

**Tangent Rural Fire District
Board of Directors Meeting
Minutes
July 13, 2022**

Board Members Present: John Dunn, Chris Meyer, Paul Strombeck, Scott Richards
Staff Present: IFC Stearns, AC Vonasek, BC Chapin, OA Conrad
Others: Volunteer Assn. Dan Taylor, Fire Chief Candidate Jim Dickerson
Citizens: None present
Attending by Zoom: Board Member - Bruce Riley

President Dunn called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.
Riley connected to the phone-in Zoom meeting, no citizens connected.

I. CITIZEN COMMENTS:

II. ELECTIONS OF BOARD OFFICERS FOR 2022-23: President, Vice President, Secretary

Action: Strombeck nominated John Dunn for President; Meyer nominated Paul Strombeck for Vice President and Scott Richards for Secretary. Riley seconded all nominations and upon vote, the entire slate of officers was elected unanimously 5-0.

III. APPROVAL OF:

Revised Minutes – Regular Board Meeting – May 11, 2022

Action: Meyer moved to approve the May 11, 2022 revised minutes as submitted. Strombeck seconded the motion. Upon vote, it passed unanimously, (5-0).

Minutes – Regular Board Meeting – June 6, 2022

Action: Meyer moved to approve the June 6, 2022 minutes as submitted. Strombeck seconded the motion. Upon vote, it passed unanimously, (5-0).

Minutes – Special Board Meeting – June 29, 2022

Action: Meyer moved to approve the June 6, 2022 Special Board Meeting minutes as submitted. Strombeck seconded the motion. Upon vote, it passed unanimously, (5-0).

Financial Report – May 2022

Action: Meyer moved to approve the June 2022 financial report as submitted. Richards seconded the motion. Upon vote, it passed unanimously, (5-0).

IV. STANDING REPORTS:

Volunteer Association – Taylor and Walters written report

Our Association met on Tuesday, July 5. These were the highlights:

Thank you to the Board for the annual donation of \$500 toward our Association. We appreciate your support!

We spent about \$1200 on the pancake breakfast and took in just over \$1900 in donations. We served 210 breakfasts.

Dan and Travis (Halsey-Shedd Chief) continue to work on our reverse smoker trailer. Dan said he's hoping it should be powder coated in August.

August 2 is National Night Out, and it sounds like there are plans being made to have an event in Tangent. There are several volunteers who would be interested in staffing an engine to participate in the event.

One of our members has been researching ordering TFD belt buckles. Chief Casebolt created and ordered buckles several years ago but many current members do not have a buckle. The cost per buckle would be around \$52 and there's a set-up fee of \$250 for the first order. We're looking into potentially ordering 40 if the membership approves and wants to move forward with this. The Board offered to give the Volunteer Association \$250 for the set-up fee.

All three Volunteer Association Officers' terms of office end at the end of 2022 and none plan to run again. Elections will be held in October. The Board expressed their gratitude for each of the officers.

Interim Fire Chief – Stearns

(The following is the Interim Chief's written report as well as added comments made at the meeting.)

Meetings Attended:

Three weekly staff meetings
Three volunteer evening drills
TRFPD Board meeting
Budget Hearing
Meet and Greet
Volunteer Officers meeting
Fallen Firefighters Memorial Service
Linn County Fire Chief's

Budget:

The 2022 – 2023 budget was adopted at the June 6, budget hearing.

Fire Chief Hiring Process:

At the June 6, meeting the Board reviewed all candidates and narrowed to the top four finalists. The finalists were notified, and all chose to participate in the process. Meet n Greet was held June 28, and June 29 was an all-day process of interviews and evaluations. Jim Dickerson was selected, and a conditional offer of employment was made. It was hoped that Jim could start August 1, but due to background check, psychological testing, and medical evaluation it has become apparent that start date will be pushed until at least August 15. It is anticipated that all information will be complete so the Board can make an

appointment at the August 10, board meeting. A few days are scheduled that Dickerson can be at the station to go over internal operations.

Grant:

We applied for and have been notified of award of a grant through the State Fire Marshal's Office for summer Firefighter staffing. This grant will allow us to bring on three summertime firefighters.

Pancake Breakfast:

The Volunteer Firefighter Pancake Breakfast was held June 18. About 200 breakfasts were served and generated over \$1900 for the volunteer association. More important than the revenue generated was the positive public relations and sense of comradery it generated. Thanks to all the board members who participated and helped make it a success.

Personnel Issue:

We have a couple of ongoing personnel issues that are taking time to resolve. I am not comfortable discussing these issues in this report or at a public meeting. If any Board members would like further info on these matters, please feel free to call me or stop by the office. Update since time of preparing this report: one of these has resolved with an arrest of our volunteers for theft. It is an ongoing investigation that may involve others not from within the organization. The other issue is anticipated to be resolved within the next few weeks as well.

Observation:

I expected that we would have the new Chief on-board by August 1, and this would be my last Board meeting. Due to time necessary to complete background and psych evaluation, the new Chief will not be starting until mid-August at the soonest. I am willing to stay until Chief Dickerson is on board but ask the Board to allow me to be flexible with my August schedule. I have made several commitments for early August thinking I would be done in Tangent.

Chief Stearns would like to echo the great work of volunteer officers. They are a great group and a pleasure to work with these last 8 months.

Assistant Chief/Training Officer – Vonasek

(The following is the Assistant Chief's written report as well as added comments made at the meeting.)

FIRE & EMS TRAINING –

In-House – Chuck will be wrapping up Wildland Firefighter Refresher.

Regional – Training minimal going into the fire season

State – No Report

OR-EMS – No Report

National – No Report

HEALTH & SAFETY –

The permanent rule for the Wildland Smoke and Heat Stress will be in place by early next week.

Safety Committee – Is to meet July 12th @ 1830 Hours Safety Meeting

SCBA Grant Update – No activity. Announcement of Grant could come as early as July 2022. FEMA has started the process and should be out in August.

EQUIPMENT UPDATE –

Equipment – No Report

OTHER BUSINESS –

Insurance Services Organization Audit – David Hyland of ISO has been out of contact. Selmet Inc. is not offering up their water system, likely because they are self-insured. Just waiting for Mr. Hyland to make his next visit. Should have everything completed by next week and get the outcome in the fall.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH –

Tangent Fire District Website – staying active

Tangent District Portal – Department members continue to Utilize the Portal for various purposes.

Tangent Community Blood Drive & Food Drive – Next Red Cross Blood Drive is July 21st. The FISH of Albany food drive hosted by Tangent Fire District will begin July 18th and will run through the week till Friday. No-perishable food Items can be dropped off at the station during normal business hours.

Board asked website and Facebook. It is important to keep this information on the sites current as possible. Vonasek stated; Volunteer Association President Walters does most of the Facebook page. Our web site gets between 35 to 5000 hits a month. The portal is also doing well. He is adding materials for the volunteers to access.

When Dickerson comes on board, a press release will need to be on all sites: Flash News, Facebook, our website etc.

Staff Battalion Chief's Report – Chapin

(The following is the BC's written report as well as added comments made at the meeting.)

Meetings Attended:

- Four staff meetings
- Lexipol training
- Helped with Chiefs Interview process
- Knife River (gate/key access)
- Met with Ken Foster (Lebanon Fire)

Fire Inspections- I completed three driveway inspections, driveway inspections are being reviewed at a county level with all fire districts in Linn County. All hose and ladders have been tested for the year. Completed two fire inspections. Three preliminary site plan reviews were completed.

Pre-Plans- N/A

Public ED- At the pancake breakfast, did some education on smoke alarms, and kitchen safety to the public.

Vehicle Maintenance- WT-71 had EGR valve, coolant line, and a wire harness and a one-way air check valve were replaced. Les Schwab's came out and replaced the tire on the BR-71. All hose and ladders have been tested for the year.

Building/Ground Maintenance- I completed ground maintenance several days in June. We bought a new picnic table and river rock to place out back.

Volunteers- At the pancake breakfast we gave out two applications, and one pamphlet to an interested person. I worked on updating the admin checklist for onboarding of volunteers and created one for paid staff.

Training- We received our new AED's and I-gels. We had a I-gel representative come in and do in-service training on the I-gels. I conducted the in-service on our new AED's. Both items were placed into service the next day and went well. I-gel are an airway device that is not invasive. I have also been conducting wildland drills.

Other Items- Received permission to put the Wildfire Grant banner up on the corner of Hwy 99E & Lake Creek Drive.

A RV ad will be placed in Daily Dispatch again this month for two months. Hoping we will get applicants. We have three open positions.

A fire-door from the day room to bay should be installed in the next few weeks.

Activity Report: Total YTD calls are 192 as of the month of June. This is 27 increase from 2021, 55 increase from 2020, increase 8 from 2019 and up 3 calls from last month.

V. OLD BUSINESS:

NoDinx order for Board of Director shirts – Dunn

Dunn had a meeting with NoDinx. The quality, colors and print sizes are now standardized.

Ten-year pins – These have been ordered but Vonasek will check on the estimated delivery date.

Picture with Idanha-Detroit RFPD of the donated Tender - Chief Stearns will set up a date and time.

VI. NEW BUSINESS:

Resolution No. 2022-04 – Adoption of Oregon Fire Mutual Aid System 2022 Wildfire Season Staffing Award – Stearns

This resolution is to accept the money for the grant from the State Fire Marshal's Office for the summer hires.

Action: Richards motioned to approve Resolution No. 2022-04, the adoption of Oregon Fire Mutual Aid System 2022 Wildfire Staffing Award to employee shift firefighters for three months during this wildfire season. Meyer seconded the motion. Upon vote, it passed unanimously (5-0).

GOOD OF THE ORDER:

A. Board Meeting – August 10, 2022 - 7:00 p.m.

B. Red Cross Blood Drive – July 21, 2022 – 11:00 a.m.

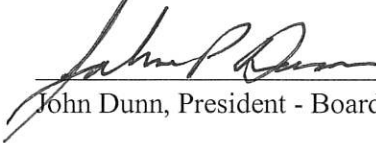
C. Riverboat trip with the Stearns – Chief Stearns will check dates

- D. **Chief Stearns** – “I shared this with the volunteers and would like to share with the Board too. When Chief Dickerson comes on it is perfectly okay to refer to him as the “New Chief”. But my preference is I’d be referred to as the “Former Chief”. Never the Old Chief!”
- E. **License plate frames with Tangent RFPD** - Meyer ask if that would be something anyone would be interested in. Discussion was - Remember you are always representing Tangent Fire if you have this on your car. No further action was taken.
- F. **Thanks to Chief Stearns** – The Board and staff voiced their thanks to Chief Stearns for the excellent job he has done for Tangent Fire.

President Dunn adjourned the meeting at 8:42 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Denny Conrad.
Office Administrator

APPROVED BY:



John Dunn, President - Board of Directors

8-10-2022

Date