

AURORA RURAL FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

Regular Board or Directors Meeting

Wednesday, May 20, 2020

Station 900 Aurora, Oregon & via Video Conference
Public attendance and participation via Telephonic access

ATTENDANCE

Fire Chief Joshua Williams
 Director Greg Leo
 Director Bobby Meyer

Director Daroll Nicholson
 Director Fred Hartley
 Director Paul Ranta
 Admin Assistant Emily Murphy

CALL TO ORDER

The Board Meeting was called to order at 7:41 pm by Director Greg Leo once everyone returned online from the break following the Budget Meeting. Pledge of Allegiance and roll call performed. All were present via video conference, Fire Chief Williams and Administrative Assistant Emily Murphy were also present at the Aurora Fire Station.

ADDITIONS/DELETIONS TO AGENDA

Chief Williams provided notice that the meeting was being recorded. He also wanted to add an item regarding the audit under 'Old Business' later in the meeting.

CONSENT AGENDA

A motion was made by Director Bobby Meyer to approve the consent agenda and minutes for the month of April. The motion was seconded by Director Daroll Nicholson and unanimously approved.

DISTRICT 63 FIREFIGHTERS REPORT (*Firefighter President*) – None. The firefighters have not been able to meet since Covid-19 started.

PUBLIC COMMENT / CORRESPONDENCE AND/OR QUESTIONS – Waited a minute for anyone via telephone to comment. There were no comments.

OPERATIONAL REPORTS – All reports included in Board Packets

- Fire Chief Report – No questions
- Operations Report – No questions
- Fire Marshal Report – No questions
- Training Report – No questions
- Volunteer Coordinator Report – No questions

OLD BUSINESS

- **Ehlen Rd. property update** – Chief Williams reports that everyone is happy to see the progress. A thank you was expressed to Director Meyer for the suggestion of using S-2 Construction since they are a local company in Aurora and already had a government contract, which saved the District money. Also thanked the Board of Directors for their support. Soon it will be a successful, safe place to train. Asked if there were any

questions. Director Leo asked about security, will there be a gate and a way to keep it locked? Chief responded that yes, the plan is to have fencing on the east side parallel to the neighbor's driveway that leads to a gate. There will be solar panels and remotes. Quotes have been sent and Ops Chief Dyke is following up with those. Chief then asked if there were any additional questions; there were none.

- **Hiring update** – Just completed the testing process, time to wait for challenge under Woodburn, Canby and Mollala. Once completed, the Chief said he will be able to do the specific job of hiring for Aurora. He said he's hoping to complete the process as early as possible, with a start date in July.
- **SDAO Study** – Chief recognized there had been previous discussion about having a joint meeting, but has also heard most would prefer to do so in person, versus under the current constraints requiring virtual attendance (via zoom, google meet). He also mentioned there is an online presentation from George Dunkel at SDAO on the same night as the next board meeting if anyone is interested. Everyone agreed so Chief said he will set it up with the other Chiefs on the third Wednesday next month (same BOD schedule as Woodburn).
- **Approve Audit Draft 2019** – President Greg Leo asked if there were any recommendations made. Chief Williams stated that the only problem last year was a publishing date was missed. The real change is one that's already been agreed to, which is switching our accounting practices from accrual to cash basis. Accrual complicated things and made audit more expensive, so next year will simplify the process. Chief recommends the Board approve the audit as presented, as this will get us officially caught up and represents a positive step for the Fire District.

A motion was made by Director Bobby Meyer to approve the 2019 Audit as presented. The motion was seconded by Director Paul Ranta and unanimously approved.

NEW BUSINESS

- **COVID-19 update and response** – Chief Williams shared that this has been a very challenging time. The [medical] call volume is going up, but traffic accidents are going down. President Greg Leo asked if anyone at the station had tested positive for the virus and Chief said just one volunteer. He added that we are taking all the precautions to prevent, doing temperature checks and using the PPE – which he believes has helped significantly in keeping everyone safe. Chief inquired of the Board if they want to continue with the virtual meetings, or start moving toward in person meetings sometime in July? Director Bobby Meyer suggested waiting one more month (through June). Director Paul Ranta agreed and said that since this seems to be working, may as well continue. President Greg Leo mentioned that Marion County may be approved for Phase 1 of reopening, but still feels we should continue virtual meetings through June and maybe July too. Chief said he feels this way of meeting has been sufficient to getting done what needs done while avoiding germs. He said he thinks we try one more month and see how everyone feels next month once we see what reopening parts of the state looks like. Director Ranta mentioned that he appreciated the technology of using google meetings, and prefers it even over Zoom.

- **Surplus items** – Chief asked the BOD to declare all VHF and 800 radios as surplus, and allow them to be sold or disposed of as the District determines.
Discussion: President Greg Leo said he thinks it's a good decision and is in favor of approving Chief's request.

A motion was made by Director Bobby Meyer to declare all VHF and 800 radios owned by the Aurora Fire District as surplus. The motion was seconded by Director Fred Hartley and passed unanimously.

NEXT BOARD MEETING: **VIDEO CONFERENCE MEETING**

Date: Wednesday, June 17, 2020

Time: 7 pm – Budget Hearing to occur within the first part of the meeting

Location: Chief will be at Aurora Fire Station and present via Video Conference

All others will be in attendance via Video Conference and Public will be able to attend/participate via telephone.

ADJOURNMENT: Meeting adjourned at 7:56 pm

Approved: _____



Bobby Meyer, Board Secretary/Treasurer