

Clackamas Fire District #1



REGULAR BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING MINUTES January 23, 2023

ATTENDANCE

Board of Directors: Jay Cross, Chris Hawes, Thomas Joseph, Jim Syring, and Marilyn Wall

Others present: Bill Bischoff, Ila Borders, Nick Browne, Steve Deters, Heather Goodrich, Jerry Kearney, Melanie Kinne, Ryan Kragero, Sam McCullough, Dan Mulick, Brent Olson, Shawn Olson, Ariel Roberts, Brian Stewart, Chris Taylor, Mark Whitaker, Doug Whiteley, Michael Wong, and Stations 1, 2, 5, 14, 17 – Clackamas Fire; Mark Corless and Andrew Gordian – Local 1159; Jason McKinnon and Phil Schneider – Sandy Fire.

Other community members and citizens were in attendance. The full video conferencing attendance can be provided upon request.

I. CALL TO ORDER PER ORS 192.610 TO 192.690 ORS 192.650 – The meeting is being recorded. .

President Wall called the meeting to order at 5:01 pm.

II. CHANGES TO THE AGENDA

Chief Browne said they need to add item B-2 for a budget extension for the Clackamas Emergency Services Foundation (CESF) presented by President Jerry Kearney. He also said that instead of Division Chief (DC) Huffman reporting tonight, it will be DC Mulick. Lastly, under Board Committee Liaison Reports, Director Cross will report on CESF.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE WORK SESSION AND REGULAR BOARD MEETING ON DECEMBER 19, 2022.

Approved as written.

IV. PUBLIC COMMENT

Public comment was given by:

- John Kihlstrom of Gladstone
- Pat Bigelow of Boring
- William Gifford of Oregon City

Clackamas Fire District #1



INTRODUCTIONS

Chief Browne introduced the following people to the Board:

- New employee Captain Ila Borders
- Recently promoted Battalion Chief (BC) Sam McCullough
- Recently promoted BC Chris Taylor

V. BUSINESS – Action required

B-1 REQUEST BOARD APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION 23-01 REFERING A LOCAL OPTION LEVY FOR FIRE AND EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES TO THE MAY 2023 BALLOT – Fire Chief Nick Browne

Chief Browne turned time over to Director Hawes, who was part of the Future Funding Taskforce.

Director Hawes explained the background of the Future Funding Taskforce (FFT), and shared who the members are. He explained that the FFT went over the current financial situation with Chief Financial Officer (CFO) Whitaker. They explored many potential options such as SAFER and other grants, programs available, and other available resources. They also discussed if further fiscal cuts could be made. They concluded that the cuts already made were deep enough and further cuts could do serious damage to the operational capabilities of the District.

Clackamas Fire is under several urban renewal areas that cost the District several million dollars every year. Call volume continues to increase but resources have not increased. Costs are going up for the citizens and costs have also increased for the District. The taskforce then explored the possibility of a levy. They put forth much effort to make sure that the levy isn't too much of an ask. This organization does a very good job, and they would like to do better.

Chief Browne said that they don't take this levy ask lightly. They have looked at every avenue possible for funding before going to the taxpayers for help. He doesn't see any other way to provide the level of service needed to the families of the District, including his own. He shared that the District has already cut 15% of administrative costs and 9% of operational costs. There is a 15% increase in run volume, with projections showing a continued increase. The District needs additional firefighters to provide increased staffing at most fire stations.

Chief Browne explained that they want a wall-to-wall service increase across the District. They want to staff rural fire stations 24/7. Those citizens pay the same taxes but do not receive the same level of service. Those stations are also on the front lines of the wildland urban interface threat that the District is facing. The District is also looking at implementing an alternative response model which includes lighter resources or quick response vehicles. Additionally, the District would like to get equipment critical to emergency and wildfire response.

Clackamas Fire District #1



Chief Browne said that the proposed levy would provide an average annual funding of \$14.5 million at a cost of \$0.52 per thousand of assessed value, or about \$138 for the typical homeowner at the median assessed value.

CFO Whitaker explained a slide that was presented to the Board that went over proposed levy spending comparing staffing and capital.

Chief Browne shared that the District has engaged the community via events at five fire stations, hybrid events, neighborhood association meetings, and a community survey. They hired a public relations firm and conducted a quantitative study through DHM. This had led the District to its ask tonight.

Director Syring said that this resolution is not about supporting the levy, it's about referring this decision to the voters. He supports referring this to the voters.

Director Joseph said that they don't take this lightly. It's important for the District to have the right staffing and equipment to respond. They have made the cuts and turned over every rock looking for funding. He felt the levy was the best option. He supports this resolution.

Director Hawes said he ran for this office on a platform of fiscal responsibility. It isn't just about cutting costs; it's about making sure the organization has the resources it needs to operate. He said he would make decisions based on number one, what's best for the community, and number two, what's best for the organization. He felt it was important for this choice to be given to the voters.

Director Cross agreed with Director Hawes. After the wildfires a few years ago, the community wanted better; they wanted improvement. The organization stepped back and looked carefully at what can be improved. What are the needs of the community not just now but in the future? It was then that they looked at the budget and realized they didn't have the money to do the things that they have been asked to do by the community. They have looked five – ten years into the future and they are looking at further cuts. The next cuts will likely be operational. He commended the taskforce for looking into every funding possibility.

President Wall thanked everyone for participating in this process and for seeking solutions to this significant problem. She's asked herself, is this the right time? Is this the right amount of money? Are these the right projects? The answer for herself is no on all three questions. She felt factors like inflation pointed to not being the right time. She spoke about concerns regarding houseless persons and potential increases in rent as a result of a levy. She was also concerned that the proposal didn't mention further prevention programs, except for wildfire. However, she agreed that it is up to the voters.

Clackamas Fire District #1



Director Hawes made a motion and Director Syring seconded for the Board to approve Resolution 23-01 referring a five-year local option levy for fire and emergency medical services on the May 16, 2023, election. Motion passed unanimously.

B – 2 BUDGET EXTENSION FOR CLACKAMAS EMERGENCY SERVICES FOUNDATION – President Jerry Kearney

Jerry said that CESF doesn't have a budget to present yet because they did not have a quorum present at the last few meetings so that they could conduct business. The former President also had to step down unexpectedly. They have a draft budget that will be presented to the Foundation Board that week. He expects it to be approved and then he can bring it forward to this board at the February Board meeting. They also plan to look at the current bylaws, policies, and procedures at a meeting this Friday. These documents have not been updated in over five years.

President Wall said with the consensus of the Board as the sole member of the Foundation, they waive the obligation of CESF to present a budget at this time. They look forward to seeing it at the next meeting.

VI. OTHER BUSINESS

OB-1 Board Committee/Liaison Reports

Civil Service Commission – Director Hawes

Director Hawes shared that they announced retirements, promotions, and new hires at the meeting. They appointed Jim Dille as the Commission Chair. The commission approved the division chief's list and the firefighters' and lieutenants' test packets. They also scheduled a special meeting for March.

EMS Committee – Director Cross/Director Joseph

Director Joseph said they had a meeting on Jan. 11. They were brought up to date on the current work on the ambulance service contract with Clackamas County.

Clackamas Emergency Services Foundation – Director Cross

Director Cross shared that they are working on updating the bylaws and policies. He expects these changes will be presented to the Board at the March meeting.

OB-2 Sandy Fire IGA Update – Assistant Chief Steve Deters

Assistant Chief (AC) Deters said a group from CFD attended Sandy Fire's work session, went over details of the contract, and answered questions. They were told that Sandy Fire's Board

Clackamas Fire District #1



voted to end the current IGA on June 30, 2023. He expects that the contract with Sandy Fire will come before this Board at the February Board meeting.

OB-3 Board Informational Updates/Comments

Director Joseph thanked Chief Browne and President Wall for taking his request to meet new employees seriously. President Wall said that the staff will be giving the Board more notice on any promotional or swearing in ceremonies so that the Board can try to attend.

VII. INFORMATIONAL ONLY

A. Division/Department Reports

R-1a Office of the Fire Chief – Fire Chief Nick Browne

Chief Browne said that December was focused on educating community members on the potential levy. Social media covered numerous topics including Op Santa, the community survey, and job postings. There was also an ice storm in December that stretched resources, but crews did an amazing job.

R-1b Office of Strategic Services – Assistant Chief Brian Stewart

AC Stewart shared that IT has finished installation of the VoIP phone system. They installed over 170 desktop phones plus softphones at staff workstations and on mobile devices.

He reported that in January the legislative session kicked off. The new governor has three priorities: education/childcare, housing/houselessness, and mental health. She is also addressing state agency accountability. AC Stewart said that OFCA is tracking close to 100 bills.

R-1c Office of Business Services – Assistant Chief Steve Deters

AC Deters reported that the Fire Marshal's Office has collected about \$15,000 in fees for plan reviews. He gave the time over to DC Whiteley to report on Op Santa.

DC Whiteley said that there were four community parades and five drive through drop off events. They worked with partners in the community, such as the Clackamas Service Center, to distribute the donations. They collected 6,300 pounds of food, 3,509 toys, and served about 700 families. He thanked all the volunteers for their exceptional help.

Director Syring also thanked the volunteers for all their work. He shared that he received feedback from some community members that they wanted more parades.

R-1d Office of Financial Services – Chief Financial Officer Mark Whitaker

CFO Whitaker went over the financial report in the board packet. Revenues are strong but expenses continue to increase with inflation and other factors. They are on track to end the year with a balanced budget.

Clackamas Fire District #1



He shared that the request for an extension for the FY2021-2022 audit was approved by the State. They plan to present the audit at the March board meeting.

He added that they are working on an Assistance to Firefighters Grant to replace radios.

R-1e Office of Emergency Services – Division Chief Dan Mulick

DC Mulick reported that the District is moving forward with the apprenticeship program. Captain Nathan Hon will be coming off the line to be the Apprentice Coordinator for about two years. The apprentice firefighter application was open at the time of this meeting. They plan to hold an academy by summer.

R-1f Professional Firefighters of Clackamas County Local 1159 – Shop Steward Andrew Gordian

Shop Steward Gordian said that some members attended an educational conference in Salem. He congratulated Captain Hon on this new appointment. He shared that the new four platoon system (D shift) has begun and is working well.

He shared that the Local is working with administrative staff to write the levy internal messaging. He thanked Director Hawes, AC Deters, and Chief Browne for all the collaborative work through the Future Funding Taskforce.

R-1g Volunteer Association Report – Volunteer Coordinator Ryan Kragero & President Jerry Kearney

Volunteer Coordinator (VC) Kragero shared that there were no training events in December due to Operation Santa, but there were 11 community events.

President Kearney shared that Volunteer Tommy Johnson celebrated 40 years as a volunteer.

B. Correspondence

Noted.

C. Informational Items

Noted.

D. Next Meeting

The next Board of Directors' meeting will be on Monday, February 27, 2023, at 5:00 pm. The meeting will be hybrid with the public invited to attend either by remote video conferencing or in person at Station 5 (9339 SE Causey Ave., Happy Valley, OR 97086).

Clackamas Fire District #1



VIII. REGULAR MEETING RECESSED

The regular Board of Directors' meeting recessed at 6:35 pm.

IX. EXECUTIVE SESSION CALLED TO ORDER UNDER ORS 192.660(2)(a) TO DISCUSS A PERSONNEL MATTER

X. REGULAR MEETING RECONVENED

The regular Board of Directors' meeting reconvened at 7:22 pm.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

The regular Board of Directors' meeting adjourned at 7:23 pm.

Minutes recorded by Executive Assistant Ariel Roberts and prepared by Administrative Technician Jessamyn Ode.

Marilyn M. Wall

Marilyn M. Wall (Feb 28, 2023 11:22 PST)

President Marilyn Wall

Chris Hawes

Chris Hawes (Mar 1, 2023 08:09 PST)

Secretary Chris Hawes











Regular Board Meeting Minutes 1-23-2023

Final Audit Report

2023-03-01

Created:	2023-02-28
By:	Ariel Roberts (ariel.roberts@clackamasfire.com)
Status:	Signed
Transaction ID:	CBJCHBCAABAAaiU50bHHxHqb0OQI3565riSY6hblGte2

"Regular Board Meeting Minutes 1-23-2023" History

-  Document created by Ariel Roberts (ariel.roberts@clackamasfire.com)
2023-02-28 - 1:50:06 AM GMT
-  Document emailed to marilyn.wall@clackamasfire.com for signature
2023-02-28 - 1:50:22 AM GMT
-  Email viewed by marilyn.wall@clackamasfire.com
2023-02-28 - 7:22:18 PM GMT
-  Signer marilyn.wall@clackamasfire.com entered name at signing as Marilyn M. Wall
2023-02-28 - 7:22:42 PM GMT
-  Document e-signed by Marilyn M. Wall (marilyn.wall@clackamasfire.com)
Signature Date: 2023-02-28 - 7:22:44 PM GMT - Time Source: server
-  Document emailed to chris.hawes@clackamasfire.com for signature
2023-02-28 - 7:22:45 PM GMT
-  Email viewed by chris.hawes@clackamasfire.com
2023-03-01 - 4:08:33 PM GMT
-  Signer chris.hawes@clackamasfire.com entered name at signing as Chris Hawes
2023-03-01 - 4:09:00 PM GMT
-  Document e-signed by Chris Hawes (chris.hawes@clackamasfire.com)
Signature Date: 2023-03-01 - 4:09:02 PM GMT - Time Source: server
-  Agreement completed.
2023-03-01 - 4:09:02 PM GMT