

**JOSEPHINE COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION
COMMITTEE**

August 6, 2020

3:00 p.m.

Zoom

MINUTES

Present:	Charlie Chase, Janet Lancaster, Dave Mathews, John Maupin, Rick McClintock, Richard Wharton, Dorothy Yetter, Austin Prince – Rural Metro, Mike McLaughlin – Fire Defense Board Chief, Commissioner Fowler – Liaison Sara Rubrecht – Staff, Annette Sorensen – Staff, Angelique Stewart – Grant Writer
Absent:	Bryan Hawkins, Jeff Wolf, Jason Folkstad – County Fire, Mike Shaw – Oregon State Fire Marshal, Dave Larson - ODF
Public Attendees:	Sue Densmore
Recorder	Annette Sorensen

1. Call to Order

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

2. Roll Call

Roll call taken by Annette Sorensen

Chair Wharton informed the group that committee member, Harry Mackin passed away last week. Annette informed the group that his service will be August 7, 2020 at Hillcrest Cemetery.

Annette introduced Angelique Stewart the county's grant writer. She will be assisting with the narrative letter to the State regarding the 1.5 million dollar grant received.

3. Approval of Minutes from 07/30/20

Dave Mathews made a motion to approve the minutes, Charlie Chase seconded the motion.

No discussion or comments received from the committee.

Roll call taken on approval of the minutes.

Approved – Charlie Chase, Janet Lancaster, Dave Mathews, John Maupin, Richard Wharton, Dorothy Yetter.

Abstained – Rick McClintock

4. Status Update

a. Funding availability for the advisory measure

Annette informed the group that Wally Hicks with Legal Counsel was given authorization from the State to use the 1.5 million dollar grant for the consultant's fees and the mailing costs. Janet Lancaster would like documentation or information on who gave Wally permission to use it for those purposes.

Note: Wally received notification from Legislative Financial Officer Ken Rocco that using the grant to determine whether a fire district is the best option for this county is a proper use of the funds.

b. Update of availability of mailing list from previous ballot question

Annette received a list of registered voters in the faux fire district area as a starting point for sending out the mailer.

(At 3:08:44 Charlie Chase began asking a question, at that time Zoom froze all other participants on my connection and did not return to active meeting until 3:09:07. I was unable to hear the question presented) In response to Charlie's question, Commissioner Fowler said that anything we were able to put in a tax bill or ballot was too late to be useful for the ask for the May ballot.

The consultants are going to recommend the number of mailings to send out for statistically significant results. For clarification, the list was over 26,000 registered voters in the area of unprotection. Dorothy mentioned that there is a way to remove duplicates. Charlie Chase and Janet Lancaster both agree that we should follow the advice of the consultants on the sampling size.

c. **Public Consulting Group questions and commentary**

Chair Wharton introduced the questions and commentary that the consultants have created for the mailing. The committee reviewed the questions. Sara Rubrecht brought up a question about question #1 and again offered to create a survey 123, an online survey if desired by the consultant. Charley Hurley is interested in Sara's offer for a survey.

Discussion ensued about question #1 regarding community. Sara will review the list and work to Charley Hurley with PCG for suggestions and modifications and the website survey.

Austin asked what area the group is trying to focus on. Chair Wharton answered those areas in the county that are not served by some type of fire protection service. Austin commented that some of those properties may have chosen not to be in a district. Charley Hurley said the people that need to be included are Rural Metro customers, County Fire customers and anyone in the county that does not currently have fire protection. Austin discussed that there may be some residents that are closer to other existing fire districts but are excluded due to the boundary lines or are unaware of what we are doing and may not be able to give feedback. Chair Wharton clarified that we are looking at customers that could be served by a new entity, those with no service, have Rural Metro or County Fire. The new entity may elect the level of service, the contract with a provider close, have mutual and auto aid. Janet added that she asked how the County created the list of residents to send the ballot question out to. She was told they subtract out those that are in a fire district and the remainder received the ballot. She added there should be a column in the list of locations so people can enter their location if not listed and it will help us understand their views. Charley Hurley offered to reach out to a source that can help with statistical analysis. He will find out what size of sampling they need for an accurate reflection of that type of demographic.

Reviewing question 3 Sara asked if the list from the Clerk is of homeowners. Chair Wharton clarified the list is of voters registered. Sara asked if we would want to ask homeowners who are renting the property. Janet added that we can get that information by sorting the data we receive. Chair Wharton explained that the renter has more input in when voting than the property owner if the owner does not live in the district.

Sara suggested adding "unsure" to question 5.

Dorothy suggested that question 6 reflect those in the "unsure" group.

Charlie Chase suggested adding "unknown" to question 8.

Discussion ensued about question 9. Sara suggested adding AMR since "All Hazards Emergency is noted".

It was suggested to add a rate scale on question 10.

Sara suggested a change of wording in question 11.

Charley Hurley explained the background behind creating the information sheet. He will condense it down to make it easy for the public to read and understand. Chair Wharton asked the group to submit their thoughts on this document to send to Charley or Annette.

d. **Special Districts – Janet Lancaster**

Janet gave an update that any rural fire protection district formed in the State of Oregon must be governed by a 5-person elected board, regardless of how it is formed.

Janet exited the meeting at 4:04.

5. Review and Adoption of Alternative Options

Charlie Chase made a motion that they adopt the Alternative Options as written. Rick McClintock seconded the motion.

Discussion: Reviewing page one, Mike McLaughlin said that it states that the “services to be delivered determined by the voters”. A rural fire protection district is only required to provide fire protection under the Oregon Revised Statutes. Their board has chosen to respond to other medical calls and MVC’s. The way it is worded, the voters could come to meetings and encourage the board to have their fire district respond to those issues. It may not be prudent to have the voters to tell the fire board what they expect. Dorothy responded that she recalls the voters are going to be voting on the description on the ballot. The service to be delivered will be as documented on the ballot. Chair Wharton had the same recollection.

Annette took a roll call vote:

Yes: Charlie Chase, Dave Mathews, John Maupin, Rick McClintock, Richard Wharton, Dorothy Yetter. The adoption of the Alternative Options as written passed unanimously.

Commissioner Fowler suggested that a motion be presented to forward this document to the Board of Commissioners.

Charlie Chase made a motion to forward the Alternative Options to the Board of Commissioners for their review and inclusion. Dorothy seconded the motion.

No discussion

Yes: Charlie Chase, Dave Mathews, John Maupin, Rick McClintock, Richard Wharton, Dorothy Yetter. The motion to forward the Alternative Options to the Board of Commissioners for their review and inclusion passed unanimously.

Austin Prince exited the meeting at 4:21

6. Matters from Committee Members

Charley Hurley did not see any reason to get together in the next few weeks. He mentioned they would like to share the results of the survey with the committee but that may not require a meeting. They are finishing up their interviews at this time.

The next meeting will be Thursday August 27, 2020 at 3:00 on Zoom.

7. Ex Officio Member Update

Mike McLaughlin apologized to the committee for his lack of participation the last couple of months, but he has returned and is engaged. He will reach out to the consultants Charley Hurley and Ken Riddle.

8. BCC Liaison Report

Commissioner Fowler is happy with the collaboration between the committee and the consultants. All of the pre-work the committee completed has helped the consultants. He feels can present the options to the public in a way that was thoroughly vetted, thought out and full of input from the community. Commissioner Fowler thanked the committee for their time on this committee and the time working with the consultant.

Meeting ended at 4:33 p.m.

Next Meeting will be August 27, 2020 at 3:00 on Zoom.