

Tangent Rural Fire Protection District

Board of Directors Meeting

Minutes

October 9, 2024

Board Members Present: Chris Meyer, Paul Strombeck, Scott Richards, John Dunn
Staff Present: FC Griffin, AC Chapin, OA Conrad
Volunteer Association: Alecia Burwell
Citizens: None
By Teams: None
Board Member Absent: Bruce Riley

I. CALL MEETING TO ORDER: President Meyer

Meeting called to order at 7:00 p.m.

II. CITIZEN COMMENTS:

III. APPROVAL OF:

A. **Minutes** – Board Meeting – September 11, 2024

Action: Dunn moved to approve September 11, 2024; minutes as submitted. Richards seconded the motion. Upon vote, it passed unanimously (4-0)

B. **Financial Report** – September 2024

Action: Richards moved to approve September 2024 financial report as submitted. Dunn seconded the motion. Upon vote, it passed unanimously (4-0)

IV. STANDING REPORTS:

A. **Volunteer Association** – Burwell (The following is the Volunteer Association report as well as added comments made at the meeting.)

Volunteers are working on another Halloween Event, like last year.

New officials elected. They will start January 1st.

President: Amanda Wray

Vice President: John Pegg

Secretary: Sal Munoz

Amanda and Jackie have helped design a pink and black Fire Department shirt for Cancer Awareness month... (you can check with the Chief on the details)

B. **Fire Chief** – Griffin (The following is the Chief's written report as well as added comments made at the meeting.)

Emergency Calls:

Met with LFD Chief Tacy regarding MVA at Seven Mile and Tangent Dr.
Briefed the Linn County Fire Chiefs regarding unauthorized drones at emergency scenes.
Mutual Aid response to fatal MVC HWY 34 and Steckley.

Meetings:

Monica Schultz, SDAO. Employee manuals. Looking at two employee manuals, one for employees the other for volunteers. Consulting with George Dunkle. The chief wants to reduce Lexipol. Chapin is working on SOGs.

Tuesday night drill.

Staff meetings will be spooling back up.

Safety Committee.

Melody Kieneker, Landau Inc., UST removal. Received a few bids and going out for one more. DEQ is wanting 5 bore holes to look at how the water is flowing underground.

OSFM – 1.9 million acres burned this season. The new wildfire map is complete.

DPSST – reorganization. Deputy Director Bill Steele and Chief of Staff Audra Anderson. DPSST will be offering an on-campus Firefighter-1 Academy, April of 2025. WFS March 2025. Skid truck is up and running in Medford and the MFTU is in Albany. They are moving to "paperless" options.

OFC – Jeff Griffin, Workers Comp will not decrease for the fire service this year, expect a slight increase. Will be adopting the "Struggle Well" program. Refurbished apparatus, make sure they are insured for the correct value. PFAS litigation, the State of Oregon is suing 3M. Best thing firefighters can do to cut down PFAS exposure is to wash new turnouts 3-5 times before wearing. A new type (PFAS free) AFFF should be approved soon.

Correspondence:

Drafting letters to Representative Cate and Boshart Davis in support of the OSFM WFS grant program continuation.

Contacting Chief Stanton in Hermiston regarding the possibility of some County money being available for fire suppression resources.

Dr. Trey Woods, physician advisor contract.

Operations/Equipment:

Projects.... Door closers are installed. Door refinishing will be starting. Exterior lighting is being repaired. Will be getting quotes for asphalt/concrete repair.

SDAO sent out a Winter Weather Preparedness Checklist. We will be using covers items to be checked before, during and after the storm.

Burning Ban was extended through the 15th of October.

Training:

Assistant Chief Chapin and Captain Hunt hosted a live fire training event with Philomath fire on Sunday October 6th.

Other:

Attended the Lebanon Fire District Expo on Saturday, October 5th.

Albany Fire is reaching out for Veterans' Day Parade participation.
American Legion Post 10 is hosting a First Responder Banquet on October 25th. I invited our Officers to attend.

WVFCRC – Fall Online Auction. October 11-21, 2024. They are looking for auction items.
New EAP posters and information from SDAO.

New Director ID cards and uniform order.

TRFPD Harry Lister Vann LODD

Remodel of Station – Last fiscal year budgeted for the front office; other items seem more important at this time.

Student program numbers are down for varied reasons. Some have returned to school; some want to have ambulance experience. We have advertising in the past and posted flyers up at Chemeketa. We are looking for quality not quantity recruits and students.

C. Assistant Chief – Chapin (The following is the Assistant Chief's written report as well as added comments made at the meeting.)

Meetings Attended:

- Met with 2 volunteer perspectives
- Lexipol (historical records)
- DPSST
- IMT Meetings
- Fire Marshal Meeting (Haz-Mat training)
- First Due (Pre-Plans and Scheduling)

Fire Prevention- Site plan and overview meeting with the Willow Group. Site plan review completed for LBCC. 6 Fire inspection completed.

Diego and some of the volunteers built a fire house prop for kid events. Starting in October through the rest of the school year we are back in doing school lunches.

Equipment- BR-71 had it fuel tank collapse again. Upon further inspection, they had to change out the EVAP system. Hughes Fire was out and did minor maintenance to all apparatus. Some parts are on order. All radios are now programed to the new frequencies.

Training- Our new recruits just finished their Firefighter 1 academy and now are working on Firefighter 2.

Working with Diego on his ITP. Chris and I are reviewing the new IFSTA firefighter curriculum.

We have reached out and have training scheduled for the month of November with DPSST.

The training is working on driver/operator standards.

I met with Kayla from DPSST, and we discussed future training offerings through DPSST for wildland fires.

Total Personnel Training Hours: **273.30**

Hoping to increase volunteers' participation.

Conflagrations- To date we have participated in 6 conflagrations. The Grand Total of reimbursement is \$110,126.46 and the vehicles made \$46,869.30.

D. Activity Report:

No report provided.

We now have about twenty volunteers; four are new.

V. OLD BUSINESS:

A. OFSOA Conference – Conrad

Great Conference held in Newport. There were 15 different sessions. In August the OFSOA reached out to me to be the representative for Region 2. I held off as long as I could but when they asked again, I asked for permission from the chief. They appointed me and then I was voted in at the conference. Region 2 had 27 people at the conference. Conrad thanked the board and the chief for the opportunity to be a part of this organization.

B. Staffing Plan - Griffin

Still in progress. Need to look at the numbers with Denny for the next year's budget. Asked the volunteers if they wanted to be paid or volunteers. Results were 50/50. If the volunteers were paid, they would be employees. Chief feels the way we changed the budget put us in a good place and it will stay.

Questions:

- Do we have enough HR staff to handle having more employees? With only a half-time OA is that enough? Maybe
- What is the motivation to move into this? No motivation; trying to see what people are thinking and what they want.
- Are you looking for more people to respond? Chief wants, 1- keep everyone safe 2- get trucks out the door and keep our community safe.
- By having paid people, there would be people sitting here at the station. Yes, they would be paid per call. The Chief feels he could build a budget with 24 hours of training and per call per person.

AC Chapin and Capt. Hunt are doing a great job. The quality of volunteers is going up. Blue collar job and we are offering an apprenticeship.

The next part of the staffing plan is looking at the numbers.

This will help with responses. The Volunteer Association is very important and does not want to see it going away.

The board would like an outline of what you would like to do and bring it to the board. Then they could see if it is viable for the district. First sell it to the board on the plan then go to the volunteers. The board wants it to benefit the district and if it financially be sustainable.

The Chief has committed nothing to paid positions, just talking about the idea.

The conversation will continue.

VI. NEW BUSINESS:

A. Governor's Fire Council Meeting Report 9/5/2024– Dunn

Some of the high points discussed at the meeting.

1. A public hearing will be held on November 12, 2024 for the public comments about the new OHSA policy updated. Location to be announced.

2. New urban search and rescue recommendations concerning HB2484 were reviewed and voted on to be sent forward to the Governor's office. They will be setting up four different levels of search and rescue teams. Number 4 being the largest team to respond to calls. A hearing in front of the Senate Sub-committee is scheduled for September 23, 2024.
3. Rural Structure Fire Protection Taskforce which was established by HB2522 was presented to the council, voted on and passed to go forward to the cut the cost of low-income housing, are proposing that there be a code proposal for buildings up to five stories, that would only require to have one staircase exit point for emergencies.
4. Oregon wildfire funding update. A committee is looking at ways to revamp the funding mechanism for funding fires. The goal is to make that funding more stable, Currently wildfires are funded through the Fire Marshall's general budget. That requires the Fire Marshall to go to the Emergency Board to request reimbursement of those costs.

VII. GOOD OF THE ORDER:

- A. **Red Cross Blood Drive – October 17 – 11:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.**
- B. **OFDDA Conference – November 7-9, 2024, Sunriver**
 1. **Hotel dates – Wednesday November 6-10 – Cancellation deadline is October 14th.**
- C. **Board Meeting – November 13, 2024 – 7:00 p.m.**

VIII. RECESS OF MEETING:

- A. **EXECUTIVE SESSION PER ORD 192.660(2)(I)** To review and evaluate the employment-related performance of the chief executive officer of any public body, a public officer, employee, or staff member who does not request an open hearing.
President Meyer went into Executive session at 8:56 p.m.

IX. OPEN PUBLIC MEETING BUSINESS (if applicable):

President Meyer returned the meeting into regular session at 9:35 p.m.
The board had reviewed the self-evaluation, volunteer's, and staff's input. The board feels they did not follow up on a few things that were discussed when Griffin was first hired. Overall, there are a lot of good things; Volunteers and maintaining their needs, and great representative of the district and integrating with the neighboring districts/departments. Your strengths: optimism, your enjoyment being here, getting involved with the community. There are a few concerns; time management, certifications. The step evaluation will be deferred for 3 to 6 months. Our concerns we will put on paper and have a one-on-one conversation time and place to be determined later.


X. ADJOURNMENT:

President Meyer adjourned the meeting at 9:45 p.m.

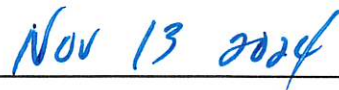
Minutes submitted by Denny Conrad.

Office Administrator

APPROVED BY:



Chris Meyer, President - Board of Directors



Date