

LEBANON FIRE DISTRICT
BOARD MEETING MINUTES
FEBRUARY 13, 2024

Robert Taylor, Board President
 Dale White, Vice President
 Wyatt King, Secretary/Treasurer
 Allen Forster, Member
 Tim Mueller, Member

Joseph Rodondi, Fire Chief
 John Tacy, DC of Operations
 Ken Foster, Fire Marshal
 Mark Fitzwater, DC of Training
 Desiree Barker, Chief Administrative Officer
 Michael Perkins, Recruitment Lt.

CALL MEETING TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order and the flag salute was led by Fire Chief Rodondi at 5:30pm at Station 32.

MINUTES: APPROVAL OF JANUARY 9, 2024 MINUTES

- Minutes were reviewed.
- **Member King made a motion to approve the minutes. Member Forster 2ND, all in favor, motion approved.**

CITIZEN COMMENTS

There were no citizen comments.

AGENDA ITEM #1 – LOCAL OPTION LEVY RESOLUTION

Fire Chief Rodondi introduced the Local Option Levy Resolution. The levy gives us the opportunity to meet the demands of the community. The Resolution 02-2024 Exhibit A has the details and Exhibit B has the language intended for the voter pamphlet. Linn County will not be producing a pamphlet for the May 2024 election.

Member King requested a paragraph reorganization. The reorganization was supported by Member White.

Member Forster made a motion to accept the Resolution with the modification. Member Mueller 2nd, all in favor, motion approved.

Chief Rodondi added the District's intent to post guidance provided by the Secretary of State on all station bulletins clarifying employee conduct during an elections. The Board, as elected officials, have more latitude. Any questions or concerns can be addressed as they arise.

Member King inquired about the appropriateness of a rally in the park promoting the levy. Chief will follow up with Member King after he discusses the question with our attorney for clarification.

AGENDA ITEM #2 – SDAO RESPONSE TO OSHA RESPIRATOR CITATIONS

Chief Rodondi and Division Chiefs Tacy and Fitzwater attended the OSHA appeal hearing in Salem. OSHA stood behind their actions, seeing them as black and white issues. Chief Rodondi offered the District's arguments. OSHA caucused and returned with an attitude that appeared more cooperative.

Chief Rodondi shared the discussion on OSHA's citation amount. A similar citation in another district was only \$180, yet ours is \$2,600 for an infraction with far less magnitude. Our District is asking OSHA for a more consistent application of the monetary penalty, than what is currently in use by OSHA. OSHA disregarded any items that we fixed while in his presence, such as a sticker re-location. Despite the correction the agent wrote a citation.

Chief Rodondi expanded on OSHA's respirator check interpretation. Not all manufacturers are as restrictive as MSA and that is contributing to the problem. The current MSA recommendation is a daily fit test. OSHA's rigidity is not always practical. Currently, volunteers are required to perform a fit test prior to responding to an emergency event. The fit test takes 20 minutes. This issue was introduced at a recent MSA conference. MSA is receptive to a manual update.

AGENDA ITEM #3 – APPOINT BUDGET MANAGER AND APPROVE BUDGET CALENDAR

Chief Rodondi discussed the budget calendar with the Board now that budget season has arrived. Chief Rodondi was the Budget Manager in 2023/2024 and recommended the Board approve him for the position again for 2024/2025.

- **Member King made a motion to approve the budget calendar, Member White 2nd,**
- **Member White made a motion to appoint Chief Rodondi as Budget Manager, Member Forster 2ND,**
- **All in favor of both motions, motions approved.**

AGENDA ITEM #4 – JANUARY TRAINING OVERVIEW AND DISCUSSION

A discussion between the Board and Chief Rodondi ensued about the training provided by Attorney Carrie Connelly, Local Government Law Group. Member Mueller recommended a starting point to deciding what is appropriate to share as an employee versus what isn't, can be determined by what employees are wearing when discussing the levy. Chief Rodondi offered another example relating to alcohol. If alcohol is served at an event, then it is personal. Additionally, define for the listener if you are representing the District as an employee or as a community member.

Member King would like additional clarification on the use of social media. Specifically, whether board policies in their current format would negate D&O coverage for board members engaging in online public comment. Chief Rodondi will follow-up with our attorney. All agree that social media is important to get the word out. We need to be able to share information where the community is listening, but we have to be cautious and factual.

AGENDA ITEM #5 – FINANCIAL REPORT

Chief Administrative Officer Barker updated the Board on the progress of the fraud protection on the District's checking account. ACH and EFT fraud protection is complete. Transactions must be submitted or approved by us before payment is released by the bank. Items not submitted or approved by us are returned by the bank and payment is not deducted from our account.

Chief Administrative Officer Barker also noted the financial statement is in line with expected spending.

AGENDA ITEM #6 – LEGISLATIVE UPDATE(S)

Chief Tacy informed the group about the bills that have been introduced in the legislature relating to wildland. One of note was presented as 80% to the districts at the Fire Chief's convention in November, however per the SDAO the actual amount is only 20% to the districts.

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Chief Rodondi shared the information on a PERS change that may increase retirement age in OPSRP in addition to including other groups, such as dispatchers in the Fire group. This could lead to increased rates for the District.

Chief Rodondi noted on a positive note the possible recognition in the Federal register for special districts. The bill was introduced by a Texas senator. This recognition can lead to federal funding given to special districts.

Other bills of mention related to EMS modernization, and a transition allowing military personnel with licensing to transition into EMS easier.

AGENDA ITEM #7 – NON-REPRESENTED STAFF ADDRESS THE BOARD

There were no non-represented staff to address the Board.

AGENDA ITEM #8 – UNION ADDRESS THE BOARD

Secretary/Treasurer Jason Adamson expressed the Union's support of the levy. Union member Casey Topp, who left the District for Salem, was replaced by Lieutenant Michael Perkins.

AGENDA ITEM #9 – VOLUNTEERS ADDRESS THE BOARD

Lt. Perkins was pleased to announce a new volunteer was added to Station 32. The next volunteer academy is in April/May. We have candidates interested.

AGENDA ITEM #10 – FIRE CHIEF REPORT

Chief Rodondi notified the Board that the new Station 31 is ready for a walk-through inspection next week. We hope to begin moving Administration in on the 20th, but this is conditional to required approvals. The next phase begins in 10 days to 2 weeks when the crews move in and temporary living trailers are scheduled for removal on March 11th. Chief is proud of the completion and with all that came before to get to this point. It is great that we could add integrations into the building that represent the lumber industry.

Chief gave an update on our current hiring status. We have 4 job offers with a tentative academy start date of April 1. The Administrative Assistant had over 50 applications. Those have been narrowed by CAO Barker to 10-11. The tentative start date is May 1.

We have a couple of our firefighters and resident volunteers finishing paramedic school in July and 2 more in another year. Chemeketa has dropped their paramedic classes from 2 to 1. Chief gave a shout-out to the LFD for our program that "creates our own firefighters. Other agencies are requesting information on our program.

Member Forster commended Lieutenant Nunes for the recent awards banquet. Member King did the board members proud with his answers during the trivia game. This was the best banquet he's attended. JP Crowe received an award for member of the year. It's deserving considering his dedication to the role.

OTHER AGENDA ITEMS

There were no other agenda items.

ADJOURN REGULAR SESSION

- Adjourn Regular Session at 6:45 pm.



Robert Taylor, Board President



Joseph Rodondi, Fire Chief