

SEAL ROCK RURAL FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

Board of Directors Regular Monthly Meeting

When: October 19, 2023 5:00 pm/1700 hours

Where: 10349 NW Rand St Seal Rock, Oregon 97376

Call to Order: 5:00 pm

Directors: all in attendance. Director Smith attended remotely via phone.

Guests: Chief Ewing, Lisa Welch, Lynda Engle, Quinton Smith, Jeremy Garbina, Seth Hedin, Emily Clark

Guest Input: None

Previous month's minutes were approved (August, there was no Sept board meeting)

Agenda approved

REPORTS:

3.1 Treasurer Rimola: Due to there not being a board meeting last month, Rimola wanted to ratify the money transfer from September.

Motion made to ratify September's \$48,500 transfer. Seconded by Mike Burt. Passed unanimously

Rimola reminded everyone that there would be more funds in the account following the November taxes coming in. There should be about \$141,000 by end of October in the bank.

Motion to transfer \$75,199.00 from General Local Gov't Investment Pool account to the General Bank Account to pay bills & payroll. Passed unanimously.

3.2 Chief's Report: Chief Ewing briefly went over the run reports from August & September then detailed the accident involving the Tesla and assisting law enforcement the following day with retrieving the batteries. Chief went over the building updates being done on Building B and the septic for that building.

The relationship with COCF was a lengthy topic based on a historical account document submitted to the Board prior to the meeting. It was felt that the push since 2019 towards consolidation with COCF, which the new board and current Chief pulled away from so that SRFD stood on its own again, was part of the issue. Chief Ewing said he wants cooperation with them but at this point will only cross the bridge if they need us on their calls, so as to reduce exposure to conflict and prevent any liability for this District. This is still honoring the AMA agreement.

There was further discussion of the incident involving Chief Mason and his wife's accident with the motorcycle and follow up investigation. Concern was expressed about the legitimacy of the end investigative report of that incident and that our on-scene FF's narrative report was not believed. There is also concern about who our legal representative is for possible tort claim. It was suggested that we get in writing from LGLG & SDIS who is representing SRFD.

When discussing legal counsel and possible mediation attempt with COCF Quinton Smith, from Yachats News, offered input as to what and who is allowed in open and closed sessions. It was decided that Director Pelligrinelli would call attys and mediators to see about possibly forming a 4-person board-to-board with COCF in the future, with a mediator to help resolve issues between the 2 fire districts. No decisions were made at this time. Some of the board talked about a further diplomatic effort. Rimola was against any further negotiations at this time, No decisions were made.

3.3 Volunteer Report: Jeremy Garbina reported they've been having excellent volunteer participation on scene for major calls. SLER now has a budget and is opening an account at a local bank. Membership at the 394 Gym in Waldport is now available.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

4.1 Summary of the Chief's evaluation offered the following suggestions: 1) a structured schedule for access to him, 2) a private dedicated space for him to work in 3) specific tasks of assistance from board members, 4) Presumptive questioning of admin items tasked to the chief.

4.2 Director Smith asked if an annual report from the Chief would work for him. Smith sees it as a way to compare from year to year how things are working, if the

budget needs tweaked, for example. Also, the budget could be posted on the website. Is it possibly a "cost vs benefit"? Maybe call it a "state of the district" report? Smith will send Chief an example of a report he'd like him to review and Chief requested a month to get back to him about it.

NEW BUSINESS:

5.1&5.2 Chief talked about the 70 year-old tax base we have to work with and how we are expected to survive that. He has spoken with Rep Gomberg about getting small Fire Districts financial aid, but it's acknowledged that it will take state legislation to get results and answers.

5.3 Director Smith asked about getting an inventory list built. It is in the process on the smaller stuff and is being done by each building right now as they are being revamped.

BOARD COMMENTS: Director Smith let the Board know that he is having health problems and won't be at the meetings for the next few months as he recuperates.

Other comments involved how to get our quarterly newsletter out to the public without having to bulk mail it. Using our website, Facebook, and/or with the SR Water District bill are options. Also, Makai is hoping for community involvement in getting an emergency cache for up there and SRFD is helping with that by creating a newsletter that will be distributed to their residents to drum up interest.

GOOD OF THE ORDER: Good Meeting!

ADJOURNMENT: 7:16 PM