



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  
March 20, 2023

**1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER**

President Jacobs called the Mid-Columbia Fire and Rescue meeting to order at 5:30pm.

**2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

President Jacobs led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**3. ROLL CALL**

Directors Present: David Jacobs, Dave Peters, and Corey Case. Directors Diana Bailey and Dick Schaffeld were absent.

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

Others Present: Legal Counsel Andrew Myers, Private Citizen Walter Denstedt, and Division Chief Beckner's wife Rachel and children.

**4. AGENDA CHANGES**

None.

**5. MINUTES**

The minutes of the February 27, 2023, meeting stand approved as written.

**6. SWEARING-IN CEREMONY**

- a. Swearing-in and badge pinning of new Division Chief Joshua Beckner. Chief Palmer introduced new Division Chief Joshua Beckner then preformed the swearing-in ceremony.

**7. PUBLIC COMMENT**

Private citizen Walter Denstedt spoke briefly about same topics he has brought up in the past and had nothing new to add.



## **8. FINANCIAL REPORT**

- a. Balance Sheets/Combined Cash Accounts – Chief Palmer addressed the financial report included in the board packet.
- b. Chief Palmer noted he has been working on a project with Legal Counsel Myers regarding the financial services agreement with the City. The City has proposed a second amendment to this contract which is currently being negotiated. More information on the amendment will be provided at a later date.
- c. Chief Palmer has been in contact with Randy Anderson, retired financial director from NWCSO#21. Mr. Anderson has been offering consulting advice regarding the financial services agreement and reporting and is willing to work with us to draft a condensed Board financial report. Director Case expressed concern over taking a report from one source and condensing it down into another report creating the potential for human error. President Jacobs agreed. The board would like more cross checking done before moving forward on such a project
- d. Ambulance Service Financial Report – No questions asked.

## **9. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

- a. Urban Renewal Report – Director Peters stated he did not attend the last meeting however, he plans to attend the March 21, 2023, meeting. Chief Palmer included the UR Annual Report for FYE 2022. Director Peters noted if there were more projects happening downtown that he may have to step away from the UR Board due to potential conflict of interest.

## **10. FIRE CHIEF REPORT**

- a. Fire Chief Report – Chief Palmer read through his report included in the board packet. He provided updated reports on each of his items.
- b. Monthly Report – AC Jensen – Included in board packet. President Jacobs asked about the two crew members being promoted to Lt. and inquired if that will open up two more positions. He also asked if the FF/Paramedic positions are full. Chief Palmer stated they are not, but we do have people on the current eligibility list to fill vacant positions.
- c. Monthly Report – DC Wood – included in board packet. Chief Coleman advised the board that MCFR will be putting on one of the biggest Fire conventions in the State in May with over 180 people coming for the training.
- d. Other Items – Chief Palmer spoke briefly about the fire that occurred at Amerities. Two crew members were injured and taken to the hospital. A third crew member required assessment at a later time. Chief Palmer also stated that there had been a debriefing conducted by the Wasco County Peer Review Team with the involved crew members. One of the peer review team members will be available for follow-up



with any of the firefighters involved in the incident. The fire investigation is still ongoing. There will also be more training.

#### **11. CORRESPONDENCE**

Chief Palmer stated that the district has received several thank you notes from different entities which were included in the board packet.

#### **12. OLD BUSINESS**

None

#### **13. NEW BUSINESS**

None.

#### **14. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

There was no executive session.

#### **15. GOOD OF THE ORDER**

Director Peters asked if the district would ever bring back the Cadet Program. Chief Palmer stated that due to the risk involved with the program into that program, the decision was made to focus on the student volunteer program which is going very well. Based on the above circumstances, it was determined to discontinue the Cadet program with no plan of bringing this it back anytime in the distant future.

#### **16. ADJOURNMENT**

President Jacobs adjourned the meeting at 18:15pm.

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Board President

Board Secretary/Treasurer