

JOSEPHINE COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION COMMITTEE

November 5, 2019

5:30 p.m.

Community Corrections
Marie Hill Conference Room

510 NW 4th Street
Grants Pass, OR 97526

| | |
|--------------------------|---|
| Present: | Scott Blower, Charlie Chase, Bryan Hawkins, Michael Jones, Vivian Kirkpatrick-Pilger, Janet Lancaster, Harry Mackin, Dave Mathews, John Maupin, Rick McClintock, Richard Wharton, Dorothy Yetter, Austin Prince – Rural Metro, Dave Larson – ODF, Mike McLaughlin – Fire Defense Board Chief, Mariana Ruiz-Temple – Oregon State Fire Marshal (via phone), Commissioner Morgan – BCC Liaison, Annette Sorensen – BCC Staff, Sara Rubrecht - Staff |
| Absent: | Jeff Wolf and Dan Trader – County Fire |
| Public Attendees: | Michael Wetterauer, Steve Nelson, Rich Holloway, Shaun Hall – Daily Courier |

Commissioner Lily Morgan welcomed everyone to the meeting tonight. She said that the Board was intentional when choosing this ad hoc committee to provide representation from across the County. She explained that everyone must have a voice and there should not be a predetermined outcome. These meetings and this committee are subject to public meeting laws. There was an Advisory Board document in your packet that explains this. If you have the signed document with you tonight please give it to Annette. If not, please bring it to the next meeting.

The state law requires that we must declare any potential or actual conflicts of interest. Ex official members in this committee do not have voting rights. It should be noted that member Dave Mathews is a manager at AMR. AMR is under the Rural Metro parent company but he is not an employee of Rural Metro Fire.

The agenda packet was reviewed and the committee members introduced themselves, sharing their skills and experiences that will be beneficial for the committee.

Deputy State Fire Marshal, Marianna Ruiz-Temple explained that ODF manages wildland and the State Fire Marshal's office manages structural fires.

Commissioner Morgan explained that the Board is asking for the committee to develop an RFP (Request for Proposal) for a consultant to look at all options. This could include a full district formation or no changes to current system and everything in between.

Senator Herman Baertschiger has provided Josephine County with 1.5 million dollars for the purpose of a fire district but we must first determine needs and options. This money cannot be used for a consultant but he is trying to find funding to cover this cost. Commissioner Morgan said that the County can pay for a consultant if Senator Baertschiger is unable to find funds for that.

Discussion arose about the committee's role in relation to the consultant's role and the concern for paying a consultant for what this group could provide. It was recommended that the committee send questions that they have to Annette.

It was suggested that we start with a SWOT analysis (Strengths, Weaknesses, and Opportunities & Threats). Commissioner Morgan stated that we must also find out what the public is wanting.

It was mentioned that the last time a fire district went to the voters it failed because the costs were not provided which caused the voters to be suspicious.

Harry mentioned that the disadvantage to having private companies is that there is no control and companies can raise their rates, leave or go bankrupt. With a government agency, rate changes must be approved by the voters.

Commissioner Morgan clarified for the group that a quorum is 7 members and they must have a quorum present to have a meeting.

The next meeting will be Tuesday 11/12/19 at 5:30 in the Marie Hill Conference Room at Community Corrections.

as