

AURORA RURAL FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

Board of Directors Meeting

Wednesday, May 19, 2021 at 7 pm

Station 900 Aurora, Oregon

Public attendance and participation via Telephonic access

ATTENDANCE

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Fire Chief Joshua Williams	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Director Paul Ranta
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Director Daroll Nicholson	<input type="checkbox"/>	Director Dawn Depner
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Director Bobby Meyer	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Admin Assistant Emily Murphy
<input type="checkbox"/>	Director Marc Anderson		

CALL TO ORDER

The Regular Board of Directors Meeting was called to order at 7:02 pm by President Daroll Nicholson. Roll call and Pledge of Allegiance performed. Director Marc Anderson absent (excused) and Director Dawn Depner absent (unexcused). Quorum established with 3 members present.

ADDITIONS/DELETIONS TO AGENDA – None.

CONSENT AGENDA

A motion was made by Director Meyer to approve the consent agenda for the month of April 2021. Motion seconded by Director Ranta.

Roll call vote to accept the Consent Agenda:

Director	Recorded Vote
Anderson	Not present
Depner	Not present
Meyer	Yes
Nicholson	Yes
Ranta	Yes
Result: Consent Agenda passed unanimously	

PUBLIC COMMENT / CORRESPONDENCE AND/OR QUESTIONS – None.

DISTRICT #63 FIREFIGHTER ASSOCIATION UPDATE – President Josh Bandy stated there is nothing to report at this time.

OPERATIONAL REPORTS (in packets) – No questions.

Chief Report – Chief Williams shared updates regarding the grants and grant process. He is currently waiting for delivery of the SPYRE Grant vehicle, which is an 'earth cruiser.' They're manufactured in Bend, Oregon. Will be ready for the next wildland season.

NEW BUSINESS

President Nicholson wanted to first congratulate Deb Barnes on her win for Position 4 on the Aurora Fire District Board of Directors, and thanked her for her support.

- **Response corrections** – Chief Williams wanted to express his displeasure and take a moment to correct information in response to false and inaccurate information that had recently been shared by Director Dawn Depner on a Canby Now podcast, just prior to the Board elections. He shared his anger, disappointment, and concern regarding the misrepresentation of what services our district provides, along with his intentions regarding EMS. He shared specific examples of direct quotes from the podcast that were made by Director Depner that were very disparaging and incorrect. He stated it is the worst kind of ‘fake news.’ These public comments and actions by a board member are in direct violation of his contract, and he had considered not continuing as the Fire Chief. He strongly feels the responders and the taxpayers all deserve an apology. Chief finished with saying that he is happy with the election results, and that he will not be pursuing anything further regarding this issue at this point because he has better things to deal with as Fire Chief, but it is unfortunate and this district deserves better.

Additional Comments provided: Director Paul Ranta, Director Bobby Meyer, and Director Daroll Nicholson each expressed embarrassment for someone, especially a current Board member, to have represented the Board in such a way as to have complete disregard for truth. Each also concurred with Chief Williams that everyone in the district deserves an apology for such blatant misrepresentation of facts. It was stated that Dawn Depner did not do her homework and maybe did not understand that we do not ‘transport’ but we do EMS, that’s exactly what we do – that’s why we have EMT’s and trained Paramedics working fulltime shifts for the district. It’s an insult to our responders for someone to state otherwise. It was noted that the opposing candidate, Deb Barnes, had done her homework, showed support, and provided positive representation during that same broadcast, for which everyone was grateful.

SDAO has been contacted and will be working with Chief and staff to integrate ways to deal with these types of issues if they were ever to occur again, as it had a direct impact on the staff and volunteer’s morale, as well as the community’s perception of what we really do. Damage must be undone if we are to move forward with a bond or levy in the future. There has to be a way to prevent someone from throwing out random numbers and propaganda for their own agenda, or at least have a plan in place as a way to counter ‘garbage’ with the actual facts and figures for the calls the district responds to. An apology was expressed on behalf of the 4 Board members who were embarrassed and upset regarding what was said; sincere thanks was given to all the firefighters, the Chief, and his staff for all they do. It was stated by Director Nicholson that it’s important to represent truth in these situations and he’s glad that Deb Barnes was prepared to do that. He hopes those in attendance and those listening will share that with the other volunteers so that they’re aware of the support they’re receiving moving forward. Chief concluded with asking if anyone else wanted an opportunity to say anything. No further discussion so the comments were closed.

OLD BUSINESS


- **Master Plan quote** – Chief explained that this is just a continuation after presentation from ESCI and discussion regarding the quote. Presented the quote for review and recommended it be accepted.

A motion was made by Director Meyer to approve the Master Plan quote as presented. Motion was seconded by Director Ranta. All in favor, passed unanimously.

NEXT REGULAR BOARD MEETING: Date: Wednesday, June 16, 2021
Time: Directly following the Budget Hearing
In person meeting at Station 900 scheduled for Board members
Public will continue to attend via phone

Motion by Director Meyer to Adjourn the meeting, all in favor.

ADJOURNMENT: Meeting adjourned at 7:57 pm.

Approved:  6/16/21
Bobby Meyer, Board Secretary/Treasurer *Date*