

MINUTES

Community Corrections

510 NW 4th Street, Grants Pass OR 97526

Present:	Scott Blower, Charlie Chase, Bryan Hawkins, Mike Jones, , Vivian Kirkpatrick-Pilger, Janet Lancaster, Harry Mackin, Dave Matthews, John Maupin, Rick McClintock, Richard Wharton, Jeff Wolf, Dorothy Yetter, Austin Prince – Rural Metro, Mike McLaughlin– Fire Defense Board Chief, Commissioner Darin Fowler – BCC Liaison, Sara Rubrecht – Staff, Annette Sorensen - Staff
Absent:	Mike Jones, Dan Trader, - County Fire, Mariana Ruiz-Temple – 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 at 5:30 p.m.

2. Review / Approval of Minutes from 02/18/20

Scott Blower made a motion to approve the minutes from 2/18/20, Harry Mackin seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

3. BCC Liaison Report

Commissioner Fowler reported that the Commissioners decided at a workshop meeting that he would step in as liaison to the committee due to availability and distribution of workload. Commissioner Fowler stated he would prefer to be at the end of the agenda in the future. He also added that he is available for emails and discussions if anyone has concerns. He is looking forward to the group coming to a consensus and making a recommendation to the Board. His hope is that the committee will work with the consultant to come up with a product and recommendation.

**4. Subcommittee Report
Discussion on the SWOT**

Chair Wharton stated that since the SWOT was not attached to the agenda it cannot be adopted or voted on. The document is still be reviewed and revised and is not ready but will hopefully will be ready for the next meeting.

Mike Jones shared his surprise with the beginning of the meeting last week and his view of the process and the SWOT.

Chair Wharton clarified that a SWOT completed by a consultant will have opinions with a conclusion in it. This Committee’s task was not to develop a SWOT but to provide information for it. The information and opinions they had would come later.

Scott Blower and Vivian Kirkpatrick-Pilger said they agreed with what Mike said. Scott continued that if there is any pre-decisional appearance in the process, the voters will not approve it. Dave Matthews agreed with Scott and also agreed that there are some good parts in the SWOT and has parts that have been very well written and a good base to move forward.

Janet voiced her frustration in the response to the SWOT and having her content edited. Chair Wharton again thanked Janet for the report. She stated she would take her content out and the group can work

with what is left in. Chair Wharton said that is a separate discussion. Janet said that some of the document has been published and copyrighted before it went to the committee. Chair Wharton again said that is a separate discussion.

Dorothy Yetter added that they have not had a clear understanding or timetable on what they are supposed to produce. She suggested they move on to the four items noted in the Order. She also questions funding for a consultant.

Chair Wharton stated that they are looking for a timetable to election and questioning if November is the absolute trigger point. He understands the frustrations Dorothy shared. Chair Wharton said it would be worth going back to the original four items on the Order.

Charlie Chase suggested that they have covered the things they were supposed to do and move forward and serve as a resource.

Chair Wharton said he would work on editing the SWOT and bring it back to the group with changes to review and the make changes agreed upon by the group.

5. Old Business

Completion of items in Order 2019-048: Fire Protection Boundaries, Service Areas, Rates and Standards

Chair Wharton stated they did not finish boundaries. They did not take any consensus action asking the Board to make the changes and to create a new map.

Charlie Chase suggested that it be included in the RFQ and left to the consultant. The committee can be more of a resource on how to find the information if the needed.

Jeff Wolf stated that the point of finding the boundaries, tax rate, services, costs and rate is the definition of a feasibility study. The group spent times looking at alternatives. He stated there is a solution that the rest of Oregon uniformly likes which is to form a district, obtain stations, equipment, hire fire fighters and deliver services. He said he would like to take this feasibility study, have the committee adapt it, adopt it and submit it to the consultant.

Chair Wharton suggested that they complete the four items in the Order. He stated the feasibility study was not the charge of the committee. The chair stated they could request clarification of this committee's role of reviewing or drafting a feasibility study for the consultants use.

It was suggested that after all of the applications have been submitted and vetted by the County to make sure they meet the qualifications they will be sent to the group to review.

The group voted to ask the Board to allow them to do the feasibility study.

Yes votes – Dorothy Yetter, Rick McClintock, Harry Mackin, Jeff Wolf, Janet Lancaster, John Maupin, Bryan Hawkins, Dave Mathews and Scott Blower

No votes – Charlie Chase and Mike Jones.

Abstain – Vivian

The group unanimously agreed to ask the Board to request an updated map.

The group discussed working on service areas, rate and standards.

Chair Wharton suggested that this group provide some minimum standards that the Board might consider if they decided to provide fire protection.

Scott Blower mentioned that there are some items in the document that were moved forward by the group such as structural requirement, all hazard, MDA's. There is only one paragraph of standards covered.

Dave Mathews clarified that 911 has nothing to do with standards. There was a discussion on what 911's role is on standards and the consistency of standards.

Charlie suggested all fire department in this area need to adhere to the Rogue Valley Fire Chiefs Association Standards.

Rick McClintock suggested that this group provide standards for the County to adopt. That would provide safety for the employees and citizens.

Charlie Chase and Mike McLaughlin shared the history of the Rogue Valley Fire Chief's Association Standards and shared the importance of the auto aid, mutual aid agreements and standards.

Bryan Hawkins spoke about the two kinds of standards, compatibility standards and standards of quality service and striving for the highest standards.

Chair Wharton explained to the group that they should present the standards in a way the average person will understand.

Vivian Kirkpatrick-Pilger made a motion to put on the next agenda to adopt the standards that were presented on 12/10/19, the Josephine County Professional Fire Fighting Standards. Scott Blower seconded the motion.

Charlie Chase added that fire fighter standards have to do with things such as thread size, hose size, diameter and things of that nature. What was now introduced was service delivery level standards. He suggested that the new Fire Board decide the service level standards.

Sara Rubrecht let the group know that in 2015 the Rogue Valley Fire Chief's Level of Standards recommendation is on the website. The Commissioners never adopted this Ordinance.

Vivian Kirkpatrick-Pilger and Scott Blower withdrew their motion and second.

Chair Wharton asked Annette Sorensen to distribute copies of the Rogue Valley Fire Chief's Standards recommendation. This can be discussed at the next meeting and the group can decide what they want to suggest to the Board. These are also on the website.

Rick McClintock offered that he, Austin Prince, Charlie Chase and Mike Jones can clarify anything in the Standards next week.

Scott Blower reiterated the importance of having a standard for the safety of fire fighters and their families.

6. New Business

Because the group did not feel they had anything to report to the Board next week, they decided to cancel that meeting at this time. Dave Mathews made a motion to cancel the meeting; Vivian Pilcher-Kirkpatrick seconded the motion.

Scott Blower made the motion to meet in two weeks; Vivian Kirkpatrick-Pilger seconded the motion.

Discussion - Chair Wharton clarified that his understanding is that in two weeks everyone will have the Standards that were a proposed Ordinance but not adopted, for consideration. Rick McClintock will review the Standards document to see what wording can be used to simplify it for those that may

not be familiar with what standards are. Secondly, the SWOT will be presented for review page by page. Annette can provide statistical information for those that have submitted the RFQ's.

There was 1 opposed – Dave Mathews, all others approved.

7. Ex Officio Members Update

Austin Prince mentioned there was a fire today.

8. Comments from Committee Members

Answering John Maupin's question, Commissioner Fowler is not aware of another Commissioner's preference for a franchise option. Commissioner Fowler clarified that he is not steering the group towards a franchise and wants to see which option is the best for Josephine County.

Commissioner Fowler appreciates how knowledgeable and serious this group is taking their role.

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

Meeting adjourned at 7:23 p.m.