

AURORA RURAL FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT
Budget Hearing & Board of Directors Meeting

Wednesday, June 21, 2023 at 7 pm

Station 900 Aurora, Oregon

Public attendance and participation via Telephonic access

ATTENDANCE

Fire Chief Joshua Williams
 Director Bobby Meyer
 Director Daroll Nicholson
 Director Deb Barnes

Director Greg Dyke
 Director Rick Olmsted
 Admin Assistant Emily Murphy

CALL TO ORDER – Budget Hearing called to order

Pledge of Allegiance & Roll Call

Director	In attendance
Barnes	Present
Dyke	Present
Meyer	Present
Nicholson	Present
Olmsted	Reception established later online

Fire Chief Joshua Williams read the following:

BUDGET HEARING STATEMENT OF FACT & CHANGES

The Aurora Fire District has met the budgetary requirements as per the Oregon Department of Revenue. The Aurora Fire District Budget Committee met on May 17, 2023, and was presented with a proposed balanced budget for FY 23 /24, which they unanimously approved. The appropriate public notifications have been published via Pamplin Media and the District website. Staff is pleased to make a recommendation to our Board of Directors to approve the Aurora Fire District FY 2023 / 2024 Budget, in the amounts categorized for General and Reserve Fund appropriations, as was unanimously approved by the Budget Committee and is presented here tonight. With that, we will now discuss the changes.

Chief reminded the Board that when the Budget Committee met last month, we were still in the midst of an election that we did not know the outcome of yet. Those here were in attendance at that meeting and may recall that there were 2 budgets presented at the Budget Meeting last month due to the election still pending. He had recommended the one presented as With Levy Passage which was the higher of the 2 presented. Since then, the election has been certified that the levy did not pass. He has contacted the Department of Revenue about how to rectify the budget and confirmed that the Board of Directors can adopt any budget they choose. If the amounts went up, that would be difficult, but approving the one with a couple of corrections

and the changes reducing amounts of income and expenditures based off the failure of the levy is not an issue. Although the Budget Committee recommended a certain budget, you do not have to accept it. He provided a copy of the budget Without Levy Passage presented at the last meeting and another copy with a few correction/changes. He went through them side by side to clarify the changes. First, the balance forward will go down from over \$4 million dollar balance to \$1.6 million. The General Fund expense will go down from \$10 million to \$6 million. He then pointed out category 4050 which had the State Appropriation Funding. Due to the State Appropriations Bill not passing, he reduced that amount since that money will not be coming in as additional funding. Capital Outlay has also been reduced as well due to the failure of the levy. Those changes are all based on the failure of the levy. These are numbers everyone has seen before, but this budget provided this evening is the one he will recommend the Board of Directors adopt. He also confirmed that there was no requirement to have another Budget Meeting, so we are in good shape. This budget is just more simplified. Chief Williams had nothing more to add at this time since action to adopt and pass the Budget will be made during the Board of Directors Meeting.

**AC Corless indicated to the Board President that Director Olmsted is now present online.*

PUBLIC COMMENT – None.

President Meyer accepted a motion to adjourn the Budget Hearing by Director Dyke and seconded by Director Barnes. All in favor.

ADJOURN BUDGET HEARING

CALL TO ORDER – Regular Board Meeting called to order

President Meyer called the meeting to order at 7:07 pm. All still present.

ADDITIONS/DELETIONS TO AGENDA – Chief Williams would like to add election acceptance, civil service appointment, and board member recognition all under New Business.

CONSENT AGENDA

A motion was made by Director Dyke to approve the consent agenda for the month of May 2023. Motion seconded by Director Barnes. All in favor, passed unanimously.

Roll call vote for approving consent agenda:

Director	Vote
Barnes	Yes
Dyke	Yes
Meyer	Yes
Nicholson	Yes
Olmsted	Reception issue – didn't vote
Result: 4-0 in favor, passed unanimously	

PUBLIC COMMENT / CORRESPONDENCE AND/OR QUESTIONS – None.

DISTRICT 63 FIREFIGHTERS ASSOCIATION UPDATE – Treasurer Alisha Kuenzi reminded everyone that the Annual Bingo Event is this coming Saturday starting with food at 4:30 pm at the Donald Station. The games begin at 6:30 pm. The Annual Picnic will be on September 9th at the Aurora Station.

OPERATIONAL REPORTS (in packets): President Meyer appreciates the A-Shift reports inclusion of photos. No other comments.

NEW BUSINESS

➤ **Extreme Modular Buildings, Patrick Veer** – Presentation regarding an update and the status of the the new EMB Aurora Fire Station. Patrick introduced himself and said he has been the VP for almost 10 years. This year has been their busiest ever and Aurora, Oregon will be their biggest station so far. They have had to recover after covid with the labor and supply chain affected. Most things have been resolved. Electrical supply is still an issue and used to be provided by China, now they're made in the USA and Canada. They will need all the components in place to complete all projects. L&H Industrial changed to a nuclear company so they are only one company now and the plant is operating at 95% capacity. He also stated that they are completely booked through March 2024. Provided updated production and delivery schedule. He said they may need to extend the delivery timeline. Chief indicated that Marc from Orangewall is also listening in on the meeting. He explained the 2-week design review and how the building permit process could be slow. Patrick continued with the proposed schedule and clarified the 2 project inspections in Lethbridge, Canada in September and October, prior to delivery. Shipment is currently scheduled 2 weeks later than originally expected, and 2 areas to watch for are the electrical components and the Oregon Modular Authority. Concerns were expressed by Director Meyer regarding the delivery and set up of the building during inclement weather in Oregon by late November. Patrick stated that postponement of delivery is an option that would allow them to have it completely assembled prior to shipping and final delivery at the site. Chief added that he and the Assistant Chief have already addressed this issue and agree that they do not want an incident to occur, would be no issue for staff to hold off until spring and will leave it to the board. Board agreed to wait until mid to late April 2024 for delivery of the station. Patrick Veers was then excused to catch an Uber to the airport.

➤ **Resolutions transferring funds (2023-03, 2023-04, 2023-05)** *Read by title only

*Resolution 2023-03: Vitae Springs Fire Conflagration Funds

Motion by Director Nicholson to approve Resolution 2023-03 as presented. Seconded by Director Dyke. All in favor, passed unanimously.

*Resolution 2023-04: Rum Creek Fire Conflagration Funds

Motion by Director Dyke to approve Resolution 2023-04 as presented. Seconded by Director Barnes. All in favor, passed unanimously.

*Resolution 2023-05: McKinney Fire Conflagration Funds

Motion by Director Dyke to approve Resolution 2023-05 as presented. Seconded by Director Barnes. All in favor, passed unanimously.

- **Adopting Budget** – Chief Williams recommended that the Aurora Fire District Board adopt the updated budget that was presented tonight, with the reminder that it was previously determined if the levy did not pass, the amount would revert to the previous amount.

Motion by Director Dyke to approve Resolution 2023-06 adopting the Budget for FY 2023/2024 as presented and as recommended by Chief Williams. Motion seconded by Director Barnes. All in favor, passed unanimously.

Roll call vote adopting the Budget as presented:

Director	Vote
Barnes	Yes
Dyke	Yes
Meyer	Yes
Nicholson	Yes
Olmsted	Yes
Result: 5-0 in favor, passed unanimously	

- **Election Certifications** – Chief Williams requested that the May 17, 2023 election results be approved by the board as presented for Directors 1, 2, 5 and Measure 24-484.

A motion was made by Director Nicholson to allow the Fire Chief or Board President to sign the approval of the election results as presented. Seconded by Director Dyke.

Roll call vote to approve election results as presented:

Director	Vote
Barnes	Yes
Dyke	Yes
Meyer	Yes
Nicholson	Yes
Olmsted	Abstained*
Result: 4-0 in favor, passed unanimously	

**Director Olmsted did not have a copy of the abstracts so he abstained from the vote.*

- **Civil Service Appointments** – Two of the Civil Service representatives for Woodburn have moved out of district, so there have been two people who have applied to fill those positions. As we are joint with WFD for Civil Service, the board must approve the new appointees. Their names are Brian Wagner and Debbie Wolfer. The Aurora appointee is still the same. Chief Williams recommended that the board make a motion to accept those appointees to the Woodburn-Aurora Civil Service.

A motion was made by Director Dyke to accept the Civil Service appointees as presented. Motion seconded by Director Nicholson.

Roll call vote to accept Civil Service appointees as presented:

Director	Vote
Barnes	Yes
Dyke	Yes
Meyer	Yes
Nicholson	Yes
Olmsted	Yes
Result: 5-0 in favor, passed unanimously	

OLD BUSINESS

- **Discovery Study** – Director Barnes had asked Chief Williams for clarification and what exactly a Discovery Study would involve so she could be more educated on it and before making a decision. Chief stated that he had previously expressed his concerns and frustrations to the board, and he had brought up the fact that he felt it was time to do a Discovery/Study with TVF&R. Any time TVF&R look to engage with another fire agency, their rule is to wait to be approached. To begin a study, a formal request is made by the Chief to their Chief and they then assign a staff administrator to look at the viability between the two agencies. They will look at all aspects from apparatus to financials in order to determine if it is a good fit. At the end of 2-3 months, a document is produced with the results. If the Board or TVF&R don't think it will work, then it's done and we continue down the road we are currently on. If the results indicate that it would be viable, we go into a 2-year contract. Just prior to the end of the 2 years, a decision must be made to either end the agreement, or determine if both sides are liking it and if things have improved. On day one of the agreement, every Aurora member and employee would be 'hired' by TVF&R. Chief reiterated that this has been a very tough decision to bring this to the board, as he also started out as a volunteer/student and values that, but he felt he had no other option following the failure of the levy. He gave examples of the lack of response to calls by volunteers, with the busiest combat volunteer responding to 9 out of 500 calls. He stated he can no longer ignore the numbers, and it's his responsibility to make sure calls are run safely so something has to happen. Even going back and asking for a reduced [levy] rate in November would only keep the current staff. Director Meyer expressed concerns about losing the stations if another agency takes over. Chief responded stating that the reality is we are losing people. He said he has the responsibility to deliver emergency services, and there are barely enough people with the current staff and students. Volunteers are not showing up for calls like they used to and the station in Donald is empty. He will do what the Board wants him to do but he may not like it. Additional discussion regarding what a merger would look like, like keeping people local if possible by AC Corless, who previously experienced this at Clackamas Fire. Discovery will at least give us answers. Director Nicholson wanted to know specifically what Chief was asking of the board. Chief Williams replied that he is asking the board permission to approach TVF&R. Director Barnes asked if it was possible to do two agencies, adding either Clackamas or Canby. Chief replied yes that is possible.

A motion was made by Director Nicholson to grant the Fire Chief permission to request a Discovery Study with TVF&R. No second.

Discussion ensued regarding whether there should be another agency added for Discovery. After input from Assistant Chief Corless that he has checked into that possibility and there is no

interest with Woodburn or Clackamas, the board decided that with a new chief being put in at Canby Fire by October, they should be an agency to consider requesting a Discovery Study.

A motion was made by Director Dyke to grant the Fire Chief permission to request a Discovery Study with 2 agencies. As Director Barnes moved to second the motion, Director Olmsted's reception came back and he seconded Director Nicholson's motion. Director Dyke was going to withdraw his motion, but instead chose to add his motion as an amendment to Director Nicholson's, which Director Barnes then seconded. President Meyer called for a vote.

Roll call vote to grant Fire Chief permission to pursue Discovery Study w/TVF&R:

Director	Vote
Barnes	Yes
Dyke	Yes
Meyer	No
Nicholson	Yes
Olmsted	Lost Reception – didn't vote
Result: 3-1 in favor, passed	

Roll call vote to amend the previous motion and grant Fire Chief permission to also pursue Discovery Study with Canby:

Director	Vote
Barnes	Yes
Dyke	Yes
Meyer	No
Nicholson	Yes
Olmsted	Lost Reception – didn't vote
Result: 3-1 in favor, passed	

- **Board Director Recognition** – Presentation of plaque for his service on the board given to Director Daroll Nicholson by President Bobby Meyer and Chief Joshua Williams on behalf of the AFD Board and Staff.

NEXT REGULAR BOARD MEETING: Date: Wednesday, July 19, 2023
 Time: 7 pm
 Location: Donald Fire Station

ADJOURNMENT: Meeting adjourned at 8:14 pm

Approved: Deb Barnes / 7-12-2023
 Deb Barnes, Board Secretary/Treasurer Date