

Seal Rock Rural Fire Protection District
Special Board Meeting Minutes
July 14, 2021, 13:00 Hrs. / 1:00 PM, Seal Rock Fire Main Station
10349 NW Rand St, Seal Rock, OR 97376

Meeting called to order by Board Chair Anton at 13:05 hours.

Roll Call of Directors:

Directors Present :Anton (Al), Rimola (Paul), Burt (Mike), Fritz (Tina). Directors absent Joll (Dustin)

SRFD Staff Present: Fire Chief Tom Sakaris.

Others present: CCF&R staff. Fire District Residents and general public.

Chair Anton announced the purpose of the Study Session / Special Meeting is to address issues that are facing SRRFPD.

LEVY:

Chair Anton stated the biggest issue is the Levy;

Floor turned over to CCF&R Chief Mason to explain Levy Strategic Plan.

Some highlights by Mason include:

The plan is currently in draft form.

Written in a way to provide information to the public.

Amounts may change based on negotiations.

The plan shows a \$33,000 shortage per year.

Mason offered to calculate for SRFD on his spreadsheets. He also said the last levy was inconsistent.

Director Rimola voiced concerns about the levy campaign. He said the fourth firefighter is in the budget. Anton concurred. Fritz challenged.

Rimola stated that CCF&R has twice as many calls as SRFD. He said when he sees CCF&R put on more firefighters he would feel better about adding firefighters at SRFD. Rimola further stated that he would like to get the current levy on the ballot for renewal to protect our four firefighters.

Director Fritz asked Rimola if he had factored in benefits in his spreadsheets. Fritz also stated that we should not forget that we still have to back-pay previous PERS. Fritz asked Rimola: "Do we have that money?" Rimola said yes.

Chair Anton said that he also ran the numbers and even bumped them up 1 step in compensation to confirm sufficient funds in the budget. Anton concurred with Rimola that he would like to see our guys protected with the levy renewal on the November ballot.

Director Rimola said he is ready to make a motion to get this on the ballot in November.

Director Fritz said this is a work session, no motions can be presented.

Director Rimola made a motion to get the levy renewal on the November ballot. Chair Anton called for a second on the motion.

Director Burt called for a question on the motion. Asked if the motion can be tabled until the August Board Meeting.

Chair Anton declared the motion tabled until August Board Meeting.

IGA:

Chair Anton said that the taxpayers should not be paying for firefighters to be sleeping at Central Coast station. Anton said the Chiefs need to figure it out because he has been asked by multiple taxpayers why SRFD firefighters are in Waldport.

OTHER ISSUES:

Signage:

Chair Anton said he directed the Chief to get “Seal Rock Fire District” back on the sign in front of the green building.

Consultants:

Chair Anton said he would like to get a third party consultant to come in and assess our District.

Director Fritz asked; “Where are we going to get the money?”

Director Burt made a motion we bring in a consultant to evaluate our District. Anton clarified that he just wanted to pursue the costs for a consultant. With that qualification Fritz provided a second. Unanimous approval, motion passed.

Credit Cards:

Director Fritz said: “I got rid of all the credit cards”. Fritz said everything is now done with debit cards and auto pay.

Chair Anton said he would like to see the Chief and the Treasurer have credit cards.

Chief Sakaris asked if we still wanted to keep the debit cards?

Treasurer Rimola said keep a debit card for auto pay held by the Treasurer. Rimola said he would talk to the bank about options.

Board Meeting Date Change:

Individual Board member scheduling conflicts moved further discussion to August meeting.

FIRE HYDRANTS:

Chief Sakaris said he spoke with Adam at Seal Rock Water District about a missing hydrant at the bottom of Curtis Street. Sakaris said that both of them did not know the hydrant was missing. Sakaris said he will get together with Adam to review the MOU (Memo Of Understanding) between SRFD and SRWD.

Director Fritz suggested we find volunteers the maintain the hydrants.

Chair Anton said he did not know of a District in the Country that does not maintain their own hydrants.

Chair Anton asked if there was anything else to discuss.

Director Rimola wanted to address concerns about the IGA. He said he has read it and re-read it and feels like it is a de-facto consolidation. CCF&R Chief Mason addressed Rimolas concerns. Mason said the IGA is reviewed annually by the oversight committee. Rimola also asked about the new extrication tools purchased by SRFD and being placed on a CCF&R engine.

Chief Sakaris said: “they were placed on the first out engine ”.

Chair Anton said; “since the taxpayers paid 40 grand for the tools they should be in this district.”

Chief Mason said they have three sets of tools. They have “triple over” on tools. If the tools need to be moved back to Seal Rock that's fine. “We are not short on tools”.

Paul Highfill said if that first out engine ends up going up highway 34 the tools are not available to this district.

Director Rimola also stated that the copy of the IGA given to him is not the same as on the internet.

Director Burt and Rimola commented on multiple taxpayer concerns of SRFD personnel operating out of the Seal Rock main station to improve response times for North District.. Chair Anton said that would get addressed in the IGA review.

Chair Anton asked how many firefighters would be needed to staff both districts full time. Chief Sakaris said: “12”.

Director Fritz said her dream is to have “certified and trusted” volunteers. Chair Anton agreed that that is the Boards goal to have qualified volunteers.

Director Burt asked to see a copy of the Chiefs performance evaluation. Chair Anton stated that performance evaluation discussions should be handled in Executive session.

Director Rimola and Burt stated they are looking for someone to take the minutes. Director Fritz said the Board has been using a online transcription service called Transcription Pup. Burt said he would like to test their service.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

John Stotts commented on a desire to see meeting minutes on the website timely. Director Burt said his goal was to have a draft of the meeting minutes on the website within 48 hours of meeting time.

Todd Holt – CCF&R Director mentioned that he had credit cards issued to him on previous boards independent of his personal credit. Todd also said you need public support to get a levy passed.

Paul Highfill said he is the one that wrote an opposition letter to the levy. He said he wants to see where the money is going because the taxpayers deserve it. He said he approached the old Board about how things have gone but nothing was ever done. Highfill also commented on his pursuits, as a volunteer, for certification getting ignored by the Chief. Director Fritz challenged some of the arguments made by Highfill.

Larry Silverthorn said he could go on forever about the issues in SRFD. He said the taxpayers and past firefighters worked well under the mutual aid agreement.

Micki Lindquist said we should find a secretary to record the minutes.

Buster Pankey – CCF&R Director said he is looking forward to working with the Seal Rock Fire Board to iron out some of these problems that keep popping up.

*Board Chair Anton called for Special Meeting adjournment at 14:38 hours.
Anton said the Board will now go into executive session.*