

AURORA RURAL FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

Board of Directors Meeting

Wednesday, February 17, 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 type="checkbox"/>	Director Paul Ranta
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Director Daroll Nicholson	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Director Dawn Depner
<input type="checkbox"/>	Director Bobby Meyer	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Admin Assistant Emily Murphy
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Director Marc Anderson		

CALL TO ORDER

The Regular Board of Directors Meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by President Daroll Nicholson. Director Paul Ranta and Director Bobby Meyer are absent and both are excused. Roll call and the Pledge of Allegiance performed.

ADDITIONS/DELETIONS TO AGENDA – None.

CONSENT AGENDA

Director Depner asked prior to voting, for information she had from the accountant (Dani Tice). Chief assured her that he has it and will go over it with her following the meeting.

A motion was made by Director Anderson to approve the consent agenda for the month of January. The motion was seconded by Director Depner.

Roll call vote to accept the Consent Agenda:

Director	Recorded Vote
Anderson	Yes
Depner	Yes
Meyer	Absent
Nicholson	Yes
Ranta	Absent
Result: Consent Agenda for January 2021 passed unanimously	

Comment from Chief Williams – He received a letter from Deb Barnes regarding support of the NM School Auction for a Pizza Party provided by District and Association. Chief will send a copy of that letter to each of the Board members tomorrow.

PUBLIC COMMENT / CORRESPONDENCE AND/OR QUESTIONS – Waited a minute for anyone via telephone to comment. There was none.

DISTRICT #63 FIREFIGHTER ASSOCIATION UPDATE – Nathan Severson reported that there is interest from a few businesses in the community to help with the Easter Egg Hunt, if it is allowed to be held this year, due to Covid restrictions. Still waiting to hear if it will be happening or not.

OPERATIONAL REPORTS (in packets) – No questions.

Chief Report – Chief Williams shared that the recent ice storm that covered 1.25 inches of ice everywhere was the worst he'd ever seen and said the FD has been going non-stop since. He reported 61 calls from Friday 2/11/2021 through Sunday 2/14/2021, with 2 paid staff on duty, 2 Chiefs, volunteers and student attending to those calls. He said he's very proud of all the staff that were on call throughout the disaster. He's happy to report that AFD did not sustain any major damage to the station or property. The City of Aurora is still out of power and the Fire District has been working to secure generators and water during this crisis. The Chief had been working with the Public Works Director when there was just 24 hours left of water. It was not an issue for a Rural Fire District since we use 'water on wheels' (Tenders) when hydrants are not available. AFD was able to open up the fire station and allow the community to come as a 'warming station' and also to charge their cell phones, laptops, ipads, etc. because of the natural gas-powered generator providing electricity.

In addition, a wi-fi network has been created around the fire station through the MDC's (Mobile Data Computer) on each of the apparatus, since there has also been no internet available. People have been able to park around the station and reach out to loved ones, check online for updates, and review social media. This access will continue until the City of Aurora has power again.

The Fire District has also helped several citizens by filling up barrels of water for cleansing, and giving cases of bottled water (leftover from the wildfire donations) for drinking. Whole families with children have been able to benefit from the help provided by the Fire District. Operations Chief Dyke said everyone has pulled together and are now just waiting to get power. Shift crew are here and answering all the calls coming in.

Another thing Chief Williams wanted to mention is the concern of people taking drastic measures to stay warm, like moving generator and barbeques indoors – which is extremely dangerous due to CO2 emissions. It's just been another issue the firefighters have had to deal with, and he encourages everyone to wear a CO2 'fob' that they can clip onto their uniforms. That we it is on them and in range to go off if carbon monoxide is present. It saves lives and is totally worth it.

One last thing – Chief said if you look around, you'll see cots with sleeping bags, and bedding because the paid staff and on-duty students are staying in the conference room due to no power, hot water for showers, etc at the student or shift house. A lot of problems extend to Donald Fire Station. They were both built in the [19]50's and are not equipped for fire fighting in 2021. Time is coming soon to ask voters to pass a bond, and he would like to have a discussion and do whatever we can do to get a station built at Ehlen Rd. Something to consider and he wants the Board's input. Cost would be \$8-9 million, but If we do get another fire station, we will need another fire engine. They're not cheap, so we need to realize that this district is growing and we are getting busier, needing more and more training, and space to do so. Something we all need to start thinking about and deciding what we need to do next.

President Nicholson and Director Anderson discussed the original \$7 million bid was probably 2013-2014, when the district had about half the calls they have currently. All agreed it is something that needs to be put on the ballot, but we need to do it right to get the support of the voters in the community.

President Nicholson then wanted to thank everyone for all they've done for the district, and wanted to offer his guest space to anyone that may need it. He also suggested reaching out to the City of Donald for additional water if needed.

Director Dawn Depner – Asked if under the Bond proposal there is any plans to hire any additional EMS. She thinks it's a good idea to look into it to provide the community another security, especially since her experience with waiting for TVF&R has been disappointing. She wanted to make it clear for the record that it was TVF&R that was horrible, not Aurora Fire. She would like to know why not consider it?

Chief replied that AFD has an ASA (Ambulance Service Area) assigned to us and stated that he encourages competition, wants established ambulance organizations to bid through the county, which is how Woodburn became our (EMS/ambulance) provider. He is also frustrated with wait time for ambulances in this area; however, the Bond and the ASA are two very separate issues. He stated that AFD just does not have the capacity to have an ambulance service through our district. Chief would like to see a better provider come in, but we need the few fulltime staff we have to answer the calls. He stated he would not recommend it to the Board, as it's important we not become an 'Ambulance District' but remain a 'Fire District.'

Director Marc Anderson – Had a question regarding the architect paperwork and if someone still has copies of the strategic planning. Ops Chief said yes, he has it and will provide copies.

President Nicholson thanked everyone for their input.

NEW BUSINESS

- **Operations Chief retirement:** Greg Dyke's retirement has been extended a couple months, from April to June 30th. Chief notified the Board that he will be prepping to replace him by July 1st.
- **Joint Meeting Representatives:** Looking to appoint two board members to represent the Aurora Fire District Board at the Joint Meeting with Canby Fire District.

Director Depner stated for the record that she is not going to run for the Board again but would like to know when this Joint meeting is happening as she has offered to attend. Chief Williams suggested appointing 2 representatives and an alternative, just in case.

A motion was made by Director Depner that herself and Director Anderson volunteer as the Board representatives, with Director Nicholson as a backup/alternate. Motion was seconded by Director Anderson.

Roll call vote to approve representatives as presented:

Director	Recorded Vote
Anderson	Yes
Depner	Yes
Meyer	Absent
Nicholson	Yes
Ranta	Absent
Result: 3-0 Passed unanimously	

- **Appoint Civil Service Representative** – Chief Williams indicated that one has responded to the postings, so we will continue to look into finding someone to fill that position. Let him know if anyone is aware of someone who could fill this position.

