



CALL TO ORDER, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE & ROLL CALL: 7:00 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, Battalion Chief Sam Irons, Paramedic Del Turner, Firefighter II/EMT Peter Haney, Firefighter II/Paramedic Devon Pulvino, Captain Jeremy Gierke, Captain Ethan Salata
Excused: Director Ken Browne

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

AGENDA ADJUSTMENTS: Presentations and Recognitions were moved to the end of the agenda.

DIRECTOR REPORTS

The Board Workshop was rescheduled from November 1st to Friday, November 15th, 8:00 a.m. at the Fire Station; lunch will be provided.

FIRE CHIEF’S REPORT – Chief Mike Hughes

Chief Hughes updated the Board on the current response model since BFRD no longer provides ambulance service countywide. He also discussed personnel changes that are being made with succession planning in mind. He concluded the update by saying BFRD was in a very good position, overall.

Chief Hughes informed the Board that Morrow County Health District’s lawsuit against BFRD was dropped, with prejudice, and that BFRD’s writ claim against MCHD was also dropped. President Pratt asked about the amount of money spent on these legal actions. Chief Hughes replied he didn’t know the exact amount but could get that information.

CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS

1. September 12, 2024 Regular Board Meeting Minutes
2. Approve Bills and Payables

Vice President Dieter moved to approve the Consent Calendar, as presented; Director Boor seconded. Unanimous approval.

ACTION ITEMS – None

FIRE LOSS MANAGEMENT REPORT – Fire Marshal Marty Broadbent
Fire Marshal Broadbent reported Inspections & Testing activities occurred at Columbia River Processing, the Youth Crisis Center and Amazon data centers. Public Education activity took place during Good Shepherd Family Safety Day in Hermiston.

TRAINING DIVISION REPORT – Battalion Chief Sam Irons

- Twenty-nine team members contributed a total of 299 training hours.
- Two employees passed their six-month probation tests.
- Four CPR classes were offered to 35 students
- A Fire Extinguisher class was taken by 46 students at Riverside High School.

EMS REPORT – Paramedic Del Turner

- Sixty-one responses in the community during September.
- Inter-facility transports have resumed.

FIRE OFFICER’S REPORT – Firefighter II/EMT Peter Haney

- B Shift took part in hose testing.
- Six- and nine-month trainings were offered for employees moving around from other shifts.

FINANCIAL REPORTS – Chief Hughes

- Minor adjustments made due to ambulance service being provided in Irrigon for most of September (budget to actuals).
- BFRD invoiced Morrow County for ambulance services but approximately \$130,000 remains outstanding.

COMMUNICATIONS – Executive Assistant Suzanne Gray

Two Emails were sent to the Board. The first was originally from the Oregon Government Ethics Commission regarding their training on meeting law and that it is now more closely aligned with Oregon Revised Statutes. The second email was about Best Practices. Please look at them both, she asked.

CLOSED DOOR SESSION – Not needed

NEXT MEETING – Thursday, November 14th, 7:00 p.m.

PRESENTATIONS/RECOGNITIONS

Swearing-In Ceremony

Chief Hughes offered the following process for new hires: They are on probation for one year, during which time they have to pass a series of tests every three months. At three months, it’s basic firefighting. Next is the wildland firefighting component at six months. After that, there is a structure scenario at nine months. This involves pulling hoses for structure fires, and a truck series where they extricate people from vehicles, for example. The process is intensive and involves other testing throughout the year, as well. Following the successful completion of the tests, an employee is sworn-in.

Chief Hughes said Devon Pulvino and Levi Renfrew completed probation some time ago but he wanted to schedule the ceremony during a Board meeting, which took longer to coordinate since employees were stationed countywide.

Devon Pulvino was then sworn-in as Firefighter II/Paramedic and Levi Renfrew was sworn-in as Firefighter/Paramedic.

Promotions

Battalion Chief Sam Irons – Chief Hughes said Battalion Chief Irons was initially moved to the Training Division to instill consistency across the board with training. During his time there, he excelled beyond expectation in bringing the Division up to speed. Chief Hughes talked about the duties of a Battalion Chief and asked him to say a few words about himself.

Battalion Chief Irons said he was in the junior program at 17 and was certified as a firefighter at 18. He volunteered for Boardman Fire for four years and was hired full-time in 2016. He said he'd been with Boardman Fire for 13 years and hoped for 13 more.

Captain Jeremy Gierke – Chief Hughes said one of the reasons for both of these promotions was that their workloads have tripled. As company officer, Capt. Gierke has been awesome, and he takes care of the mechanic side of things for us. Part of his administrative assignment will be to make sure BFRD's mechanics are up to speed.

Capt. Gierke said he became a volunteer in 2004 and then volunteered in 2014 with Boardman Fire. He was hired in 2016 and said he knew he was on the ground floor of an agency that was about to explode. He went on to talk about the differences he's seen since 2016 in BFRD's programs, technical rescue capabilities, etc.

Captain Ethan Salata – Chief Hughes said Capt. Salata went through BFRD's rigorous testing process to become a company officer in this organization. They needed to be challenged heavily to prepare them to manage ambulance services throughout the entire county. The plan moving forward is to train new company officers for lieutenant positions for two-to-three years before moving to the next rank of captain. Capt. Salata manages equipment and facilities, said Chief Hughes.

Capt. Salata said he was hired in 2018 and moved up through the ranks, starting as a Firefighter/EMT. He said he was very happy to be with BFRD and has been happy with the way its grown.

In conclusion, Chief Hughes said every employee deserved a lot of credit as they gave up their entire summer to provide ambulance service for the entire county. It happened due to their hard work and commitment to provide services day in and day out to our communities. He said he appreciated all their work and that BFRD would not be where it was without them. He then invited everyone to a reception following the meeting.

ADJOURNED: 7:29 p.m.