passage so there will not be a requirement to have another budget meeting, even if it doesn’t pass. Essentially on paper, he will be operating on the budget based on the election results. Director Nicholson asked for an explanation regarding the cost of overtime and the Chief explained that it’s high because there are so few staff, if anyone takes time off (vacation, etc.). he must have someone cover so there are enough firefighters on the engine for responding to calls. The goal is three people, but the minimum is two – which may include a student volunteer or a white helmet (Chief or Assistant Chief). The volunteer response has gone down drastically, which is why there is such a need for additional firefighters/staff.

Five-minute recess taken

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

BUDGET COMMITTEE DELIBERATION: None

MOTION TO SET AND APPROVE THE PERMANENT TAX RATE

Motion to set and approve the following ad valorem property taxes under Aurora Fire District’s permanent rate authority on all taxable property within the Fire District for tax year 2023 | 2024, as follows:

- *At the rate of \$.8443 per \$1000 of assessed value for permanent tax rate.*

Motion by Director Bobby Meyer. Seconded by Budget Member Kris Sallee. No discussion, moved to vote. **All in favor, passed unanimously**

MOTION TO SET AND APPROVE THE LOCAL OPTION LEVY TAX RATE

Motion to set and approve the following ad valorem property taxes under Aurora Fire District's local option levy rate authority on all taxable property within the Fire District for tax year 2023 | 2024, as follows:

- *At the rate of \$1.98 per \$1000 of assessed value for local option tax based on the levy passing, which is currently too close to call. If the levy doesn't pass, the rate will revert to \$.99 per \$1000 of assessed value for local option tax.*

Motion by Director Meyer. Seconded by Budget Member Gloria Nicholson. No discussion, moved to vote. **All in favor, passed unanimously.**

MOTION TO APPROVE THE BUDGET

Motion to approve and recommend to the Aurora Fire District Board of Directors, the Aurora Fire District FY 2023 | 2024 Budget, as presented with changes noted.

Motion by Budget Member Gloria Nicholson. Seconded by Director Bobby Meyer. **All in favor, passed unanimously.**

GOOD OF THE ORDER – Chair Nicholson expressed his thanks to everyone who helped create the various budgets and came up with all the numbers. He stated appreciation to Chief Joshua Williams and Assistant Chief Michael Corless, and also gave compliments to Administrative Assistant Emily Murphy for all her work making everything come together with the budget and for the meetings. Director Meyer added thanks to Accountant Dani Tice.

Motion by Director Bobby Meyer to Adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Director Greg Dyke. All in favor.

ADJOURNMENT: Meeting adjourned at 1:05 pm

Approved: Deb Barnes / 6-21-2023

Deb Barnes, Board Secretary/Treasurer

Date