

MINUTES

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

1. Call to Order

Chair Wharton called the meeting to order at 3:05 p.m.

2. Roll Call

Roll call taken by Annette Sorensen

3. Approval of Minutes from 4/14/20

Charlie Chase made a motion to accept the minutes as written from 4/14/20, Dorothy seconded the motion. Roll call vote taken; minutes approved as written by all.

4. Board's Authorization of County Fire Position

Jason Folkstad is the new representative for County Fire. He shared his background and experience with the group. He welcomed anyone to come down to his station if they'd like to talk to him more in depth.

5. Review, Discuss Potential Changes, Possible Adoption of Subject Matter in Proposed County Ordinance in 2016-007 Standards

Dave Mathews stated that he, John Maupin and Mike McLaughlin worked on this document and explained that not working in the same room made this a difficult process. This document has not been completed yet and is still in draft form and is for review and suggestion. Austin Price has a second document that has valuable information that they would like to incorporate. Charlie Chase commented on section 7. f. regarding background check and asked if it should be more specific or if there is an industry standard or be more specific. He also mentioned section I. and asked if there was a minimum of EMS or EMT level because it specifically doesn't say what it should be. Dave answered that most business perform a background and if more specific information is needed, it can be added. Under I., Emergency Medical Incidents, EMR and EMT can be listed if it was felt that it would be the minimum standard. Chair Wharton suggested that this should be as broad as possible to give the BCC the option to determine what is appropriate at the time it is implemented. Jeff Wolf agreed that I. is inadequate. John Maupin suggested that the intent on this draft was to include a provision for a fire board to oversee and it was inadvertently left out. The revision to this document will probably include that requirement. This subcommittee will provide the revisions to Annette schedule this for review and or adoption at our next meeting.

Dave shared the second draft document titled DRAFT and TO BE DETERMINED prepared by Austin Prince. This is a supplementary document to what the subcommittee was working on. There are good parts that should probably be incorporated into the Ordinance, such as Section 8 which he thinks should be referenced in the Ordinance. He thinks the bulk of this information should go into a rule as opposed to the

Ordinance. Charlie Chase asked about the response times noted in the document. Austin said the response times are a proven number based on an expected standard. Chair Wharton clarified that this is a work document or template for the future. Dave said that they use Ordinance 2016-007 as the template and have been making revisions and modifications to that document. The document that Austin provided is great information and they would like to add some of that into the first document. Chair Wharton clarified that there are some items that could be included in the first document, but basically the second document is a work document for information and consideration for future use. Jeff Wolf commented that the second document clearly is moving forward from the first and has improvements. Neither documents require any standards or does anything to address that subscribers subsidize non-subscribers and views that as a problem. Chair Wharton summarized that the second document titled DRAFT needs no disposition at this time, the subcommittee will pull pertinent pieces information for the first document and the second document will be reviewed and worked on as information for the BCC in the future.

6. Discussion of Proposed County Timeline for November 2020 Ballot

Chair Wharton introduced the topic of the timeline if a district formation was put on the ballot. He pointed out that the timeframe is extremely tight if anything was to be put on the November ballot. Charlie Chase suggested that the group meet more often if there is a need. Chair Wharton reminded that the Board has not taken the position that a district is the only option.

Commissioner Fowler let the group know that the Board of Commissioners will be considering the group's motion and recommendation for a contractor at the 10:00 Admin. meeting tomorrow. Commissioner Fowler suggested that if we start right away with the award to the contractor, we can ask the contractor if they what their view is about timeline for the ballot and if they are ready to put on a ballot. He suggested we need engage with the contractor before setting timelines. Commissioner Fowler said that if we did not make the November ballot, we could put in on the next May ballot. He has concerns about other items that may be on the ballot.

John Maupin asked about who will do the feasibility study. Commissioner Fowler answered that we need to choose a delivery method first. Charlie said that based on the work that the committee has done, they could put this on the ballot. Commissioner Fowler reminded that the BCC is waiting the hear the consultant's recommendation looking at all options.

Janet voiced her concern and frustration about direction the group has been given and the possibility of a district not being put on the November ballot. She added that there is an existing feasibility study that can be used. Commissioner responded that the BCC will be discussing it tomorrow and he's willing to have further discussion with individuals after the meeting if they would like to contact him.

Scott Wolf commented that it was unfair to blame the BCC for not having this ready for the Fall ballot. The Committee spent quite a bit of time on the SWOT. He thinks trying to get something ready for the November ballot will be rushed and incomplete and the voters will see that. He also reminded that the we will be paralleling the City's similar measure which could cause the City and County to both fail. He is also concerned about today's economic climate due to the pandemic.

Commissioner Fowler answered John Maupin's questions that the County does not have the budget to pay the consultant up or over to \$450,000 to look at alternatives.

Dorothy reviewed that the group was working on and RFP at the same time as the SWOT. They were then directed to change the RFP to an RFQ by Legal Counsel. The group voted two weeks ago for the consultant to do a feasibility targeting the November ballot and not alternatives. The group also recommended a cap for consultant fees.

Commissioner Fowler confirmed that this timeline is very closely transferable to the May 2021 ballot.

7. Committees Next Role

The group would like to start meeting weekly. Commissioner Fowler recommended meeting next week because the BCC will be meeting and taking action tomorrow. He would like to wait for further meetings because they may have to wait for the consultant to do something. The group agreed to meet next Wednesday, May 6th at 3:00.

Chair Wharton suggested that the group wait to discuss at the next meeting as the BCC will be discussing this at tomorrow's meeting.

8. Ex Officio Member Update

Austin Prince has been working in the COVID-19 Command Center, which he is very proud to have been a part of but has returned to his normal job. He is now preparing for fire season.

Rick McClintock reminded everyone to clean up around their property, stop burning, be safe and keep social distancing.

Sara Rubrecht shared that they have moved out of Grants Pass High School. Public Health staff have returned to their office and Emergency Management has moved back to the Emergency Operation Center. Logistics, Economic Recovery and half of Public Information are also at the EOC. They are working on plans for re-opening the community, preparing for fire season and evacuations, fire camp and sheltering in light of COVID.

9. Committee Member Update

Dave Larson welcomed Jason Folkstad to the group.

Charlie also welcomed Jason and asked if he could provide the information that was previously requested from the previous County Fire representative. He said he will work with Annette to get that information. Jason gave a summary of his engineer and fire training and experience.

John Maupin shared information for Commissioner Fowler's benefit. He shared the need and reasons for having a fire district and mutual aid and auto aid. Such as Merlin being identified as the most at risk for a wildfire, in the State which is classified as unprotected because there is not a fire district. He also mentioned that there are no other areas with similar population size that do not have an RFPD. This also prohibits accessing surplus equipment, grants or utilize the 1.5 million that has been designated to assist in the formation of a fire district. This will also cause the Rural Metro customers to continue to subsidize RM's services, customer rates cannot be lowered, and response time cannot be improved.

10. BCC Liaison Report

Commissioner Fowler acknowledges that he does feel the urgency for a fire district.

Commissioner Fowler asked the group about those committee members that did not vote for the motion regarding recommending the Public Consulting Group to the BCC. Dorothy clarified that per Roberts Rules, the only way to bring up for a revote is for those that voted to approve it. She would object because it requires being part of the discussion. Commissioner Fowler understands but was concerned that it was not a majority of the committee that voted to approve the motion. Chair Wharton asked if any of the six members of the committee that voted to approve the motion wanted to vote to reconsider. There were not that wanted to reconsider.

Next Meeting: May 6, 2020 at 3:00

Rick made a motion to adjourn., Scott seconded the motion. All approved, meeting adjourned:4:26 p.m.