



## Seal Rock Fire District

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### Seal Rock Rural Fire Protection District Board Meeting Minutes Thursday, December 10, 2020

Board Chair Fritz called the meeting to order at 6:32 PM aka 18:32 hours

Roll Call of Directors: Present Chair Fritz, Henson Director pro temp Oliver, and via phone Joll and Soltau

Staff Present: Chief Sakaris, Financial Director, Tom Wilson, Firefighter Licon

**First item:** The swearing in of newly selected Board Director David Oliver by Board Chair Tina Fritz.

**Second item:** Recognition and thanking of Mary Lou Morris for her many years serving as the District Board Recorder

**Third item:** Recognition of letters and or questions to the District Board

Larry Silverthorn: Verbally requested to know What this part of the meeting was for?

Letters received were:

Skip Smith, concerning procedural items  
Mike Burt: Intergovernmental Agreement

Board Chair Fritz offered reply and asked Central Coast F&R training officer, Assistant Fire Chief Jamie Mason to also provide input concerning the IGA between Central Coast F&R and Seal Rock Fire Districts

Mr. Mason then presented a lengthy overview of the IGA explaining each Agencies sharing of fiduciary expenses, calls for service, personnel and equipment. After considerable interactive discussions and questioning, Mr. Mason's report was concluded.

**Fourth item:** Previous Meeting Minutes

Chair Fritz: Are there comments or changes concerning the previous meetings minutes. Hearing none is there a motion to approve the previous meetings minutes. Director Joll moves to approve seconded by Director Soltau. All in favor say Aye, 5 votes to approve, those opposed say Aye, none opposed. Motion Passed Unanimous

**Fifth Item:** Chair Fritz: Next item is: Tom Wilson for financial.

Financial Director/Accountant Tom Wilson gave an overview of the November financial statements showing Total Cash on hand at \$223,972 and the percentage of budget expenditure figures currently averaging within or under the 41 percentage range. Wilson then went through details of bills paid and credit card expenses.

Wilson then requested to cover expenses for December it was estimated the District would need thirty-three thousand dollars (\$33,000) transferred from the LGIP Account to the General Bank Account.

Chair Fritz: Called for a motion to approve the budget and transfer thirty-three thousand dollars (\$33,000) from the LGIP Account to the General Bank Account.

Director Henson moved to approve the financials and transfer thirty-three thousand dollars (\$33,000) from the LGIP Account to the General Bank Account.

Director Oliver seconded the motion

Chair Fritz called for discussion on the motion, hearing none Chair Fritz then called for the vote. The vote passed unanimously with no objections.

**Sixth Item:** Chair Fritz: We will now move on to Public Comment, however before I do that I want to again thank Mary Lou for her many years of service and her amazing ability to keep up with all of us we appreciate her tremendously and I will tremendously miss her. I will now take Public comment in no particular order:

Paul Rimola:

I also want to thank Mary Lou for her years of service to the District.

What was meant by asking each prospective Board Candidate if they were a team player?

What is your definition of a team player?

How often does the Board Chair talk with Board members?

Chair Fritz reply: That we work together as an organization with the community to build our District better, to discuss as a group the available resources and opportunities available to expand the District's ability to respond to calls in the future and should the District need to merger, how to bring the people of the District to understand our community is very small and our taxes coming in are limited, so we must work together to make our community safe, while keeping our firefighters safe. Being a team member means that each one of us listens to the other, and acts accordingly to what we as a Board can agree to, not to just go out on our own, ignoring the voice of others. I try to talk to each Board member at least once a week.

Paul Rimola: Tina, did you mention the word merger? In that comment? Tina: I did. Paul: Okay. And just really quick, you talk to the board members once a week on the phone. Did I hear that right?

Chair Fritz I do..

Paul Rimola: That is all I need. Thank you.

Mike Burt:

Chair Fritz: Okay All right, Mike.

Mike Burt: You have answered my question.

Larry Silverthorn:

Chair Fritz: All right, now Larry Silverthorn

Larry Silverthorn: Why is the flag not up at the Green Building?

Why is the Green Building not designated as a Fire Station and what is its status?

Why did the District Attorney advise the Fire Chief and District Board not to talk with him?

When is the District going to review the Fire Chief?

Why is the Fire Chief not at this meeting?

Why did the Board not choose Al Anton to fill the vacancy left by Peter Benjamin?

Main thing, I would like the board to retract the statement made by our fire chief, the statement says in the paper of this article. If we did not have an intergovernmental agency, we would have one person responding to calls, which is not safe. That needs to be retracted and corrected.

Tom goes to calls. He goes to calls. And when a call comes in, it goes to Waldport, the same as here, and it goes into the ambulance. And any medical call that comes in, there are three or four people always that are responding to the call. That is repulsive.

Chair Fritz: Thank you. Your 3 minute time is up. The District does have one-paid staff that responds to a call before the ambulance.

Larry Silverthorn: And Fire Chief Tom has claimed that he has responded also, Tina. Do not take that out. He responds to the call.

Chair Fritz then reminded Mr. Silverthorn that his 3 minutes had expired, however Mr. Silverthorn refused to hold his peace, becoming threatening and belligerent, consequentially leading to his being asked to leave the meeting.

Chair Fritz: Now, I will address the fire chief in this meeting. He is on the phone in his office next to where we are holding this meeting. He is in control of the phone calls coming in and out during this meeting. So, he is here. He can hear you. We can hear him. As far as his review, tonight the Board will be going into executive session in order to give him his review tonight.

Paul Highfield: Excuse me.

Chair Fritz: Yes.

Paul Highfill: I did not realize that I have to sign in here. May I speak?

Chair Fritz: Yes, you may. Just state your name.

Paul Highfill: Why has the Board not looked into using the Green Building as a Fire Station? The Board needs to remove the current Fire Chief from his employment with the District

Chair Fritz: So, like I said we are doing the chief review tonight. We do have a training officer. This is a new board.

Paul Highfill: I understand that. I do.

Director Henson stated Financial Director Tom Wilson had written an answer to a question from Paul Rimola concerning the \$555,809 amount reported as being in the Unappropriated Ending Balance and Reserved for Future Expenditure Column of the 2020/21 Budget and that he would like to read Mr. Wilson's answer to the question.

Chair Fritz: OK

Director Henson: Henson then read the entire response from financial director Wilson what is summarized as: The \$555,809 is several items of funds such as working capital, reserves and property taxes not yet paid. These numbers do not flow from one to the other and have no direct relationship between them.

**Chair Fritz:**  
**Next on the agenda is the executive director update.**

Chief Report by SR Fire Chief Tom Sakaris:

The Chief report contained an update on the current status of Covid showing that cases are going up in Lincoln County with the active cases in Lincoln County at seven hundred thirty-four. Hospitalized cases of thirty-four people and deaths, sixteen.

I have weekly and monthly meetings that are ongoing, chief's meetings, IGA meetings. I had a meeting with Adam Joiner of the Seal Rock Water Department, regarding water distribution. Water distribution is going to be an integral part of our ISO rating, which is going to be coming up next year.

At Bayshore the mattresses have arrived we are waiting for lockers for each bedroom. The station looks really good, as soon as the COVID restrictions are out we plan to have an open house.

Training is ongoing, there was a two-week freeze. The freeze is over, unless the county goes into a different type of risk.

Some really good news, I interviewed Mr. Woods regarding the full-time firefighter's position. The tentative date is January 5th. Mr. Woods has accepted the position and he will start January 2021.

Calls for the month. The District ran forty calls.

That is all I have are there any question?

Chair Fritz: No, I think we are good.

Chief: Thank you.

Chair Fritz: All right, now the CAC (Citizens Advisory Committee).

Director Henson:

The first meeting of the Citizens Advisory Committee was Tuesday, December 8. The Committee members are: Linda Engle, Al Anton, Mickey Lindquist, Jamie Mason. The Committee decided to meet at the SR Fire Station the **first Tuesday** of the month, at six-thirty here at the fire station. Public is encouraged to attend, plus the Committee will have nine members when full.

The committee asked that the District board and the committee meet at their February meeting on the **first Tuesday** at six-thirty, so they can define what exactly the board may or may not expect to them.

Henson then moved the SR District Board meet with the Citizens Advisory Committee, at their regular scheduled meeting on the **first Tuesday in February** at six-thirty.

Chair Fritz: Is there a second?

Director Oliver: I will second that.

Tina: So, we got a second. All in favor?

Director Joll: I do not know.

Chair Fritz: Director Soltau are you here?

Director Soltau: (via phone) I'm here

Chair Fritz: Is there discussion, anyone have problems with that?

Director Soltau: Well, that sounds like a good idea.

Chair Fritz: Okay. Dustin?

Director Joll: Yes. The question I have is the idea behind the Citizens Advisory Committee was to distill some of the concerns from the public so that they could be presented to the Board during our regular board meetings. But, just my understanding right now, and correct me if I am wrong. It seems like our participation in the Citizens Advisory Committee meeting would be redundant. Am I unable to understand this?

CAC member Lynda Engle: I think what we are hoping to gain from meeting is an understanding of what the issues are. Primarily, I mean, what is the Board facing that we are going to try to resolve?

Director Joll: I agree wholeheartedly and certainly would be supportive of that. Thank you for providing that clarification for me.

Chair Fritz: A motion is on the table, with first and second. All in favor say aye. The vote was unanimous to accept the invitation to meet jointly with the CAC on the **First Tuesday in February 2, 2021, 6:30 PM** at the Seal Rock Station

**Chair Fritz: Now to old business.**

First, we need to appoint some board positions, the secretary position, and the treasurer position. I kind of would like to nominate Dave Oliver as Treasurer and Larry Henson as

Secretary. Are there any objections? Hearing none I am going to appoint Dave as treasurer and Larry as secretary.

**Chair Fritz: Now to move on to the 2020/21 Budget Approval**

As per the lawyer we need to complete public comments and approve the 2020/21 budget? With that being said, I am going to open the floor to the public for comments on the 2020/21 year budget.  
All: 2020.

Paul Rimola: Is this just for 2021? Is there talk about anything past that?

Chair Fritz: This is just for 2020/21. The controversy was that there was no actual public comment allowed.

Paul Rimola: My understanding was that there was a vote and it was two to two, which means it failed.

Multiple audience discussion concerning past attempts to approve the 2020/21 budget ensued ending with no further questions being asked from those in attendance concerning the 2020/21 budget

Chair Fritz then asked for a motion to approve the 2020/21 Seal Rock Rural Fire Protection District Budget

Director Henson moved that the Seal Rock Rural Fire Protection District Budget for 2020/21 be approved.

Director Joll seconded the motion

Chair Fritz called for further discussion and having no further comments the vote was taken and the motion to approve the 2020/21 passed unanimously

**Chair Fritz then gave a update on hiring of a fourth firefighter.**

The District has hired a fourth firefighter who will be starting on the fifth. Their name is Cody Wood.

**Chair Fritz: Next is an addendum to the firefighter contract.**

Do all the Board Directors have got a copy, all the firefighters are on board with it. So, does the Board want to have this added to their contract. What it states is firefighters coming in to the District, will be on a different scale and wage. This has nothing to do with anything else other than the new firefighters who will be starting at a lower rate. Is there a motion to approve the addendum.

Considerable discussion ensued from the Board Directors concerning possible impacts on upcoming Union negotiations with the District after what Chair Fritz asked: So, do I have a motion to put this addendum into the contract for the firefighters, so we can have a fourth firefighter?

Director Oliver: I make the motion.

Tina: Motion made, is there a second?

Director Henson I second the motion.

Chair Fritz: All in favor of adding the addendum into the current contract for firefighters signify such by saying Aye. 4 Ayes given, All opposed by saying Aye, 1 opposed. The vote was Fritz, Soltau, Oliver, Henson voting Aye and Joll voting opposed. The motion passed 4 to 1

**Chair Fritz: Next item is Facebook and Public Outreach:**

Chair Fritz: I do have access to the original Seal Rock board, Facebook. I have been posting on it asking for volunteers and I will be also posting asking for members to join the CAC.

I have appointed Eric Knudson as PIO (Public Information Officer).

And as always, if you have any way to help us get more information out to the public: we need volunteers, we need CAC members and are always looking for ways that can reach more parts of the community and always welcome input at any time.

**Chair Fritz: Next is New Business:**

We need a new fire engine. I would like to open the board for discussion on this. I think each Director needs to bring a minimum of five options for an engine. I would like it to be no older than four to six, years old. Something that is going to last, so we probably should be looking at companies that can finance.

After lengthy discussion the District Board agreed to direct SR Fire Chief Tom Sakaris to contacting to

Chair Fritz: Alright. I appreciate that. Thank you.

**Chair Fritz: The next item on the agenda is the green building:**

We have done our due diligence and looked at retrofitting in the building. It cannot be made into a fire station because it does not meet the essential standards for firehouses. We have been trying to wrap our brains as a team and decide what is the best use for the building. The District attorney contacted Mr. Highfill to discover if options were available regarding the building as per the contract as the Board believed that would be the most favorable pathway for all each participant to undertake. Mr. Highfill indicated to the attorney he has no interest other than that stated in the current contract.

The District Board is trying to discover the best use for the green building and currently is looking at the option to see if it can be made into a training center.

Comments concerning the option to use the Green Building as a training center taken from the audience were

Jamie Mason gave a run down of favorable benefits if the building was to be turned into a training center

One member of the audience felt using the building as a training center would be a benefit to the District and possibly others as well

Another member of the audience was opposed to putting any further funds into the building because the District was already in need of finances

Chair Fritz then asked Mr. Highfill who was also in the audience how he felt about using the building as a training center.

Mr. Highfill stated it was fine for him to have the building used accordingly to District need, however he also has never seen paperwork concerning substantial revamping of the building.

A question then arose from the audience regarding why the current Board had not secured the building for the reasons why it was purchased, being that it was intended to be the new Seal Rock Fire Station.

Director Henson stated that the current board of directors has sought out how to use the Green Building as a Fire Station. However Director Henson further stated the previous Board knew full well the building could not be used as a fire station because they had contacted and paid for an engineering firm to make a determination of the building as a Fire Station and discovered the building did not comply with current wind and seismic codes.

Questions then again erupted from the audience asking for proof to what Director Soltau informed them, that the statement by Director Henson was correct and that he had provided the current Board with the information given to the previous Board of Directors by the engineering firm. Not having the documents on hand the Board will supply the documentation by the next regularly scheduled District Board meeting

Chair Fritz: Is there anything else before we adjourn to executive session to evaluate the Fire Chief as per ORS 192.660 Section (2)(i).

Paul Highfill: Yes the lights are being left on and the bay doors of this building were left open. I think it was four o'clock in the afternoon when I dropped by and it was wide open and then nine o'clock the next morning, it was still open.

Chair Fritz: Thank you I will get to the bottom of that.

Chair Fritz: All right. So at this time we are going for a short 10 minute break and then into executive session to evaluate the Fire Chief as per ORS 192.660 Section (2)(i). Time of Break 8:25PM aka 20:25 hours. Executive session to convene at 8:35PM aka 20:35

Executive Session ended at 9:15 PM aka 21:15 hours and the Board reconvened calling the Regularly scheduled December 10, 2020 meeting adjourned at 9:16PM aka 21:16 hours