

**JOSEPHINE COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION
COMMITTEE**

May 6, 2020

3:00 p.m.

Zoom Meeting

MINUTES

Present:	Scott Blower, Charlie Chase, Bryan Hawkins, Janet Lancaster, Dave Mathews, John Maupin, Rick McClintock, Richard Wharton, Dorothy Yetter, Austin Prince – Rural Metro Fire, Jason Folkstad, County Fire, Mike McLaughlin – Fire Defense Board Chief, Commissioner Darin Fowler – Liaison, Annette Sorensen - Staff
Absent:	Mike Jones, Vivian Kirkpatrick-Pilger, Harry Mackin, Jeff Wolf, Mariana Ruiz-Temple, Oregon State Fire Marshal, Dave Larson – ODF, Sara Rubrecht - Staff
Public Attendees:	Sue Densmore
Recorder	Annette Sorensen

1. Call to Order

Chair Wharton called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.

2. Roll Call

Roll call taken by Annette Sorensen

**3. Review and Proposed Adoption of Standards for Fire Protection
(portions of this section were inaudible)**

Dave Mathews provided an overview of the changes to the Standards document. Changes noted in red came from the subcommittee, including Dave and the changes in blue came from a coalition of Rural Dave proceeded to go through the additions/revisions with additional discussions:

- Section 4.A. 1. – All Hazzard, he left technical rescue for further discussion.
- Charlie suggested 7.B. mention EMS as referred to by 7.L. Dave agreed that it should be added to 7.B.
- Charlie suggested that the effective date in Section 14 be changed from 2016 to appropriate date.
- Mike McLaughlin also suggested that the old document name in the footer needs to be revised as well.
- Austin Prince wanted to provide clarify the definition that EMS is already included in definition of all hazard. In 7.B. it's up to the provider to define what levels of service are being given through all hazard. He feels that 7.L. has all the necessary elements tying everything together. He also said that his department is good with the impact of the standards being presented.

Jason Folkstad thanked the subcommittee for their work on this and stated that there are some items that they will need to live up to. He personally likes the way it's drawn up but understands that they (County Fire) have some work to do. If the committee decided to adopt this, he would ask to be given a timeline to reach the standards. Chair Wharton expressed that the timeframe to implement would be the decision of the BCC. The County Fire Chief would have to review these documents and have another opportunity for input. Chair Wharton would like the committee to get this accomplished for groundwork and framework for the future.

Scott Blower made a motion to *Accept the ordinance draft with minor clerical needed changes and move to the BCC hands as the proposed ordinance for the County.* Rick McClintock seconded the motion.

Discussion: Scott Blower said the thinks this ordinance will make a huge step forward for the County in leveling the field and sets the professional standard of what and how to operate in this county for any other company that wants to come in.

The motion passed unanimously.

Scott thanked everyone who worked on this.

4. Discussion of Board of Commissioners Administrative Workshop Meeting on Wed. 04/29/20

Chair Wharton reminded everyone that at the Board Administrative Workshop on 4/29/20, the Board discussed the committee's recommendation of approval of the consultant that submitted an RFQ. The Board will be referring it to Legal Counsel to start working on a document that could be used as a contract. They also discussed that the timeline would probably not make it to the November ballot but if they chose to put on the ballot, it they would like put it on the next ballot, probably the following May.

Annette answered Janet's question that \$50,000 was budgeted for the consultant. Janet asked about the possibility of the consultant costing more. Richard answered that the BCC has the ability to move money within accounts and departments, but the BCC has to wait and see what the consultant is proposing.

Janet discussed misinformation about a structural fire protection and wildfire protection not being related and the committee asking to form a structural fire district. Chair Wharton confirmed that this committee has been discussing a full-service, all hazard department. Janet also shared her disappointment that they BCC is deciding to go against the recommendation of the committee's motion.

5. Matters from Committee Members

- **Discussion Advisory Ballot Vote**

Janet Lancaster made a motion; *Does the committee believe that a fire district should be formed for the unprotected areas of Josephine County.* Dorothy seconded the motion.

Comments: Charlie asked if this process shouldn't be put to the voters and asking what election date Janet is referring to. Janet responded all of the elections, however many it takes.

Scott asked for clarification if Janet is asking if the committee voted in favor of that advisory question. Janet said she wants to know where the committee members stand on the County starting a fire protection district.

John said he thinks the question Janet is asking is if they support measure 17-89, which says should Josephine County begin the process to form a rural fire protection district in the unprotected areas in Josephine County.

Janet offered to revise her motion; Dorothy withdrew her second.

Chair Wharton shared that he supports a County-wide solution for the fire protection problem in Josephine County, but he wasn't given any other option. The form is based on how much money they have and how it's implemented. Dave agreed with that as well.

Austin wanted to clarify that the County-wide only refers to the unprotected areas. Chair clarified said he would like a County-wide solution, it may not include existing public service agencies but there may be at least one that may want to be part of the new entity.

Charlie shared that this committee endorsing the BCC to take on standards is a huge start. Charlie supports the BCC in getting public input. He supports Richard's input on a County-wide solution. He wanted to remind everyone that having the support of the BCC is major. Previous attempts did not include BCC participation and were very hard.

John reminded everyone that until a fire district is formed you cannot employ other options. When you start a district, you elect a fire board. The fire board determines how services are provided.

Commissioner Fowler read the ballot measure 17-89 and explanatory statement.

Janet explained that a fire district is a very specific thing.

Dorothy suggested that the group work on the alternatives. She mentioned that there are a few members that have missed a few meetings. Chair Wharton said that the County has a policy about meeting attendance and it's up to the BCC. The policy is three missed meetings, but the last three meetings have been technology meetings. Chair Wharton will contact those members that have missed and report back at the next meeting. He suggested we get the handout from Janet and direction from the BCC about alternatives.

As an example of the value of auto aid, John Maupin shared that in Tuesday's issue of the Daily Courier there were 12 auto aids.

6. Ex Officio Member Update

Jason commented that he was not here when ballot measure 17-89 came to the voters, but he would have voted yes.

7. BCC Liaison Report

Commissioner Fowler shared that he and Annette are working getting information from the City of GP to get the Urban Growth Boundaries and Service and Annexation Agreements.

After that he'd like to have the BCC presentation on what the consultant can cover and what it would cost for this advisory board to consider.

He appreciates the committee sticking with it and appreciates that Standards documents that was worked on tonight.

He also mentioned that there should be grace when asking County fire coming into compliance.

Commissioner Fowler will ask the BCC what they would like the committee to work on for now.

Chair Wharton suggested having a tentative meeting next week, Wednesday, May 13, 2020 at 3:00 on Zoom to discuss alternatives. He will talk to Janet about the alternatives document before it will be sent out.

Dorothy moved to adjourned, Scott seconded; Meeting adjourned at 4:35 p.m.