

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING

OF

PHILOMATH FIRE AND RESCUE

March 2, 2009

I. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

The Philomath Fire and Rescue Board meeting was called to order by Chair Ries at 7:05pm. Board members present were Glasmann, Ries and Sweetin. Larry Sleeman arrived. Angie Baca was absent and excused. **There was a quorum.** Staff members present were Chief Tom Phelps, Administrative Assistant Gwynn Irvin, Fire Marshal Ray Hubbell, Fire Fighters Carl Horning and Ryan Riffle. Also present was Marty Theurer, PVFD President.

II. ACTION ITEMS

A. Approval of Minutes – **A motion was made by Glassman, seconded by Sweetin to approve the minutes of February 2, 2009 as written. Motion carried unanimously.**

B. Approval of Bills – **A motion was made by Sweetin, seconded by Glasmann to approve payment of the February 2009 bills in the amount of \$29,429.80 Motion carried unanimously.**

C. PERS/ Josh Sleeman – An email was received from PERS stating that the break in service rule was rescinded in November 2008 to be effective retro-active to August 29, 2003. This affects Josh Sleeman. Originally PERS stated that since Sleeman had a break in service from his previous employer he would not be eligible for contributions until October 2008. Now, since the rule has been rescinded he is eligible on his start date of April 1, 2008. PERS will automatically withdraw the funds due from the District's bank account. The amount due from Sleeman is approximately \$1,098. So as not to cause a hardship, the Board stated this could be paid back over time. **A motion was made by Glassman, seconded by Sweetin to collect the funds at 1% per month from Sleeman's paycheck until paid. Motion carried unanimously.**

III. PUBLIC COMMENT – There was none.

IV. NEW BUSINESS –

1. Employee Wages and Benefits – Phelps reported the District is in good shape due to good management in the past decade. Reserves are more than adequate to carry through the next few years. Taxes are static and can be deferred for 4 years, but would be assessed interest when paid.

Larry Sleeman arrived at 7:25 pm.

Phelps distributed wage information with different scenarios. A 3% Cola will be put in the budget. Sleeman asked if the incentives are built in. Chief responded yes – some assumptions were made.

Ries stated the department need to keep wage levels in mind as Benton County has one of the highest housing levels in the state, while wages are at the low end. The department wants to attract and retain employees.

Ries, Glassman and Phelps will form a sub-committee to look at wages and benefits.

2. Economic Stimulus Package - Phelps reported there is 210 Billion dollars earmarked for Emergency Services. With the money in reserves it might be a good time to get projects done. With the state of the economy there should be more competitive bids. The roof over the engine bay needs replacing and the addition of a meeting/training room to be built that would be ADA accessible. He is looking at an 1100-1200sq.ft.addition. Phelps will also be looking at grants and reserve funds could also be used.

V. STAFF REPORTS

1. President – Ries reported he will be meeting with Marty Theurer regarding the volunteer incentive.
2. Fire Chief –233 is still in Boise, they are replacing the auxiliary pump with a regular pump.

Phelps met with Commissioner Jay Dixon, Chief Emery of Corvallis Fire, Chief Smith of Monroe Fire and Chris Bentley with Benton County Planning to discuss the unprotected areas of the county. This annexation would generate approximately \$2,800 in property taxes for the district. This will also increase the chances for homeowners not in the district to get insurance.

Phelps met with the Benton County Forest Classification Committee. They are determining which tax lots are in the ODF protection district and should be classified as Forestland for protection by ODF. This is to make sure persons that should be assessed are and those not in, are not assessed. There are some properties that are covered by both the ODF & PRFD.

3. Sec/Treasurer – Irvin reported the budget vs. actual was in good shape. Line items were staying within budgeted amounts for this period.

VI. REPRESENTATIVES REPORTS

Volunteers – Theurer reported there are approximately 36 volunteers at this time.

VII. OLD BUSINESS

1. Volunteer Incentive Program – Theurer suggested as incentive, a formal appreciation dinner be held with the volunteers not doing any of the preparation.

VIII. OTHER BUSINESS – Glassman inquired about the possibility of making a community garden behind the fire station. Phelps will look into this.

Marcia Gilson is preparing a grant application for the oxygen generator for the County. This would prepare the district for any disaster to have oxygen available. Gilson requested that \$3,000-\$5,000 be used from the reserve fund in this current fiscal year. Consensus of the Board was to use the funds from reserves this year.

The budget committee meeting has been rescheduled to May 7th, 2009.

IX. ADJOURNMENT – The next meeting will be April 6, 2009. Meeting adjourned at 8:30 pm.

Tom Ries, President

ATTEST: _____

J. Reed Glasmann, Secretary