

# JOSEPHINE COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION COMMITTEE

November 12, 2019

5:30 p.m.

Community Corrections  
Marie Hill Conference Room

510 NW 4<sup>th</sup> Street  
Grants Pass, OR 97526

**Present:**

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Scott Blower, Bryan Hawkins, Michael Jones, Vivian Kirkpatrick-Pilger, Janet Lancaster, Harry Mackin, Dave Mathews, Rick McClintock, Richard Wharton, Dorothy Yetter, Austin Prince – Rural Metro, Dan Trader – County Fire, Mike McLaughlin – Fire Defense Board, Commissioner Morgan – BCC Liaison, Annette Sorensen – Staff, Sara Rubrecht - Staff

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**Absent:**

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Charlie Chase, John Maupin, Jeff Wolf, Dave Larson – ODF, Mariana Ruiz-Temple – Oregon State Fire Marshal

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**Public  
Attendees:**

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Jon Jordan, Sue Densmore, Michael Wetterauer, Shaun Hall – Daily Courier

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Commissioner Morgan welcomed everyone and asked if the group had an opportunity to review the minutes from the last meeting. She stated that the committee will be choosing a chair at the next meeting, giving everyone an opportunity to work together this meeting and think about who they would like to take on that role.

Nobody requested to review the minutes from the last meeting.

Commissioner Morgan revisited the discussion from the last meeting and defined the committee's role. She explained that the Order that was signed by the Board of Commissioners authorized a study and assessment of fire protection boundaries, service areas, rates and standards. Commissioner Morgan shared that the Board of Commissioners wants everything validated and verified through a consultant. The committee will decide the middle process. It has been requested that the committee hear all voices and look at all options to identify the minimum that will meet those concerns.

Public meeting law was reviewed and the committee was reminded to be cautious that they are not meeting/talking with other committee members including daisy chaining. Everything the committee does is open to the public, including emails and conversations. If the committee decides to have subcommittees, that creates a new quorum and those subcommittees fall under the public meeting laws as well and minutes or notes will need to be kept.

It was suggested that the committee members send questions that they have to Annette instead of asking other members or ex officio members directly. Annette will send them to the ex officio members. Vivian requested getting paper copies of all correspondence. It was suggested to have a question and answer period at the beginning of each meeting for ex officio members to answer and if there any questions that cannot be answered by the members present, we can invite other subject matter experts to come in and talk to the group.

There is historical information available from previous attempts at a countywide fire district and/or standards. Annette is working on a method of sharing this with everyone in a more

efficient manner. Currently, there are about 150 – 200 pages of documentation. Let Annette know if you would like to receive documents electronically or hard copies.

Discussion arose about previous attempts of fire districts and reasons they failed, such as failure to disclose all the information (rate of tax for new district) and lack of marketing.

Commissioner Morgan informed the committee that by law, any advisory committee members are not allowed to advocate, advertise or market. That has to be done by a political action committee. Elected officials are not restricted from campaigning. Once there is a ballot measure, members who wish to campaign, will have to leave the committee and join a political action committee.

Discussion was had about several different options moving forward with a Fire District vs. a taxing zone. There was also discussion about potential district boundaries and looking at the option of multiple districts.

### SWOT Analysis

Strengths	Weaknesses	Opportunities	Threats
Momentum for improvement	No tax base for money	Grant opportunities	
Existing fire service	No control over rate		
Having a choice	No control over services		
Private competition/companies	No control over sustainability		
Rogue Valley Fire Chief's Assn.	Not everyone is paying		
Jo. Co. Emergency Mgmt.	Communication from 911		
Jo. Co. 911 Agency			
Board support			
Mutual/Auto Aid – GP/ODF			
Lower taxes			

It was suggested that everyone send more ideas for the SWOT analysis to Annette. Those ideas will be brought back at the next meeting.

The group agreed to meet on three Tuesday's a month and the third Tuesday other options for either a day off or having a work session. There will not be meetings on 12/24/19 & 12/31/19. Annette will create a calendar of meetings for the committee.

The next meeting will be Tuesday 11/26/19 at 5:30 in the Marie Hill Conference Room at Community Corrections.