



MINUTES  
Mid- Columbia Fire and Rescue  
Board of Directors Meeting  
In Person / Virtually Held  
1400 W 8<sup>th</sup> Street, The Dalles, OR 97058  
June 17, 2024

**1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER**

Vice-President Bailey called the Mid-Columbia Fire and Rescue meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

**2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Vice-President Bailey led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**3. ROLL CALL**

Directors Present: Diana Bailey, Corey Case, Dick Schaffeld, and Walter Denstedt. David Jacobs was excused.

Staff Present: Chief Bob Palmer, Assistant Chief David Jensen, Division Chief Josh Beckner, and Office Manager Stephanie Ziegler. Division Chief Jay Wood and Division Chief Adam Cole were on vacation.

Others Present: Legal Counsel Andrew Meyers. Members of Adventist Health Columbia Gorge Hospital. Lt. Brian Johnson and members of his family.

**4. AGENDA CHANGES**

Chief Palmer advised that there would not be an executive session for the Chiefs evaluation because President Jacobs was absent, the executive session would be moved to July. Chief Palmer also advised that there is a letter from him that would be under New Business Part (d).

Per Legal Counsel, a motion is required to not hold the executive session. Director Case made a motion to change the agenda and move the executive session to July. Director Schaffeld seconded. All in favor; 4 Ayes, 0 Nays. Motion carried.

**5. MINUTES**

Minutes of the May 20, 2024, meeting, stand approved as written.

**6. PUBLIC COMMENT**

Director Bailey read the public comment rules. There were three individuals from Adventist Health Columbia Gorge hospital that spoke regarding the interfacility transfers issue. They



included: Michele Spatz, 17 Sparrow Ln, White Salmon WA, Dr. Luke Webb, 642 Highline Dr, Hood River OR, and Dr. Jeff Mathisen, 1407 E 21<sup>st</sup> St, The Dalles OR.

After the 3 individuals spoke, Director Bailey asked if there were any others that wished to speak, and also asked if there were any questions from anyone online. There were no other questions. Director Bailey stated that she would direct our leadership to continue to meet with the leadership of Adventist Health Columbia Gorge to resolve the interfacility transfer issue.

Swearing in of Lieutenant Brian Johnson – Chief Palmer officially appointed and swore in FF Johnson to Lieutenant. He then read “A Firefighter’s Ambition”. Chief Palmer then presented Lt. Johnson with his certificate and had Lt. Johnson’s wife come up and pin Brian with his Lieutenant’s badge.

#### **7. FINANCIAL REPORTS**

- a. Balance Sheets/Combined Cash Accounts – Director Case had a question concerning Health insurance. He had noticed there was a credit showing for health insurance. Chief Palmer stated he would investigate the credit. There were no other questions.
- b. Ambulance Service Report – There were no questions.

#### **8. OPEN PUBLIC HEARING**

- a. Director Bailey opened the public hearing at 5:59 p.m. to receive citizen’s testimony on the FY 2024-25 budget approved by the MCFR Budget Committee.
- b. Board of Directors to consider public testimony in-person and online regarding the approved budget. There was no in-person or online testimony.
- c. Board of Directors to consider and incorporate any proposed budget adjustments. Chief Palmer advised that an adjustment of \$750.00 in the administrative line and an adjustment of \$34,500 to the Public Safety line for Workers Compensation. The adjustment was less than 10 percent so no additional process steps other than the budget hearing are required to affect the recommended adjustment.
- d. Budget hearing closed at 6:01 p.m. adjourned to regular board meeting.

#### **9. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

- a. Urban Renewal Report – Director Denstedt gave a report on the Urban Renewal meeting. Director Bailey asked if any decisions had been made on the old Tony’s building site. Director Denstedt stated that it would be on the agenda for the June 18<sup>th</sup> meeting.
- b. SIP Enterprise Zone Funds Report – President Jacobs, Chief Palmer and Director Denstedt attended SIP a work session between the city and county. This meeting was an informational meeting only, there was no testimony allowed. The meeting was to determine how they would utilize the funds they will be receiving. The funds are from the initial project fees and GAP funds. Chief Palmer went on to discuss what took place at the meeting. Considerable discussion followed.



**10. FIRE CHIEF'S REPORT**

- a. Fire Chief's Report – Included in board packet. Chief Palmer did not read through his report he asked if there were any questions on his report. Director Denstedt asked about the EZ we received. Chief Palmer stated that it would be addressed under the Supplemental Budget of the current year.
- b. Monthly Report – AC Jensen – included in board packet.
- c. Monthly Report – DC Beckner - included in board packet.
- d. Monthly Report – DC Wood - included in board packet.
- e. Monthly Report – DC Cole - included in board packet. Chief Palmer informed the board that Chief Cole had just graduated with his bachelor's degree in Fire Science.

**11. CORRESPONDENCE**

- a. Wasco County Burn Ban Proclamation from Wasco Co.
- b. Wasco Country Fireworks Ban
- c. ODF Declaration of Fire Season.
- d. Received notes of appreciation from Adalynn and Emerie for protecting their home from the E. 19<sup>th</sup> structure fire.
- e. Received a note of appreciation from Linda and Jeramiah Urban regarding the fuels mitigation work done by Crew 24.
- f. Received a note of appreciation from Med Quest camp organizers regarding the fire station tour and associated BLS training.
- g. Received a thank you letter from City of Dundee Fire Department.

**12. OLD BUSINESS**

None.

**13. NEW BUSINESS**

- a. Resolution No. 2024-03 “ Adopting a Supplemental Budget for FY 2023-24, Making Appropriations and Authorizing Expenditures from and within the General Fund of the Mid-Columbia Fire and Rescue Adopted Budget”. Director Bailey opened the floor for a motion. Director Case made a motion to Adopt Resolution 2024-03 “Adopting a Supplemental Budget for FY 2023-24, making appropriations and authorizing expenditures within the general fund of the Mid-Columbia Fire and Rescue adopted budget. Director Schaffeld seconded. Director Bailey asked if there was any discussion on the motion. Chief Palmer explained that the supplemental budget was less than 10% of the general fund so there was no need for a public hearing. \$35,400 will be allocated to 2 projects. Chief Jensen was asked to explain the projects. Considerable discussion followed. Once the discussion concluded Director Bailey called for a vote; 4 Ayes, 0 Nays. Motion passed.
- b. Resolution 2024-04 – Resolution adopting the budget. Director Bailey asked for a motion. Director Case made a motion that the Board of Directors of Mid-Columbia Fire and Rescue hereby adopt the budget for fiscal year 2024-2025 in the amount of \$14,315,684.00 to include the adjustment of Workers Comp. as recommended by





- Chief Palmer. Director Schaffeld seconded. There was no other discussion. All in favor; 4 Ayes, 0 Nays. Motion passed.
- c. Information Sheet – Renewal of Wasco County GIS IGA. Chief Palmer gave a brief explanation regarding the IGA. Director Case made a motion to authorize the Fire Chief to sign the IGA between Wasco County and MCFR for continuation of GIS services. Director Denstedt seconded. There was no additional discussion. All in favor; 4 Ayes, 0 Nays. Motion passed.
  - d. Letter from Chief Palmer. Chief Palmer handed out a letter to the board members regarding his retirement on December 4, 2024. Chief Palmer explained what he has done with his succession plan. Chief Palmer and Director Jacobs has been in contact with Special Districts. His intention is to have Chief Jensen succeed him in his position after his retirement. He stated after talking to Special Districts there is a process that needs to take into effect, and he also had Legal Counsel speak regarding Special Districts. Chief Palmer stated that since we are members with Special Districts, we have the ability to contract with them to look into a successor. Legal Counsel explained what would need to happen with the hiring procedures. Special Districts can help with all of the hiring processes. Chief Palmer has been working with Chief Jensen on the succession plan and will make sure the board has the succession plan before the July board meeting. Director Bailey asked if there should be a consensus to hire Special Districts. The contract with Special Districts has been budgeted. There was a consensus to move forward with Special Districts.

**14. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

The executive session was moved to the July board meeting.


**15. GOOD OF THE ORDER**

None.

**16. ADJOURNMENT**

Director Bailey adjourned the meeting at 6:45 p.m.

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Board President

  
Secretary/Treasurer