**Wamic Rural Fire Protection District Board** Meeting Minutes

November 16, 2024

The meeting was called to order by President Larry Warren at 10:04am.

Board Members present: Larry Warren, Neil Senger, John Creel, John Ickes and Cindy Koch. Members in the audience: Jamie Magill, Chief Larry Magill and Simone Cordery-Cotter, Oregon State Fire Marshall Fire Risk Reduction Specialist.

Minutes of last meeting on October 19, 2024: Motion to accept these minutes was made by Neil Senger. Motion seconded by John Creel. Motion to accept these minutes was approved.

**Correspondence**: None

**Treasurer’s Report**: Jamie Magill read and answered any questions on the submitted October 2024 Profit and Loss Statement and the Balance Sheet.

As of the November meeting, about $26,000 annual donations have been received by the Fire Department and Foundation, combined.

Rivermark Credit Union is now Advantis Credit Union. We currently do our banking with Rivermark Credit Union. It could be a year or two before Advantis Credit Union can fully insure our accounts. We need to keep less than $250,000 in Rivermark Credit Union. It was decided that all of the current checking accounts with Rivermark Credit Union would remain as they are, and that a US Bank account would be established for all grant monies received. This would solve this insurability issue with our funds.

**Chief’s Report:**

**Status of vehicles in or repair or sale**:

* The fire department has received a $7,625 refund from the return of #523 engine
* The Ford P80 has been repaired and is back in service
* 504 was sold to Rock Creek for $5,000. This includes the snowplow.
* 557-Hoodland engine. Preparing to be sold.
* 556 (yellow truck) to be our reserve vehicle. We will take parts off of 504 before the transfer to Rock Creek.
* 55l has been repaired and is in service now.

**Other notes**: the yard cleanup has almost been completed at the Fire Department.

**EMS:** We have reached 130 medical calls, (the usual number for an entire year) with 2 more months to go in 2024.

**Training**: Officer training has been postponed until February 2025.

New training schedule for Fire volunteers and EMS volunteers. There will be training every Monday, one week, Fire volunteers, one week EMS volunteers. Alternating the Mondays.

**Communication**: Nothing new.

**Safety**: SDAO safety grant applied for. This would provide all our buildings with card locks. We would be able to regulate who has access to what. Keys and codes are not effective in our situation. With card locks, misplaced cards can be replaced for $10 and lost cards can be deleted from the system. Cameras to patrol the card locations would behelpful also.

**New Volunteers**: Five new applications are in review at this time.

**EMS and fire coverage of the district**: this year, 4 structures were lost and one total loss in Tygh Valley.

**Chief’s current focus**: To research and apply for grants for our department.

**Grants Pending or open**:

* Oregon State Fire Marshal – active
* FEMA – building grant – active
* New staffing grant – Oregon Fire Marshal – active
* Wildfire Mitigation – approved
* CWDG - active

**New Business**:

ASA issue with County. New ambulance ordinances are still in review. A new contract and plan cannot be approved until spring, so the current plan is still enforce.

Fire Department Holiday Dinner will be on December 14th at 6pm at the Community Center.

It was decided that it would be a responsible and prudent thing for the fire department to lease fuel tanks, one for gas and one for diesel fuel. The maintenance would be covered in the lease, and not insured if we purchase the tanks (at $5,950 each). Each tank would be 500 gallons and would be lockable. The lease would be $250 per tank, $500 for both per month. At the current cost of these fuels, we would save between $2 and $2.50 per gallon, which could more than pay for the monthly lease fee. By having fuel on site, we would be able to maintain the generators if we were to lose power and be able to keep the heat/cooling stations open and always have access to fuel for our vehicles, no matter what the weather conditions. The motion to lease these fuel tanks was proposed by Cindy Koch and Seconded by Neil Senger. Motion passed.

Simone Cordery-Cotter, Fire Risk Reduction Specialist from the State Fire Marshal’s office attended the meeting to answer any questions we might have on the CWDG reimbursable grant for fire mitigation in our community. Our department will need to purchase equipment and pay workers etc. to accomplish our fire mitigation plan. These funds are to be reimbursed but not advanced before the work is started and partially completed. Therefore, it was proposed that financing be applied for, possibly through Blue Forest, to get bridge loans until the work can be done (in stages, possibly a 5-year plan), and probably cannot be reimbursed for 5-6 months after expenses paid out, according to the plan terms. We might need to borrow $230,000 each year for this. The interest rate was expected to be 2 to 5%. Simone will assist in helping us locate possible financing sources.

The first area to have the fire mitigation evaluation will be the Rock Creek area and will be completed by Larry Magill.

Meeting adjourned at 11:21am.

Prepared and submitted by Cindy Koch