
ROCKY POINT FIRE & EMS BOARD RESPONSIBILITIES POLICY

Communications

- Develop regular channels of communication with board members and staff.
- Encourage participation of staff members on appropriate committees.
- Develop procedures for bringing staff opinions and recommendations to the board, as well as board opinions and decisions to the staff.
- Invite non-board members, other local governments, and groups to board or committee meetings or other types of board sponsored assemblies to explore and develop approaches to common concerns.
- **Recognize that certain information obtained at board meetings may be non-public and confidential making disclosure a breach of trust.**
- Respect the opinion of other members and accept the principle of majority rule in board decisions.

Financial

- Approve the annual budget.
- Monitor district finances and the budget, setting policy or taking action to ensure the fiscal integrity of the organization.

Policies, Objectives, and Plans

- Abide by and become familiar with all laws and policies governing the operation of the district.
- Approve the annual strategic plan or plan of operations.
- Approve policies for the organization.
- Recognize that the Fire Chief should have full administrative authority for properly discharging the duties of managing the operation within the limits of the established board policy. The board's basic function is policy making - **not administrative**.
- Develop and approve long-range plan of growth and development for the district.
- Approve specific important projects.
- Approve any significant departure from established plans or policy.
- Receive and pass on committee or other planning body recommendations.
- Ensure that program objectives are assigned to the proper planning or implementing subgroups.

Where applicable, bring other local governments or community groups into the planning and decision-making process.

- Approve contracts binding the district.
- Approve major changes in the district's organization or structure.
- Approve board plans of action.
- Pass district resolutions, or adopt ordinances.

Management

- Select the district president and other officers.
- Hire the Fire Chief.
- Define the duties and responsibilities for the president, Fire Chief, officers, and major committee chairpersons.
- Select legal counsel and consultants for the board.
- Approve contracts for professional services required by and for the board.
- Authorize officers or board agents to enter into contracts or to sign other written instruments and to take financial actions.
- Approve the plan, form, and amount of management compensation, that is, salaries, bonuses, vacation, travel, and so on.
- Evaluate the performance of the Fire Chief annually.
- Approve the form and amount of reimbursement for board members.
- Approve programs for management development.
- Provide advice and consultation to management on matters within the purview of the board's responsibilities.

Employee Relations

- Approve any employee benefit plans.
- Insist that personnel complaints go through a proper chain of command. If not resolved, only then should the board get involved.
- Approve contracts with and between any unions involved with the district.
- Do not allow personnel problems, other than problems with the Fire Chief, to be brought into board considerations.

Control

- Identify types of information needed by the board to analyze effectively the district's directions and achievement. Create a process for collecting and analyzing information.
- Realize that the Tax Payers within the boundaries of the district are the true "owners" of the district.
- Review and assess the organization's performance against objectives, resources, plans, policies, and services rendered.
- Analyze major "shortfalls" in achievement.
- Identify obstacles, sense changing needs, and propose new directions or goals.
- Ensure that the district is in compliance with all federal, state, and local laws.

Board of Directors

- Motivate board members to accept positions of leadership and responsibility.
- Appoint, change, or abolish committees of the board.
- Define powers and responsibilities of committees of the board.
- Do not make commitments on any matter that should come before the board as a whole.
- Recognize that an individual board member has no legal status to act for the entire board.
- Realize that if a quorum of the board meets to make a decision or to deliberate, then the meeting is considered a public meeting and must comply with all of the requirements of the Oregon Public Meetings Laws.
- Discussions on matters of overall policy outside of regular board meetings can violate the open meetings law.

Public Accountability

- Keep the public informed on all district matters.
- Make decisions based on the wishes and needs of the public.
- Spend the district's money with prudence and trust.
- Place the needs of the public above the ambitions of the board or the district.

Signature

Date Approved

This Policy supersedes any previous versions 6/13/2022

