

**Tangent Rural Fire District
Board of Directors Meeting
Minutes
July 14, 2021**

Board Members Present: John Dunn, Paul Strombeck, Chris Meyer, Scott Richards
Board Members Absent: Bruce Riley
Staff Present: AC Vonasek, ATO Hunt, OA Conrad, Retiring OA Duckworth
Staff Absent: Chief Wooldridge, BC Chapin,
Others Absent: Volunteer Assn. President Walters

Chair Dunn called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

I. ELECTION OF BOARD OFFICERS FOR 2021-22

Action: Meyer nominated John Dunn for Chair, Paul Strombeck for Vice-Chair, and Scott Richards for Secretary. Strombeck seconded nominations and upon vote, the entire slate of officers was elected unanimously 4-0 (Riley was absent)

II. APPROVAL OF:

Minutes – Regular Board Meeting – June 9, 2021

Action: Meyer moved to approve the minutes of June 9, 2021, as presented. Richards seconded the motion. Upon vote, it passed 4-0 (Riley was absent)

Financial Report – June 2021 – Conrad reported that the District ended the fiscal year financially well. Cash carryover was approximately \$124,900 over the projected \$502,000 in the 2021-22 budget. The increase is due to receiving higher amount of tax revenue than projected, conflag revenue, and unexpended budgeted expenses. Specific line items overages from projected budget were: #2024: Staff Health Insurance, due to setting up the new MERP account (\$5,000.00), and #4001: “Building, Ground & Additions, for the new well (\$6,786.00).

Action: Richards moved to approve the June financial report as submitted. Strombeck seconded the motion and it passed 4-0 (Riley was absent).

III. STANDING REPORTS:

Volunteers Association – Assn. President Walters was not present at the meeting but had forwarded to staff that the Assn. met on July 13 and has started the process of planning the Pancake Breakfast for this fall. The Assn. will be talking with Albany Fire regarding being a stop on their Scavenger Hunt this year as they have in years past.

Fire Chief's Report – (The following is the Chief's written report in his absence.)

- **COVID-19:** As of June 30, we have resumed most operations as they were prior to the COVID-19 restrictions. We will still maintain our temperature charting as indicated by SDAO and OSHA.
- **Officer Training:** We will be starting a training process that will closely follow 'Blue Card', which is a means of running an incident from an IC perspective. This will gain some common terminology with some of our mutual aid partners and create a more uniform approach for a Tangent Fire IC perspective. Capt. Hunt and I have been going over information that he has prepared, and we hope to start rolling that out soon.
- **Linn County Radio System:** The project is 99.9% certain, but it has not been stamped as an official project. We are hoping and believing that the project will be funded and continue forward.
- **Prepping for Fire Season:** Fire season is here, and we have sent resources to The Dalles for the Wrentham Market Conflagration. The crews finished with the fire on Sunday the 4th and have been assigned to The Dalles area as a preposition for the 4th of July celebrations. Currently, as of July 4, the Linn Co. crews are handling all the calls for The Dalles as they are helping their mutual aid partners in Washington. Great experience and proud to help the state wherever we can.
- **Staff:** Very proud of the extra work staff has been putting in lately. Karen and Denny have been working hard on getting up to speed for Denny and both on getting prepped for audit and input of new year. Cary and Chuck have been putting in extra hours responding to calls and doing the "extra" things that will make this fire district successful. Thanks to all of them.
- **Upcoming Events:**
 - July 4 Independence Day
 - July 5 Independence Day Observed

Asst. Chief/Training Officer's Report – (The following is the Asst. Chief's written report as well as additional comments made at the meeting.)

- **FIRE & EMS TRAINING** –
 - **In-House** – Regular in-house training over next few months.
 - Life Flight helicopter landed at City Hall and District EMTs ran through some scenarios with Life Flight staff allowing our EMS personnel to work around rotary blade aircraft and patient loading.
 - Training has slowly been picking back up, but now with fires locally and regionally, training will be slow again.
 - OSHA has added a temporary rule for Heat Illness Prevention which must be started by August 1. Last night following the Volunteer Association meeting, I put together some information for the volunteers to start the training. I will create an operational guideline to explain how we will implement the Heat Illness Prevention training. It addresses cold temperatures as well.
 - **Regional** – Chief Stanton Cooke from Spokane Fire came and spoke to local departments on Critical Thinking for the Initial Incident Commander.
 - I will be remaining as district liaison officer to DPSST for our region.

- **State** – No report.
- **OR-EMS** – No report.
- **National** – The National Fire Academy has opened for applications for classes.
- **HEALTH & SAFETY** –
 - **Safety Committee** – The Safety Committee held a regular monthly meeting, and minutes are posted.
 - **Policies** – Updated new COVID procedures for District specific policies.
 - **Respiratory Protection** -
 - **SCBA Update** – Looking for grant writers, currently looking at two.
- **EQUIPMENT UPDATE** –
 - **Equipment** – Bunker Gear – New turnouts have been ordered for a few people while the current gear is checked and inspected to NFPA 1971 standards.
- **COMMUNITY OUTREACH** –
 - **Tangent Fire District Website** – Is holding its own very well.
 - **Tangent Community Blood Drive** - Next Red Cross Blood Drive is October 14, 2021. Encouraged the NW Blood Drive Coordinator to add a fourth blood drive. The coordinator was pleased we were willing to add another drive. Quarterly blood drives will now be held at the station. The sign up for our blood drives is popular and are usually filled up by the second or third week.
- Dunn inquired if the TRFPD had been asked about utilizing the station as a Cooling Center for the elderly in our community; Vonasek reported, that no one has asked. We will check with the Chief. This could be a nice community outreach to offer our air-conditioned classroom to the elderly who need a Cooling Center. Benton County has gone out to Philomath, Monroe, Kings Valley and other rural departments looking for cooling centers.

Staff Battalion Chief's Report – (No report from the Staff Battalion Chief; he was deployed on a conflag.)

Activity Report – 165 calls through June 2021, twenty-eight more than last year currently. June was busy and July is as well. We are at about two calls a day. Need to update regarding the volunteers: There are three volunteers who have resigned for various reasons: Jacob Mowery, Steve Sonne and Becki Vonasek.

Meyer inquired how the tenders worked at the baler fire. Vonasek reported they did okay. Halsey responded quickly with their tenders. T73 was not used in mobile attack mode but supplied water to the pumper for the tractor on fire. Brownsville had two tenders on scene when T71 arrived. In total, seven tenders were on site. T71 was not use. After returning to the station, radiators were checked, very minimal amounts of chaff and straw were found. Encouraging the drivers not to use the a/c in the trucks.

Richards inquired how the new well was working: Vonasek reported it is working well, with the tank filling up fast. Riteway Electrical added a LED light to the tank to see the hydrant. It was a safety concern.

IV. **OLD BUSINESS**: None

V. NEW BUSINESS:

Volunteer Hours and Participation (Discussion Only) – Staff – Vonasek reported, he and the Chief had not discussed this much prior to the chief’s deployment on the conflags. Some volunteers have well over 100 hours, while we ask for at least 24; others are attending drills but not responding to district calls. This is not an uncommon issue for volunteer organizations. It takes about 3 years for the volunteer to have the necessary training to build up to a level of competency of a self-acting & self-sufficient firefighter to work as part of the team. Prior thought was if the volunteer was with the District for 3 years, it was good. Discussion was tabled and will be revisited at the next meeting.

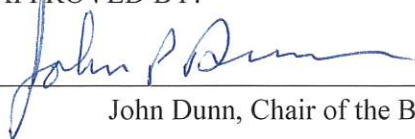
GOOD OF THE ORDER:

- Next Regular Board Mtg. – August 11, 2021 – 7:00 p.m.
- Annual District Audit – July 27-28, 2021
- Dunn recalled a discussion for community service last year to replace the flagpole, which would allow space to add another flag, with names of Volunteers who had 10 years of service with the District. Donations have been given for this purpose. Discussion was tabled and will be revisited at the next meeting.

Chair Dunn adjourned the meeting at 7:35 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Denny Conrad.
Office Administrator

APPROVED BY:



John Dunn, Chair of the Board

8-11-2021

Date