

**Western Lane Ambulance District
Siuslaw Valley Fire and Rescue
Western Lane Fire and EMS Authority
2625 Highway 101 North, Florence, OR 97439**

Joint Meeting Minutes, December 17, 2020, 6:00 p.m.
The Zoom recording will be posted on SVFR & WLAD Websites

SVFR BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Directors Jim Palisi, Alan Burns, Ron Green, Ned Hickson, Sam Spayd

WLAD BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Directors Rick Yecny, Larry Farnsworth, Mike Webb,
John Murphey

WLAD BOARD MEMBER NOT PRESENT: Cindy Russell

WLFEA BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Directors Jim Palisi, John Murphey, Sam Spayd

WLFEA BOARD MEMBER NOT PRESENT: Cindy Russell

STAFF PRESENT: Chief Schick, Dina McClure, Operations Chief House, Mary Dimon

Chief Schick called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Roll Call established quorums.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

PRESENTATIONS:

Presentation to Pete Warren, Recruitment and Retention Coordinator: Chief Schick explained the Staffing for Adequate Fire and Response (SAFER) grant process and wanted to recognize SVFR Recruitment and Retention Coordinator Pete Warren for his work. Pete Warren was unable to ZOOM in at that moment, but later connected to the meeting and held the plaque that was presented to him.

Jacob Callister, Principal Planner for Lane Council of Governments (LCOG): Callister introduced himself. He presented a proposal in June 2020 and explained that Lane Council of Governments has the skill set to assist in providing a strategic business plan. Callister explained that the time frame for his team to begin would be Spring of 2021. Callister explained the basic structure consisting of a vision, mission, goal objectives and process.

- Chief will send out examples of Callister's work.
- After a lengthy discussion on the process and time frame, Callister explained that May 2021 would work best. An IGA with LCOG in April would start the process.
- Callister suggested a statistical survey including the community and stake holders before the group starts their meetings.

CONSENT AGENDA:

1. November 19, 2020 Regular Meeting Minutes
2. Staff Reports
3. Correspondence

There was no discussion from the board on any items in the Consent Agenda.

REVIEW OF FINANCIALS – WLAD, SVFR, WLFEA:

- McClure reported the auditors will join the January meeting to present the audits and answer questions.
- Tax distributions are coming in on time and we did not see much change in the amount from last year.
- Director Yecny asked if WLAD decided to defer the purchase of defibrillators and asked if we can get a grant for them. Matt House explained that grants are not usually given to ambulance districts. Director Palisi asked if WLFEA could apply for the grant since they represent the fire and ambulance districts. Chief will check into this.
- Director Farnsworth asked about the increase in overtime. Chief explained due to COVID and coverage for employees being off for different reasons has caused overtime to be higher.

Public Hearing for Donation of the SVFR Dodge Durango

Open Public Hearing: Chief Schick opened public meeting at 6:37 p.m.

Hear Public Comments: There was no public comment.

Close Public Hearing: Chief Schick closed public meeting at 6:38 p.m.

OLD BUSINESS:

WLFEA Action Item: Director Jim Palisi motioned to approve Resolution 2020-03 Transfer of Used Fire Protection Equipment to SwissHome/Deadwood Rural Fire Protection District. Director Spayd seconded. All in favor, motion passed.

SVFR, WLAD, WLFEA Action Item: Decide the process for the Strategic Business Plan:

- Director Murphey said the districts should decide the direction they want to go and build one strategic plan.
- Director Green suggested the districts do a feasibility study first that can be done in house.
- Director Burns agreed with Green. Director Webb agreed and asked how we would do this legally.
- Director Hickson agreed with Green and asked if we do a full merger what does it look like to the taxpayers? The taxes need to be equal where the two districts overlap.
- Directors Palisi and Yecny agreed on doing a feasibility study in house first.
- Director Murphey suggested appointing a Feasibility Analysis Committee. Directors Palisi and Green were appointed to represent SVFR and Directors Yecny and Webb will represent WLAD. It was decided no WLFEA Directors will be on the committee.
- Director Murphey invited Jacob Callister and Matt House to attend the Feasibility Committee meetings.
- Director Farnsworth believes that a part of the feasibility study needs to be what more will the districts gain in terms of services and quality for the public for what they are getting right now.

WLAD Action Item: Local Option Levy

- Director Murphey suggested getting through the feasibility study and have the committee provide an idea of what tax rates will look like if the districts merge. Murphey said it's premature to hire someone for the renewal until the committee makes recommendations to the board and the board decides what to do.
- Director Webb voiced his concern about waiting too long to go out for the levy and thinks the district should renew the levy at the current rate on the May 2021 ballot.
- Director Farnsworth said the directors need to get the strategic plan done before going out for the levy. Farnsworth believes it is not appropriate to put the levy on the ballot before we know what direction the district is going. He believes we need to have a clear vision of what we are asking the voters to accept.

- Director Murphey said the whole WLAD board needs to be present to vote. He asked Chief to send out the dates of when the levy expires and his recommendations. Murphey suggested the WLAD board have a special meeting before the next regular board meeting.
- Chief will verify the renewal dates and get back to the board.

NEW BUSINESS

WLAD Action Item: Director Yecny motioned to Ratify Collective Bargaining Agreement with International Association of Fire Fighters (IAFF) Local 851 and approve the contract. Director Webb seconded. Roll call was taken. Directors Murphey, Webb and Yecny voted yes. Director Farnsworth voted no. Motion passed.

SVFR Action Item: Director Green motioned to approve the purchase of a fit machine in the amount of \$16,080 as a capital expenditure. Director Spayd seconded. All in favor, motioned passed.

DIRECTOR COMMENTS:

- Director Spayd thanked the other Directors for helping him learn more about the role of a director.
- Director Palisi asked Chief Schick to set up a drill to test the back up dispatch center located at the Fire Department. Chief Schick said this is in the works and agreed it is needed.
- Director Hickson thanked the board members for their time and patience during this difficult time.
- Director Yecny gave Kudos to the Fire Department for a letter in Correspondences from a child whose family was affected by a fire in their home.

FUTURE BUSINESS:

The next Regular Meeting will be on January 28, 2021, at 6:00 pm.

Chief Schick adjourned the meeting at 7:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Dimon
Recording Secretary