



Idanha-Detroit Rural Fire Protection District

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BOARD OF DIRECTORS MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING September 12th, 2019 – Idanha City Hall Council Chambers 111 Highway 22, Idanha, Oregon

Call to Order:

Director Schultz called the meeting to order at 5:00pm.

Attendance:

Board of Directors: Lyn Schultz, Walt Collier, Jeff Skeeters

Staff: Fire Chief Will Ewing, Lt. Laura Harris

Others Present: Debby Ruyle

Pledge of Allegiance recited.

Announcements:

None given.

Consent Agenda: Director Collier asked about the fatality structure fire in Idanha. Chief Ewing stated it was most likely an electricity-caused fire. General discussion on the outcome of the fire. Director Collier moved to accept the August 8th minutes as written. Director Skeeters seconded. Aye votes heard from all directors present. Motion passed. Chief Ewing gave the financial report. General discussion on the finances.

Comments From the Public on Agenda Items:

Chief Ewing stated that the BBQ event on August 31st was a success. There was a good community turnout and the general consensus was that the event was a success. Lt Harris stated that there was one person who had been concerned about the sirens because she was not aware that the district was giving fire truck rides. Chief Ewing also wanted to add that having too many events will diminish the responder's drive for volunteering, so he wanted to be cautious about the amount of time spent of events.

Old Business:

- a) **Idanha Station Upgrades:** Chief Ewing stated that the upgrades are slowly but surely making progress. He is going to take the tentative plans to the Marion County for approval. He wants to build a balcony for the second floor to provide both an overhang for when it snows and also provide a fire escape for responders sleeping at the station. He also wants to get a double glass door for the new community/training room prior to framing in the wall. John Manthe from Detroit City Council is currently working on writing a grant to build a fire station in Detroit.
- b) **Apparatus Review:** Chief Ewing stated that we will be receiving a FEPP vehicle to be used as our new rescue. He wants to move the vehicles out of the Detroit station as soon as we can feasibly do it. We have the potential for receiving two more squad vehicles so that we can sell the older ones. Chief Ewing spoke to Chief Mills from Silverton Fire, asking him if there would be hard feelings if we sold the heavy rescue. Chief Mills told Chief Ewing no, it was given to us to use or sell as we see fit. General

discussion on the new rescue. It may possibly have a bad turbo and the impeller in the pump is bad.

- c) **Budget Adjustment:** Chief Ewing stated that when we get the tax base receipts from Linn and Marion counties in November, he will most likely be bringing a budget adjustment to the board to add a budget line item for Asst. Chief Faust since he has recently moved to Detroit full-time and will need some compensation.
- d) **Letter to SDAO:** Chief Ewing read the letter to the Board. It was a thank-you letter to SDAO for their help in the recent legal dispute from a former employee. All directors present signed the letter. Lt Harris will take it to Director Stice (absent) to have her sign it as well prior to mailing it.
- e) **ISO Review:** General discussion on the ISO rates. Chief Ewing stated that the district may need to move all of its resources to the Idanha station. The only engine that fits in the Detroit station is 50 years old, and having it parked in that space is not OSHA compliant.

New Business:

- a) **Potential lease for extrication equipment:** Chief Ewing stated that our current extrication equipment is outdated and dangerous. The tools have been modified and will fail, potentially injuring one of our firefighters or a member of the public. We recently had an instructor come and test our current tools against a new set of tools. It took our firefighters 18 minutes to remove the roof from a car with our current tools, and only took 5 minutes to remove a roof with the newer tools. He would like the board to approve a lease for approximately \$37,000, with payments of approximately \$9,000 yearly for the next five years. General discussion on having Gates Fire continue to provide extrication services. Chief Ewing stated that it takes Gates at least 30 minutes to respond to most accidents in our area, and that is too long to wait if we need to remove a patient within a timely manner to save their life. Director Skeeters suggested to table the decision until next month's meeting. Director Schultz asked Chief Ewing to explain the payments. Chief Ewing explained that we will do fundraising for the payments, and that the payments will start at approximately \$9,600 to be paid during the next fiscal year, and will go down from there to approximately \$9,300 and so on. He also stated that we can't wait to raise the money. We need the equipment now, especially since we are going into the winter months. His plan is to go to the Siletz Tribe, ODOT, and other agencies for grants to pay for the new equipment. He wants to purchase battery-operated tools because they have a higher cutting force, they are easier to use, and they are much more portable. He also stated that by budget review, it looks like we can afford the yearly payments even if we don't receive any grants or other funds to cover them. Chief Ewing stated that if we are on a motor vehicle crash and we are waiting for Gates to bring their extrication equipment, it is very demoralizing for our responders. Debby Ruyle asked if the fire district was still responding outside of the district boundaries, because those people are not paying taxes to support the fire district. Chief Ewing responded that as a fire chief and as an emergency responder his goal is life safety, and if he can make a difference in the life safety of those out of our district, he will, and we owe it to the community to provide that protection.

Staff and Committee Reports:

- a) **Fire Chief:** Chief Ewing stated he had already given his report within the previous subjects.
- b) **Recruitment Officers:** Lt Harris gave the recruitment report for Asst. Chief Faust: We have 12 active volunteers, and 6 of them are signed up to go through our in-house Firefighter I academy. AC Faust is attempting to work with senator Ron Wyden for extrication funding for rural fire districts. The 1990 Ford Grumman “Warthog” engine is here and is in service. We have 6 recruits attending the EMR class. We are not going to hear anything about the R&R grant until around October. Captain Hedin is attempting to bring in some more squad vehicles so we can replace the old squads we currently have. During the extrication training we had, our current tools stalled out and would not cut through a roof post. The recruitment officers are going to shift the focus on training to keep the current volunteers engaged during our slower winter months. One of our volunteers, Joe Darby, is going through the Red Cross to get smoke detectors. We will give them out to the community for increased fire safety. The Fire Corps is currently taking a break from events, but will start back up soon. We may have another pancake breakfast soon. Director Schultz asked about the new R&R grant

Comments from the Public on Non-Agenda Items: No public comments given.

Good of the Order:

Next Board Meeting: October 10th at 5:00pm at Detroit City Hall

Adjournment: Director Collier moved to adjourn the meeting. Director Skeeters seconded. Aye votes heard from all directors present. No nay votes were heard. Meeting adjourned at 7:45pm.

Board President

Office Administrator