



CALL TO ORDER, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE & ROLL CALL: 7:00 p.m.

PRESENT

Directors: President Lisa Pratt, Directors David Boor and Ken Browne
Staff: Chief Mike Hughes, Executive Assistant Suzanne Gray, Fire Marshal Marty Broadbent
Excused: Vice President Loren Dieter, Director Luis Medel Rodriguez

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

AGENDA ADJUSTMENTS: None

DIRECTOR REPORTS

1. Board Bylaws Workshop: Chief Hughes said this item was postponed until the fall.

FIRE CHIEF'S REPORT

1. Ambulance Service Area (ASA) Plan: Morrow County recently released the application for service providers, which Chief Hughes displayed on screen. He said the 18-page application required a detailed response, therefore he planned to bring in BFRD's attorney to assist. Chief Hughes went on to review some of the required elements to apply (staffing levels, number of EMTs and ambulances, etc.). President Pratt noted this will be the first time in 30 years that the process to apply was opened up. Chief Hughes agreed, adding it's a regimented process this time, done properly and professionally. He said the County will want to physically see that a prospective provider has the required personnel and ambulances on-hand. BFRD was criticized for purchasing ambulances but they couldn't even be considered unless they had licensed ambulances ready to go, he explained.
2. Total Ambulance Runs
April: 108 (Heppner 34; Boardman 42; Irrigon 32)
Year-to-date: Just under 600
Calendar year 2023: 1,050
3. Poker Run at the Off-Highway Vehicle (OHV) Park: Morrow County has a Parks Department employee who is an EMT-Intermediate. An ambulance has not been staged there by Morrow County Health District (MCHD), according to BFRD's Lt. Sam Irons who has attended the event for multiple years. Chief Hughes asked if they wanted an ambulance there and was told it was not needed and if something happened, they'd call for a helicopter.
4. Anonymous social media posts that BFRD only has one ambulance in south Morrow County: The volunteers in south County who previously staffed the Health District's second ambulance have opted to no longer staff a second ambulance. BFRD's staffing model works as follows – when the ambulance in Heppner is unavailable, a second staffed ambulance moves to cover south County.

5. Social media postings about a 28-minute response time: This was right after BFRD took over ambulance services countywide. Simultaneous calls came in for Heppner and the crew got to the non-injury lift-assist and released Heppner Fire because they are not medically trained. BFRD helped the person, made his bed and gave him lunch because he lived alone. Chief Hughes said we did what we do, we went above and beyond. He asked when people see or hear things like this, that they contact him for the facts because it's usually something that happened a while ago and the people posting about it only provide a fraction of what really took place.
6. Regarding an MCHD employee who frequently comments at Board of Commissioner meetings asking them to make sure the next provider in Heppner has two ambulances: Chief Hughes said MCHD had a staffed ambulance and a non-staffed ambulance, so what does she mean by that? If BFRD is not wanted there, MCHD needs to step up and provide the service. In that event, he said he would work with the County to give MCHD the contract there. It's their community and it makes total sense, he added.
7. Litigation against BFRD filed by MCHD: The recent ruling by Circuit Court Judge Robert W. Collins said MCHD had authority to assess fines against BFRD. However, BFRD's attorney just received a letter from Judge Collins stating he had a conflict of interest as his sister is a partner at MCHD law firm, Hart Wagner LLP. Judge Collins asked to stay on the case but BFRD's attorney responded, no. The case will now be heard before a new judge.
8. Irrigon Rural Fire Protection District's Boundary Change Notice: BFRD's attorney will send a letter to Irrigon Fire and all entities listed on the notice that Irrigon Fire has no authority to annex property in BFRD's district.
9. Pending Disbursement of Public Safety Funds by the Columbia River Enterprise Zone: Chief Hughes said he attended the Port of Morrow Commissioners meeting to ask why two POM Commissioners who sit on the CREZ Board were actively blocking the distribution of those funds. He said he hoped CREZ would agree to disburse the \$300,000, each, to Boardman Police Department and BFRD while they debate whether the remaining \$300,000 should go to MCHD or the selected ambulance provider(s) for the County. He said he wanted to keep the project moving and the Port agreed to schedule a CREZ meeting for this topic.

CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS

1. April 11, 2024 Regular Board Meeting Minutes
2. Approve Bills and Payables

Director Boor moved to approve the Consent Calendar, as presented. Director Browne seconded. Motion carried by those named – President Pratt, Directors Boor and Browne.

ACTION ITEMS – None

FIRE LOSS MANAGEMENT REPORT – Fire Marshal Marty Broadbent

Fire Marshal Broadbent reviewed the Testing/Inspection and Plan Review activity for the City of Boardman during the month of April. He also reported on the April 24th structure fire at Green Acres RV Park, resulting in an estimated loss of \$12,000. He stated the crew did an “awesome job” stopping it. (For details, please see the online meeting Agenda Packet.)

TRAINING DIVISION REPORT

Chief Hughes reviewed the report compiled by Lt. Sam Irons. Lt. Irons was unable to attend due to a volunteer activity conflict. Chief Hughes noted three BFRD members attended an FDIC International (Fire Department Instructors Conference) training in Indianapolis, Indiana. He said his goal was for all paid staff and volunteers to attend the annual conference over the next few years. Chief Hughes said the conference was invaluable, considering the knowledge attendees bring back to the department.

EMS REPORT – Firefighter/Paramedic Zulema Gaytan

Firefighter/Paramedic Gaytan provided her report, noting BFRD's LUCAS devices (mechanical chest compression system) have been a great help. President Pratt asked if MCHD responded to BFRD's request to return the three LUCAS devices given to them by BFRD, as they no longer provide ambulance services. Chief Hughes replied they did not, which resulted in BFRD purchasing additional devices.

FIRE LIEUTENANT'S REPORT

The on-duty lieutenant was called to an incident at the start of the meeting.

FINANCIAL REPORTS

After reviewing the April financials, Chief Hughes discussed dates for the Budget Hearing. After discussion, the decision was to hold the Budget Hearing on Monday, June 3rd.

President Pratt commented on the unanticipated increase to Personnel/Payroll Expenses since taking over ambulance services on an interim basis. Chief Hughes said a budget adjustment resolution might be needed, and if that was the case, a special meeting via Zoom could be noticed and scheduled.

COMMUNICATIONS – None

PRESENTATIONS/RECOGNITIONS – None

CLOSED DOOR SESSION – Not needed

NEXT MEETING – Thursday, June 13th, 7:00 p.m. (Budget Meeting – Monday, June 3rd.)

GOOD OF THE ORDER – Nothing

ADJOURNED: 7:36 p.m.