



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  
December 18, 2023

**1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER**

President Jacobs called the Mid-Columbia Fire & Rescue meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

**2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

President Jacobs led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**3. ROLL CALL**

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

Staff Present: Fire Chief Bob Palmer, Assistant Chief David Jensen, Division Chief Fred Coleman, Division Chief Josh Beckner, and Office Manager Stephanie Ziegler. Division Chief Jay Wood was excused.

Others Present: Legal Counsel Andrew Meyers.

**4. AGENDA CHANGES**

Chief Palmer had no agenda changes, however President Jacobs stated he had an update on The Enterprise Zone which he would be giving during Committee Reports.

**5. MINUTES**

The minutes of the November 20, 2023, meeting stand approved as written.

**6. PUBLIC COMMENT**

None.

**7. FINANCIAL REPORTS**

- a. Balance Sheet/Combined Cash Accounts – There were no comments.
- b. Ambulance Service Financial Report – There were no comments.

**8. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

- a. Urban Renewal Report – Director Denstedt gave a report on the meeting that took place on November 21, 2023. He stated that there had been no quorum for the meeting. Director Denstedt reported on the history of the Urban Renewal board. He



spoke a great deal about whether the Urban Renewal Committee will sunset or not and asked the board for a consensus on what they would like to see happen. The board gave the consensus that they would like to see the Committee sunset. There was a lot of discussion that followed.

- b. Enterprise Zone – President Jacobs gave an update. Stated that Google money and community fees are starting to come into the taxing districts. President Jacobs stated the revenue projected to come in from Phase 1 is less than what was originally estimated.

#### **9. FIRE CHIEF'S REPORT**

- a. Fire Chief's Report – Chief Palmer asked if there were any questions regarding the staff reports that were included in the board packet. Chief Palmer did state the Paramedic program is moving forward. There are 4 in-house crew members interested in becoming Paramedics. President Jacobs handed out a news article regarding paramedic shortage, stating this is not an isolated issue. More discussion followed.
- b. Monthly Report – AC Jensen. Included in board packet.
- c. Monthly Report – DC Beckner
- d. Monthly Report – DC Wood. Included in board packet.
- e. Monthly Report – DC Coleman. Included in Board packet.

#### **10. CORRESPONDENCE**

None.

#### **11. OLD BUSINESS**

None.

#### **12. NEW BUSINESS**

- a. Information Sheet – Appointment of Budget Officer. Director Bailey made a motion to appoint Chief Robert Palmer as the Budget Officer for FY 2024/2025. Director Schaffeld seconded. Before President Jacobs could call for a vote, Director Denstedt asked if Chief Palmer should be appointed as the Budget Officer if he plans on retiring before the FY 2024/2025. President Jacobs asked Chief Palmer if he had told him if he was retiring and Chief Palmer stated he had not. President Jacobs called for a vote; All in favor 5 Ayes, 0 Nays. Motion carried.
- b. Information Sheet – Budget Committee Member Appointment. Two of the Budget Committee members terms (Dr. John Willer and Mike Hamilton) have expired. Chief Palmer stated he had reached out to them to see if they would be interested in continuing to serve on the district's budget committee. Each has stated they would like to continue. Director Bailey made a motion for Option 1 to appoint Dr. John Willer and Mike Hamilton to sit on the Fire District Budget Committee based upon their



previous knowledge, experience, and desire to continue to volunteer for a consecutive three-year term. Director Case seconded. All in favor; 5 Ayes, 0 Nays. Motion carried.

- c. Information Sheet – Adoption of Budget Calendar. Director Bailey stated there was a date on the calendar that was incorrect. It should be April 24, 2024 instead of April 27, 2024. Director Case made a motion to adopt the Budget Calendar with the adjustment of April 27 being corrected. Director Bailey seconded. All in favor; 5 Ayes, 0 Nays. Motion carried.
- d. Information Sheet – ASA Plan Amendment. Director Bailey had lots of concerns regarding the 6<sup>th</sup> Amendment and whether the district should sign to agreement. After much discussion and consulting with Legal Counsel Meyers, Director Case made a motion to authorize the Fire Chief to execute the sixth amendment to the contract between Wasco County and Mid-Columbia Fire & Rescue to continue providing ambulance service to ASA 2. Director Denstedt seconded. All in favor; 5 Ayes, 0 Nays. Motion carried.

**13. GOOD OF THE ORDER**

Chief Palmer reminded the board that the annual board Christmas dinner was tonight at The Bargeway Pub at the conclusion of the meeting. He also stated that the public was welcome to attend at their own expense.

**14. ADJOURNMENT**

President Jacobs adjourned the meeting at 6:37 p.m.

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Board President

Secretary/Treasurer