

**JOSEPHINE COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION  
COMMITTEE**

*January 28, 2020  
5:30 p.m.  
Community Corrections  
510 NW 4<sup>th</sup> Street  
Grants Pass, OR 97526*

**MINUTES**

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<b>Present:</b>	Scott Blower, Charlie Chase, Bryan Hawkins, Mike Jones, Vivian Kirkpatrick-Pilger, Janet Lancaster (via phone), Harry Mackin, Dave Matthews, John Maupin, Rick McClintock, Richard Wharton, Jeffery Wolf (via phone), Dorothy Yetter, Austin Prince – Rural Metro, Tyler McCarty – Oregon Department of Forestry, Lily Morgan – Commissioner, Annette Sorensen – Staff, Sara Rubrecht - Staff
<b>Absent:</b>	Dan Trader – County Fire, Mariana Ruiz-Temple – Oregon State Fire Marshal, Mike McLaughlin – Fire Defense Board Chief
<b>Public Attendees:</b>	Sue Densmore, Rich Holloway
<b>Recorder</b>	Annette Sorensen

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**1. Opening**

Chairman Wharton called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

Chair Wharton introduced Tyler McCarty from Oregon Department of Forestry who is filing in and welcomed Austin Prince back.

**2. Review / Approval of Minutes from 01/21/2020**

Scott Blower made a motion to approve the minutes as written, Rick McClintock seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**3. BCC Liaison Report**

Commissioner Morgan notified the group that the RFQ will go before the Board on Thursday, January 30, 2020 in the Board of Commissioners Conference Room. It may go to the Weekly Business Session on February 5, 2020. Please be aware that some of the deadline dates may not be exact.

Legal Counsel presented a memo the Board of Commissioners about options that they have approved to pass on to the group as well as samples that go with those options. His memo was handed out to the group. You may already have those samples in the previous packets received. Potentially, this packet can be handed to the contractor.

Commissioner Morgan informed the group that LC 83 is now Senate Bill 1536 and the group should pay close attention to this, as it will have an impact on us locally regarding fire and safety.

Commissioner Morgan mentioned that the Chair and Vice Chair could present a status update to the Board of Commissioners. They could then present the SWOT subcommittee, once the SWOT is completed.

**4. Subcommittee Reports**

**a. Final Draft on SWOT**

Bryan Hawkins is continuing to work on the SWOT and will see it shortly when it is completed.

## **b. Committee's Role in the Future**

Chair Wharton mentioned to the group that if there are other items they would like to continue working on they will need to decide what they are and prioritize them.

Sara Rubrecht suggested a future meeting to have Steve Nelson with Rural Metro and Brett Fillis, retired from Applegate who were responsible for creating the district boundaries. They have offered to explain the district boundaries to the group. Sara will follow up with availability.

Dorothy offered clarification that the committee will be involved until the consultant has completed their work (feasibility study) and submits it to the Commissioners.

Commissioner Morgan was able to speak to Senator Baertschiger. He is going to pursue funding streams to pay for startup costs and is looking at two options.

## **5. New Business**

### **a. Station Tour**

Chair Wharton confirmed with everyone that the station tour will be at Rural Metro next week. Rich Holloway said they can make it happen when, where and for how long the group would like to meet. Austin Prince suggested that the group meet at the Williams Highway station. The group agreed to meet at that location during normal meeting hours at 5:30. Chair Wharton suggested that the group meet at the fire station next week and the boundaries presentation will be on the 2/11/20.

### **b. Future Meeting Locations**

Chair Wharton asked the group to give some thought to their schedules and provide a definitive answer to how often the group would like to continue meeting.

Chair Wharton stated the group agreed to planning three weeks out at a time and revisiting it each week about the need for additional meetings.

## **6. Ex Officio Member Update**

Rich Holloway asked the group if there are any specific topics that the group would like explained while on the tour. John Maupin asked for an explanation on how they manage their part-time, reserve fire fighter pool. As well as how they fit in with ODF with wildland fire and dispatch block. Rick McClintock said it would be helpful to show the rescue trailer or some of the rescue or water stuff that is at that station. As well as the safety gear and roles. Vivian asked about how many people go out for a call.

## **7. Comments from Committee Members:**

Chair Wharton displayed reports of the 1981 version of the Wildland Fire Taskforce on rural fires. Another reports he had was Protecting Residence from Wildfires in the Josephine and Oregon Area and Protecting Residents from Wildfire, The Guide for Home Owners, Lawmakers and Planners. The phraseology may be different but virtually everything else is similar. This is a reminder that if we want action on wildland fire safety changes it will have to come from the public.

## **8. Other Business:**

None mentioned

## **Workshop**

The group discussed the options that are available to the Board of Commissioners and the public as far as their options.

### **The Board of Commissioners Options**

- Status Quo
- Zone 2
- Franchise
- Contract
- Form a Fire District
- Annexation

### **Voter's Authorized**

- Rural Fire District Created.

**Meeting adjourned 7:22 p.m.**