



CALL TO ORDER, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE & ROLL CALL: 6:00 p.m.

PRESENT

Directors: President Lisa Pratt, Vice President Loren Dieter, Directors David Boor and Luis Medel Rodriguez

Staff: Chief Mike Hughes, Executive Assistant Suzanne Gray, Fire Marshal Marty Broadbent, Lt. Sam Irons, Lt. Jeremy Gierke, Firefighter/EMT-P Tamara Beardsley, Firefighters/EMT-B Cole Anderson, Justice Watson, and Ben Netter

Excused: Director Ken Browne

AGENDA ADJUSTMENTS: Chief Hughes requested to move the presentation from Morrow County Assessor/Tax Collector, Mike Gorman, to the top of the agenda.

Director Boor moved to adjust the agenda to allow Mr. Gorman to do his presentation earlier than scheduled. Vice President Dieter seconded. Motion carried, 4-0 by those named: President Pratt, Vice President Dieter, Directors Boor & Rodriguez.

PRESENTATION

Mike Gorman, Morrow County Tax Collector/Assessor

Mr. Gorman offered a PowerPoint presentation on the following topics:

1. Property taxes – amount collected last year was \$58 million. Tax funds are collected and then distributed to all the taxing districts, including Boardman Fire Rescue District (BFRD).
2. Taxable value of the county – \$3.9 billion last year. Real market value was \$9.5 billion.
3. Status of current tax abatement agreements in the county – this includes Strategic Investment Program (SIP) agreements and Columbia River Enterprise Zone (CREZ) agreements. Most of these agreements are for businesses in and around the Port of Morrow. He discussed the top 20 taxpayers in Morrow County and noted Amazon remained #1. Mr. Gorman said the other 19 don't come close to what Amazon pays.
4. Current year estimated value for BFRD – \$3.2-3.3 billion with an estimated \$2.4 million in tax revenue.

PUBLIC COMMENT (Three-minute time limit): None

DIRECTOR REPORTS

1. Board Bylaws: Chief Hughes asked to move the date of the work session to discuss bylaws from April to May.

PRESENTATION, CONTINUED

Mr. Gorman spoke again regarding Irrigon Rural Fire Protection District's (IRFPD) Boundary Change Notice. Chief Hughes posed the following: If Irrigon Fire successfully annexed land



PRESENTATION, CONTINUED

currently in Boardman Fire’s district, would that land then be taxed at Irrigon Fire’s higher tax rate?

Mr. Gorman said he believed IRFPD was trying to exercise some recently passed legislation. He said after the Port of Morrow’s Executive Director, Lisa Mittelsdorf, contacted him with questions, he reached out to the Oregon Department of Revenue. “I don’t know that they can take over what’s already in your district,” he said.

The new legislation pertained to lands not covered by any fire districts, he said. It allows a district to annex uncovered areas without having to go through the traditional annexation process, meaning a request from a landowner, or a vote of the people. The legislation limits annexation to certain conditions, for example, if a property sells and it isn’t currently covered, then this would be an easier avenue for any district to annex that property. The legislation originated from Jackson County, he said, adding he didn’t think IRFPD can say, “You’re not in BFRD anymore and you’re paying to us now.”

Addressing the tax rate question, Mr. Gorman said if there was an exchange between the two districts and the landowner(s) approved, it would be whatever the district rate is. He said he wasn’t aware they can just come and take property that’s already in a district but the caveat to that is seek legal counsel and reach out to the Department of Revenue, or the Special Districts Association of Oregon (SDAO).

DIRECTOR REPORTS, CONTINUED

The Board agreed by consensus to schedule the bylaws work session on Saturday, May 18th from 8:00 a.m.-noon.

FIRE CHIEF’S REPORT – Chief Hughes

1. Ambulance Service Area Plan (ASA): This item will be on the April 17th agenda of the Morrow County Board of Commissioners. The expectation is they will approve a new ASA and adopt it through an ordinance process.
2. District Information: IRFPD Boundary Change Notice – Chief Hughes asked audience member, Scott Ezell (IRFPD Board member; Morrow County Health District Board member) if he wanted to provide a presentation on his request. Mr. Ezell said, “What it says, is what we’re looking for.” Chief Hughes said BFRD’s legal counsel, as well as SDAO, have assured him the land Irrigon Fire was requesting will remain in Boardman Fire’s district. Although the notice from Irrigon Fire didn’t contain a timeframe, Oregon statute specifies 90 days. The written response from legal counsel to IRFPD and the other districts and agencies listed in the notice, will go out within 90 days. Chief Hughes added, for clarification, Irrigon Fire was also seeking the Columbia Development Authority (CDA) property already under contract with Boardman Fire. He continued,



FIRE CHIEF'S REPORT, CONTINUED

Greg Smith, CDA Project Manager, made it clear Irrigon Fire got its portion and Boardman Fire will have the portion for which they are under contract. The property transfer is underway to the Port of Morrow and Chief Hughes said he didn't see the Port going from a professional, full-time organization to a volunteer system.

CONSENT CALENDAR

1. March 14, 2024 Board Meeting Minutes
2. Bills and Payables

Vice President Dieter moved to approve the Consent Calendar, as presented. Director Boor seconded. Motion carried 4-0 by those named – President Pratt, Vice President Dieter, Directors Boor and Rodriguez.

ACTION ITEMS

1. Resolution No. 04112024 – Board Meeting Time Change

Vice President Dieter moved to approve Resolution No. 04112024 – Changing the Regular Board Meeting Start Time from 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. on the second Thursday of a given month, indefinitely. Director Rodriguez seconded. Motion carried 4-0 by those named – President Pratt, Vice President Dieter, Directors Boor and Rodriguez.

FIRE LOSS MANAGEMENT REPORT – Fire Marshal Marty Broadbent

March Report:

1. Testing/Inspections
 - a. PDX 178 Underground fire line flush
 - b. PDX 179 Office area hydro; smoke detection (duct) inspection
 - c. PDX 170 Underground fire line inspection
 - d. Ione School Expansion Underground fire line hydro; hydrant flow test/flush
2. Plan Review
 - a. Lamb Weston West Plant Fire alarms and fire sprinklers

There were two events today – The first was a public education event for 130 preschoolers, their teachers and parents. It was a great time, he said. The other event was assisting Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife with burning tumbleweeds on Boardman Avenue.

TRAINING DIVISION REPORT – Lt. Sam Irons, Training Officer

Lt. Irons presented Ethan Salata, Lieutenant/EMT, with his Engine Boss/Wildland Certification. He explained it allows Lt. Salata to be in charge of an engine, which also means more responsibilities as they go out on conflagrations and mobilizations, etc. He will be responsible



TRAINING DIVISION REPORT, CONTINUED

for the paperwork that goes to a task force leader and command post, including the required paperwork to pay staff.

1. Twenty-two team members contributed 130 hours of training. Topics included Probationary Test Prep, EMS Protocols, EMS Medical, IV Access, Equipment Familiarization, Software Familiarization, Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA), Ventilation, Fire Hose/Fire Streams, Truck Ops, Engine Ops, Drone Mapping.
2. Two CPR classes were taught to 10 students from several of the local businesses.

Chief Hughes introduced newly-hired Firefighter/EMT, Ben Netter.

EMS REPORT – Tamara Beardsley, Firefighter/Paramedic

Firefighter/Paramedic Beardsley said it's been almost a full month since BFRD began providing ambulance service countywide and it's gone pretty well. She said she'd had the opportunity to work all stations and reported they've been well-received in Heppner and things have improved in Irrigon since housing was secured. The 4x4 ambulance with drop-chains was moved to Heppner since they could still encounter icy conditions. BFRD's medical director was on-site for trainings last week. They also went on a tour with him to Heppner so he could meet directly with staff at Pioneer Memorial Hospital since they transport there. It was good to ask questions and get clarifications at the hospital, adding it was a very beneficial meeting. The medical director also talked to Kadlec and Trios since BFRD transports there, she said.

Chief Hughes provided the following statistics since assuming service countywide:

- Medic 81 in Boardman: 50 runs
- Medic 82 in Irrigon: 26 runs
- Medic 85 in Heppner: 27 runs

Total runs for last year: 1,050

Total runs as of April 10th: 450

FIRE LIEUTENANT REPORT – Jeremy Gierke, Lieutenant/EMT-I

Lt. Gierke relayed that things have been going relatively smoothly and everyone's been "rolling with the punches" as they've gone from covering one station to three. Staff have been busy and picking up overtime shifts and there have been no staffing dilemmas. Regarding the Type 6 apparatus they're currently building, the last of the major components showed up last week so it's starting to come together. Maintenance and repairs are moving along.

FINANCIAL REPORTS FOR MARCH – Chief Hughes

The EMS Recovery revenue is starting to roll in. BFRD billed nearly \$425,000 but that is not the amount they will receive because billing rates are different – Medicare has a fixed rate, while private insurance has different rates. It takes about 45 days after billing to receive funds. In next year's budget there will be separate line items for the ambulances in Irrigon and Heppner, in the



FINANCIAL REPORTS, CONTINUED

event countywide coverage extends into the next fiscal year. Morrow County is not billed for ambulance service in Boardman, only for the areas outside of Boardman.

COMMUNICATIONS – Executive Assistant Suzanne Gray

Mrs. Gray said the SDAO Spring 2024 edition of News & Risk Management was received. She also mentioned the Best Practices flyer, noting the deadline was November.

Chief Hughes said a card was received from a taxpayer thanking BFRD and its staff for providing service and “hanging in there.”

Chief Hughes offered the following: I know that only part of the staff is here but I want the Board to recognize how dedicated these men and women are to our organization. The paid and volunteer staff are stepping up and covering all the shifts throughout the entire county. Nobody is complaining and they’re giving 100%. I can’t thank you guys enough. I want the Board to recognize we have an outstanding staff of individuals with us and I appreciate them very much.

CLOSED DOOR SESSION – None

NEXT MEETING – Thursday, May 9th, 7:00 p.m.

BOARD COMMENTS

Vice President Dieter thanked the staff, as well. For the last month staff members have been covering a lot more and everyone has stepped up. We, the Board, appreciate all the effort they’ve put in and we can’t thank them enough.

ADJOURNED: 7:18 p.m.