**WAMIC RURAL FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT**

**BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

**APRIL 19th, 2025**

The meeting was called to order by President Larry Warren at 10:01am.

Board members present: Larry Warren, John Creel, Neil Senger and Cindy Koch

Members of the audience present: Merle Hlvaka, Larry Magill, Connie Hatfield, George Hatfield, Greg Weast, Carol Hanson and Scotti Boettner.

Minutes of the Board Meeting of March 15, 2025: Motion to accept these minutes was made by Neil Senger. This motion was seconded by John Creel. Motion to accept these minutes was approved.

**CORRESPONDENCE:** None

**TREASURER’S REPORT**: See attached April Balance Sheet and Profit and Loss Sheet from March 1 to March 31, 2025

**CHIEF’S REPORT:**

**Status of Vehicles**: All vehicles have been unwinterized. The 6 x 6 is at Camp Witacom for its yearly service. It does need some maintenance.

**Safety**: Nothing reported.

**Additional information from the Chief**:

Chief Magill has been working on the CWDG grant. Now the CWDG grant has been suspended. That will be handled by the Soil and Conservation District, not directly with WRFPD. We will lose part of our funding, due to now paying administration costs to the Soil and Conservation District.

If ASA (Ambulance Service Area) is no longer available (the thought is to make the 6 ASA departments that we have presently into l ASA), ambulance service may not be quickly available, as it is now, from the WRFPD if these are combined.

If we become an unprotected district, our insurance rate most likely will go up or maybe we may not be able to get insurance.

If we had a tax base, we could work as neighbor to neighbor and become self-sufficient. The Chief noted that our community needs to come up with a 5-year strategy to protect ourselves and not let our current services to the public be delayed or non-existent.

He noted that the Tax Base needs to be on the November 2025 ballet. We can’t wait. To do this we need to have meetings to educate our community about the importance of having a Tax Base so that this measure will be approved. Our current grants are soon to expire, and we could leave us unprotected.

Of our current full-time community, only about 30% pay the suggested $100 annual contribution. The estimated value of property in our district is $140 million. Only 50% of our population is full-time residents, 50% are part-time residents or rentals.

A committee needs to be formed regarding a tax base for our community. All would be volunteers, no matter what their opinion is on the pro/con of a tax base. This would require a series of meetings.

A motion was made by John Creel and seconded by Neil Senger and passed by the board to form a committee regarding the Tax Base and to supply the funding for an attorney or advisor to bring this tax measure to the November ballet.

**GRANTS PENDING OR OPEN:**

Oregon State Fire Marshall- active

FEMA building grant- Active

Wildlife Mitigation – approved. The Oregon Department of Forestry is actively working on hazard tree removal.

CWDG-active. Now managed by Soil and Conservation. They are hiring 2 additional people for the administration of the program. This means we will have access to less funding. A new agreement is being re-written.

Preparedness for emergencies. High wind wildfire, Starlink, comms, evac routes, communication with residents and visitors (and how we get the word out) was not addressed at this board meeting.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

2025-26 budget meeting. There needs to be a budget meeting, the best time is 6pm at the fire station, proposed dates to be announced, but maybe May 6 and l3, and June 3 and l7th. It was suggested that all members of the board be present at these meetings.

To be addressed at another time: Insurance review. Based on information from our agent.

**MEMORIAL DAY BREAKFAST:**

First meeting will be at noon on Tuesday May 6th at the fire department. Connie will be enlisting additional assistance as she recovers from surgery. She will be checking the current supplies and compiling a list of items needed for these breakfasts.

Meeting adjourned at 11:18am

Minutes prepared and submitted by Cindy Koch