## **Rocky Point Fire & EMS**

<u>Fire Chief</u> Diann Walker-Pope Ph: 541-205-4934 chief@rpfire.com



**Board Members** 

Bruce Harp Greg Sullivan Sandy Handsaker Steve Jensen Larry Dugger

September 28, 2020

Board Meeting for Rocky Point Fire & EMS

The September board meeting was called to order by President Bruce Harp at 10:00 am. In attendance were all five board members, Chief Diann and 11 guests.

Motion was made by Bruce to not approve the minutes of the previous meeting. Bruce stated that the conversation Larry had with Lake of the Woods was not included along with wanting more detail about the Chief's job description and the conversation surrounding that topic. Greg also wanted detail about the lack of proper turnouts mentioned under the Chief's report. Bruce, Larry and Sandy voted to not approve the minutes with both Greg and Steve voting nay. Motion to not approve carried.

Treasurer's report: This was tabled from the previous meeting and was brought up for approval. This included both the months of July and August. Greg raised the question of who signs the Fire Chief's paychecks. Bruce stated that he and Sandy have been signing them. Greg also asked why the Fire Chief was paid a \$100 a month raise while still not operating under a new contract. Discussions regarding budgeted amounts verses an actual contract agreement followed. Some board members argued since it was budgeted it should be paid, others argued to be paid it first had to be approved in a new contract. Greg argued without a new contract the payment of the raise constituted misappropriation of public funds and an audit was possible. Sandy became very upset and publicly stated that she felt she was being accused of misuse of public funds and at that, left the meeting. The Fire Chief stated the raise prior to her new contract was a mistake and wrote a check back to the department for the three months of funds overpaid to her. Greg then made a motion to approve the treasurer's reports, seconded by Steve, and unanimously approved.

Board of Directors report: Bruce reported on the 2-4-2 fire. He was very complimentary on the efforts of both the Rocky Point volunteers, those from Chiloquin, and the rest of the agencies responding. He

said it was a great learning experience and was overwhelmed by the appreciation shown by so many affected and involved.

Steve reported on the Executive Session attended by himself, Sandy and Greg at the law offices of Brad Aspell in Klamath Falls. The purpose of the meeting was to get legal advice for proper drafting of the Fire Chief's contract. Since the meeting was held under executive session, he was limited in discussing some of the topics, but he stated he and the others felt good about the meeting and the direction it will provide drafting the new contract.

Good and Welfare: Mata Rust stated she felt, as does SDAO according to her research, that community members are better served if they are allowed to speak towards the end of the meeting. Mike Handsaker felt an audit was not needed and it would be an unnecessary expense to the District. He also expressed his desire to see the board move faster on such topics as the Chief's contract. Others expressed their desire to see more accomplished and for the board to work on better handling their disagreements.

Old business began with revisiting the Chief's contract. Bruce made a motion to offer for approval a version of the contract authored by Sandy. Greg shared his concern over the three consecutive weeks vacation in the month of June for the Fire Chief to visit family in Texas along with an additional 6 days of paid time off. Steve also addressed salary and the large amount of time off. At that point discussions broke down with board members, Bruce and Larry, leaving the meeting. Without a quorum, the meeting ended.

Submitted by Steve Jensen,

**Board Secretary**