**WAMIC RURAL FIRE PROTECTION DISTR**

**BOARD MEETING MINUTES (amended)**

**JUNE 21, 2025**

The meeting was called to order by President Larry Warren at 10:00am.

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

Members of the Audience: Greg Weast, Merle Hlvaka and Chief Larry Magill (via cell phone speaker)

Minutes of May 17th, 2025 (as amended): Motion to accept these minutes was made by Neil Senger. This motion was seconded by John Ickes. Motion to accept these minutes was approved by Board Members.

**Correspondence**: None

**Treasurer’s Report**: May Balance Sheet, May Profit and Loss Report, Detailed Requirements for 2025-26 budget compared to Historical Past Budgets and Resources General Fund was available to all present at this meeting.

**CHIEF’S REPORT**

**Status of vehicles for repair or for sale:** No change from May 17, 2025, Minutes of the Meeting report.

**EMS**: The EMS is on track with the same number of callouts as at this time in 2024. Both Chris and Kathy will be retiring at the end of June 2025. A retirement party is in the process of being planned and details will be announced.

**Training**: Continues on every Monday.

**Communication**: The radios that we hoped to receive from the County Road Department are no longer available. We have to request that they be purchased at the end of this year by the Wamic Rural Fire Foundation. It will depend on their budget.

**Safety**: No concerns or reports were made at this meeting.

**ASA**: Status quo with current situation. Corrections/amendments have been submitted to the Oregon Health Authority (OHA), and Wasco County Members in charge of this review are moving forward with what the OHA requested. Currently, there have not been any changes made.

**Note**: The Chief has been spending the majority of his time getting ready for the recent and upcoming meetings for the Fire Department tax base measures for the upcoming election. The hope-for plan is to have this measure on the November 2025 ballet.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**Grants pending or open:**

Oregon State Fire Marshall- active

FEMA building grant – Active

Wildfire Mitigation – Approved

CWDG - active

**Tax meeting Debrief**

Approximately 60 people attended this meeting. A proposed 5-year budget for capital and personnel expenses was delivered to the members of this meeting. It was proposed that $1.86 would be the base tax per $1,000 value for homeowners. There was 100% support for this. It was suggested that $2.25 or so would be the top amount that would be proposed on the ballet, so there could be room to grow, if needed. This would be explained in our ballet measure. Chief is checking on the filing date for putting this measure on the upcoming November ballet. It was suggested that the next community meeting be held on a week-end, so more people could attend, and that the next meeting might be on the 2nd weekend of July. Hiring an attorney to assist in putting this measure on the ballet was approved in the April 2025 Fire Board Meeting and this is being done. The South Wasco Times Newspaper has agreed to print an explanation of what is needed and why and give us all the coverage we might need to print this.

The Wamic Rural Fire Protection District is one of only 3 districts in the State of Oregon that are not taxed based. Only about 30% of our community pay their $100 donation requested each fall.

It was proposed that we be brutally honest with our community of the repercussions if the tax base is not approved, or they don’t pay their suggested annual donation of $100. They WILL NOT or MAY NOT have any help in the case of a fire, since there will not be any resources available to help them.

**Reader Board**: The importance of having a Community Reader Board was discussed. The Company that would make this for us has not responded to our request for information as of yet. Larry Magill will continue to pursue this.

**EMS and the Fire Coverage of this district**: Not discussed in this meeting.

**Preparedness for emergencies,** high wind wildfire, Starlink, comms, evac routes, communication with residents and visitors (how we get the word out and how fast) This discussion was tabled for another meeting.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**2025-26 budget**. Motion was made by Neil Senger to pass this proposed budget. John Ickes seconded this motion. The motion passed by all Board Members.

**Insurance Review**: Based on information received from our agent and forwarded to the Board Members. No discussion at this meeting.

**Family Fun Day** (which is supported by the Wamic Rural Fire Department Foundation) - Larry Magill was able to secure Bouncy Houses and Insurance for this event.

**Memorial Day 3-day event**: No income or cost of event available at this time.

**OTHER ITEMS OPEN FOR DISCUSSION**: Cindy brought to the attention of the Board that she has heard from several Members of the Community that they feel a bit unappreciated by the fire department when they make larger than expected donations or do something more than expected. They would appreciate some type of acknowledgment, perhaps a written Thank you note. It was suggested by Cindy that she would volunteer to send out Thank You notes to these individuals, and that this could create more community in our community. These could be mailed twice a month, if: we get note cards with our fire dept emblem printed on the front and names and addresses of those who should receive them, and what they contributed (extra funds donations, etc, not necessary for $$ contribution amount). This would require that Cindy is supplied with a list every 2 weeks with stamps to mail them. The board was excited about this but wants to discuss it more at the July Board Meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 10:55am

Minutes prepared and submitted by Cindy Koch