**WAMIC RURAL FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

**February 15, 2025**

The meeting was called to order by President Larry Warren at 10:03am.

Board members present: Larry Warren, Neil Senger, John Creel and Cindy Koch. Members of the audience: George Hatfield, Connie Hatfield, Jamie Magill, Larry Magill, Rick Smith, Michele Smith and Merle Hlvaka.

Minutes of the last meeting on January 18, 2025: Motion to accept these minutes made by Neil Senger. Motion seconded by John Creel. Motion to accept these minutes was approved.

**CORRESPONDENCE:** None

**TREASURER’S REPORT**: Jamie Magill submitted the January 3l, 2025 Balance sheet and Profit and Loss Statement for the Board’s review. Jamie explained some of the items in these statements. These financial statements were approved by the Board.

We are still reviewing the Rivermark Credit Union’s terms to see if they will accommodate the insurance we need for our accounts. As of right now, it appears that Rivermark Credit Union meets this requirement. No new account has been set up with US Bank at this time.

 **CHIEF’S REPORT**

**STATUS OF VEHICLES**: P81 is now in service. We now have 2 4-wheel drive vehicles with studs in service. All is good with our vehicles.

**EMS:** As of the date of this meeting, we have made 24 call outs in 2025 and assisted in 2 mutual aid calls.

**GRANTS PENDING OR OPEN:**

CWDG grant - Active

The administration part of the CWDG grant has been corrected. That having been said, CWDG has reduced the number of employees. Current funding is on hold. We are ready to proceed. We have requested a reimbursement grant- since we are prepared to begin now, and we have advanced funds to purchase supplies and equipment.

Oregon State Fire Marshall Grant – active

FEMA building grant – active

Wildfire Mitigation grant – approved

**ASA agreement** – no new news

**COMMUNICATIONS**: “CHIEF’S CORNER” first newsletter will be out next week.

Starlink has been ordered. The cost is $699 for the hardware (one time cost) and $140 a month. This will improve our communications tremendously with our teams out in the field.

Three new cameras have been ordered to be set up at the Fire Department; One, in the office, One in the boardroom and One near the New Fuel tanks.

The SDAO safety grant applied for should pay for 3 additional cameras for the Fire Station.

**Chief’s report** from the SDAO conference he just attended:

Cyber Security was the theme of this conference. We need to have a cyber security policy. Having this type of policy would affect the cost of our insurance.

Contract Law: We need an updated policy (this policy will affect insurance and wages). It was determined that it would be a wise investment to pay an attorney to prepare this contract for the Fire Department.

There are new rules about Executive Sessions. Meetings must be published so the public can attend physically or have video or audio options. Notice of these meetings should be advertised on the Fire Department website in advance of the meetings.

Public information laws require that all notes made during any meeting must be turned into the Fire Department, no matter who wrote them. Notes may not be shredded.

We need to have strategic meetings and invite our community to attend to explain all the new changes happening.

Our Staffing Grant will expire July 1, 2026. This would affect the wages paid to the Chief, the Asst chief and the office manager. We need to apply to have this staffing grant to continue.

Senate Bill 79 is about the hazardous mitigation map. It has not passed as of yet, but it could:

 Restrict new construction and the type of building permitted.

 Could restrict any expansion of growth in our community

 Dictate any type of remodeling to existing structures (Type roof etc)

 If something happens to an existing home, like a fallen tree, and repairs are necessary, the entire home may have to be brought up to the new code, not just the area affected by the fallen tree.

There could be a Billing Company that would distribute a Pool of Money to an insurance company that could be passed onto our district. The estimated cost could be $500 to $1000 based on each call out. In 2024 we had 142 calls. If this was in effect, we would have received $150,000 to $300,000, which would increase our income needed to support our district.

**INSURANCE:** According to our SDAO insurance agent, Steve Silva, we must have insurance for all events or use of the Community Center that the Fire Department authorizes. For example, the Scrapbag Quilters and the Food Bank. No form has been approved for these activities to sign as of yet.

The Community Center is owned by the Wamic Rural Fire Protection District. The Wamic Rural Fire Department Foundation (a 50lc) leases the Community Center from the Fire District. Any activities authorized by the Foundation would be covered by the Foundation’s insurance.

There may need to be a written agreement between the Fire Department, the Grange and possibly the Foundation regarding the use of the Basketball Court that is shared.

**Emergency Preparedness**: On March 15th there will be an Emergency Grant meeting to assist in drawing out the areas that are affected the most with wildfires. Larry Magill will attend this meeting.

Status of Fire Hydrants: All have been tested. All that is left is for the Water Board to do their part, and they have been notified that this is necessary.

**Reserve Engine**: We now have a reserve Engine that can be used to back up and be filled with water from the lake, in the event we need more emergency water.

**Building Cleaner**: the current building cleaners have requested a salary raise from $19 per hour to $20 per hour. Neil Senger made a motion to approve this raise, John Creel seconded this motion. The motion to increase the salary of the building cleaner to $20 per hour was passed.

**OPEN DISCUSSION**

Connie Hatfield brought up for discussion that the Community Center is not ADA compliant, either inside or outside of the building.

It was noted that the community donations would not cover these costly repairs to bring the inside and parking area up to ADA code,

Larry Magill noted that one good lawsuit due to someone getting injured by our noncompliance to ADA regulations could put us out of business.

More discussion and a possible solution to this problem to follow.

We need to use strategic planning in our donation letter regarding public funds in our next letter sent out.

Meeting adjourned at 11:19am.

Minutes prepared and submitted by Cindy Koch.