

**Tangent Rural Fire District  
Board of Directors Meeting  
Minutes  
September 14, 2022**

**Board Members Present:** Paul Strombeck, Scott Richards, Chris Meyer  
**Staff Present:** IFC Stearns, AC Vonasek BC Chapin,  
**By Zoom:** Board Members - John Dunn, Bruce Riley  
**Citizens:** None present  
**Staff Absent:** OA Conrad

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Vice President Strombeck called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.  
No citizens connected by phone.

**I. CITIZEN COMMENTS:**

**II. APPROVAL OF:**

**Minutes – Regular Board Meeting – August 10, 2022**

**Action:** Meyer moved to approve the August 10, 2022 minutes as submitted. Richards seconded the motion. Upon vote, it passed unanimously, (5-0).

**Minutes – Special Board Meeting – August 24, 2022**

**Action:** Strombeck moved to approve the August 24, 2022 minutes as submitted. Meyer seconded the motion. Upon vote, it passed unanimously, (5-0).

**Financial Report – August 2022**

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

**III. STANDING REPORTS:**

**Volunteer Association** – No report

**Interim Fire Chief** – Stearns

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

**Meetings Attended:**

Four weekly staff meetings  
Three volunteer drills  
TRFPD Board meeting

TRFPD Special meeting  
Linn Co. Fire Defense Board meeting

**Training:**

On August 16, Office Administrator Conrad and I attended SDAO Board and Staff training in Cottage Grove.

**Community Outreach:**

On August 2, we participated in the National Night Out, held at the park by City Hall. Paid staff and Volunteers along with an engine participated.

**Fire Chief Hiring Process:**

At the August 10, Board meeting it was discussed and decided to move forward with a Board interview process with one candidate. On August 24, a special board meeting and executive session were held for the purpose of interviewing the candidate. Following the interview, the Board decided to further the candidate to a “meet and greet” (to be held Sept.20) and an interview process with community and technical panels. The interview process will be held at the Central Electric training center, Sept.21.

**Commercial/Industrial Fire Code Inspector:**

As we have discussed previously, Tangent has a very large industrial base for the size of community. The need for more regular and complete inspections of these facilities has also previously been recognized. Lebanon Fire District currently has a fire inspector working part time that they would like to offer full time employment. Lebanon Chief, Joe Rodondi, and I have met to discuss the possibility of Lebanon hiring the position and Tangent contracting for 50% of the employee’s time. At this time, it appears our cost would be \$45,162.50 per year.

**Opioid Settlement Funds:**

The State, Cities and Counties recently received settlement monies. Special Districts currently are not eligible to receive these funds. Please find attached a letter from SDAO Executive Director Frank Stratton, that asks that special districts be able to receive a portion of these funds through a grant process. I ask that you review the letter and consider action in support.

**State Mobilizations:**

There have been several activations of the State Mobilization Plan this summer. Linn County has been called upon to provide a task force on multiple occasions. Tangent has not in my opinion had the trained personnel available to staff apparatus to send on these mobilizations. I would like to support the needs of other districts in the state who are experiencing wildfires as well as receive the revenues that come with sending personnel and equipment. At this time, I just don’t feel we can afford to reduce our response readiness.

**Generator:**

The generator needs upkeep. Discussion on replacing vs repairing. City of Tangent backed out on donating funds for this project. Bids were received - \$80,000 to \$146,000. Will look at budgeting for future.

**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** – Low volunteer numbers showing up for training. Only 8-9 people at drills. Lebanon experiencing same lack of volunteers.

**Regional** – Training is slow for the fire season

**State** – Little to no training activity for the summer

**OR-EMS** – No Report

**National** – No Report

**HEALTH & SAFETY** –

**Safety Committee** – Is to meet Sept. 13<sup>th</sup> @ 1830 Hrs, Safety Meeting

**SCBA Grant Update** – Currently sitting and waiting for announcement. So far 11 Oregon Fire agencies have received grants as of August 31st.

**EQUIPMENT UPDATE** –

**Equipment** – All SCBA units are current with annual flow-testing.

**OTHER BUSINESS** –

**Insurance Services Organization Audit** – All documentation has been submitted.

**COMMUNITY OUTREACH** –

**Tangent Fire District Website** – staying active

**Tangent District Portal** – continues to be utilized as a volunteer resource for various purposes.

**Tangent Community Blood Drive & Food Drive** – Next Blood Drive is set for October 20th.

**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:**

- 3 staff meetings
- Agility Pre-Application Meeting
- One volunteer interview
- AFD/Selmet Tech Rescue
- MES Fire Equipment
- Vacation August 29<sup>th</sup> through September 5<sup>th</sup>.

**Fire Inspections-** Two driveway inspections. We have started the inspection process with Selmet. Working with APS on two of their paint rooms being brought up to code. Tiger lights and Subway have been inspected as well.

**Pub ED-** Volunteers graded the coloring contest pictures from national night out. The winners were Macie for 3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> and Blake for K-2<sup>nd</sup>.

**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-** The back grassy area has been replaced with river rock and the new picnic table is in place. The student rooms A & B have been painted. The EMS/prevention room was cleaned out and reorganized.

**Volunteers-** We are in the process of bringing three volunteers on. One is in the background phase, one is in the UA/Physical stage, and the other is getting the last of the paperwork needed. I worked with NODINX of shirt orders and getting the designs right. I am continuing to work with them to find a suitable sweatshirt.

**Activity Report:** Total YTD calls are 271 as of the month of August. This is a 17-call increase from 2021, 73 increase from 2020, increase 30 from 2019 and up 9 calls from last month. September already has 31 calls.

IV. **OLD BUSINESS:**

V. **NEW BUSINESS:**

**A. Commercial Industrial Inspections – Contracting with Lebanon Fire – Stearns**  
Tangent has 175 businesses. Discussion regarding Diego Ramirez for a future part-time position. Cost would be about \$45,000. Two days a week, 10-hour days. A need has been identified and he is familiar with our district, since he is a volunteer for Tangent. This would be helpful for businesses like Selmet. Would be able to identify companies that need yearly, two or year inspections and with preplans and public education. Discussion if costs could be recouped with fees, etc.

**GOOD OF THE ORDER:**

- A. Meet & Greet – September 20, 2022 – 6:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.**
- B. Evaluation of Candidate for Fire Chief Position – September 21, 2022 – 8:00 a.m.**
- C. Board Meeting – October 12, 2022 - 7:00 p.m.**
- D. OFDDA – 2022 Oregon Fire Service Conference- November 2-5, 2022 (Hotels have been reserved)**

Vice-President Strombeck adjourned the meeting at 7:48 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Scott Richards.  
Secretary - Board of Directors

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APPROVED BY:



Paul Strombeck, Vice-President - Board of Directors

10-11-2022

Date