**WAMIC RURAL FIRE PROTECTION BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

January 18, 2025

The meeting was called to order by President Larry Warren at 10:05am.

Board Members present: Larry Warren, Neil Senger, John Ickes, John Creel and Cindy Koch. Members in the audience: Merle Hlavka, Jamie Magill, John Goleman, Scotti Boettner and Larry Magill (via phone).

Minutes of the last meeting on December 21, 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 submitted December 31, 2024 Balance Sheet and Profit and Loss Statement for the Board’s review. Jamie Magill went over the items on these statements. These financial statements were approved by the Board.

US Bank has not replied to our inquiries about our banking needs as of yet. If they don’t respond soon, we will check out the availability of Wells Fargo assisting us.

**CHIEF’S REPORT:**

Status of vehicles for repair or for sale: John Goleman installed new grab handles outside of each ambulance. All equipment is in good condition.

The fuel tanks that were leased have been installed and have been filled for use by our vehicles.

Larry Magill is actively getting bids for wildlife mitigation equipment needed for this project. (trailers, hand tools etc.) He is working on scheduling a meeting to ensure the Wamic Fire Department receives all funds needed from the CWDG grant including Administration Fees. If the Administration Fees are not included, as requested, he will be pursuing this with the County Commissioners.

**EMS:** Five applicants have applied to join our department. One has been approved, and the others are still in the approval stage.

As reported by Jamie Magill, the Wamic Rural Fire Department responded to 141 EMS calls in 2024 and more than 140 calls for fire and rescue. As of January 17, 2025, our department has responded to 11 EMS calls and 2 fire calls.

**COMMUNICATION**: John Goleman is investigating updating our radio system.

It is a concern that due to high winds and other not anticipated conditions, we could and have lost internet coverage. Lack of internet coverage greatly affects our communication during these events. It was suggested that we check into the Starlink System. If the usual internet and cell phone coverage is lost due to the current cell phone towers losing power, Starlink would still be active since it does not rely on cell phone towers to operate. The hardware costs about $700, and then there is a monthly fee. There may be a discount for our Fire Department. John Ickes made a motion to investigate this system, and Neil Senger seconded this motion. Investigation of the Starlink System was approved.

**Emergency preparedness ideas are addressed under New Business**

**SAFETY:** John Goleman has been checking the fire hydrants to make sure **they are operational and repairing those that need service.**

**TRAINING**: Will continue each Monday.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

Grants pending or open:

* Oregon State Fire Marshall – active
* FEMA building grant – active
* Wildfire Mitigation – approved
* CWDG – approved

**NEW BUSINESS:**

MESA will be holding a dinner meeting at the Stockyard to explain their ambulance and life flight plans. MESA costs more but covers more territory and services. Invitations have been mailed by MESA to local homeowners.

**PREPAREDNESS PLANS IN CASE OF EMERGENCIES:**

It was proposed that we develop an Emergency Plan for our community. Sheridan is working on one for their area now. This would include wildfires, getting Starlink for a non-cell tower communication system, comms, evacuation routes, and a method to communicate with the residents of pending or current emergency issues.

Since we have 3 lakes in our district (Smock, Rock Creek and Pine Hollow) and our population could double in the summer months, we would need to make our plans accessible to everyone in the area, no matter what season we are in, for both residents and visitors.

It was proposed that we educate the population:

* Of all the possible evacuation routes (yes, there is more than one!) Perhaps by signage, as they do on the Oregon Coast.
* Education on what to do and where to go during epic events
* Get generators for our water systems. Grants for these must be applied for no later than the first couple of weeks in February
* We need a letter from the Water Board stating when each fire hydrant was flushed. This is required no matter what the rest of our plans are. Larry Magill and Larry Warren to work on getting this information.
* Plan how to educate our population and get the plan out to the public. Possibly make refrigerator magnets with important phone numbers and with the names of people to contact in the event of an emergency.

The goal is to let our community know how to handle an epic emergency and to make sure all of our systems are current and operational. We do not want what happened in Southern California to happen to our community.

Meeting adjourned at 11:30am

Minutes prepared and submitted by Cindy Koch.