



McKenzie Fire & Rescue

Board Meeting

January 16, 2023

Directors

- President Bruce Daniel
- Vice President Derek Wing
- Secretary/Treasurer Raymond Byrne, Jr.
- Board Member - Vacant
- Board Member Lee Means

Staff

- Fire Chief Darren Bucich
- Deputy Chief Bart Thompson
- Administrative Assistant Dulcy Pierce

President Bruce Daniel called the January meeting of the McKenzie Fire & Rescue Board of Directors to order at 12:00 p.m. on Monday, January 16, 2023, at the Leaburg Training Center, 42870 McKenzie Highway, Leaburg, Oregon.

Guests: John Sullivan

Approval of Board Meeting Minutes: Lee Means moved to accept the minutes, as presented, of the December 19, 2022, Board meeting. Raymond Byrne, Jr. seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Report: A motion to file the treasurer's report for the month of December, subject to audit, was made by Raymond Byrne, Jr. Lee Means seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Chief's Report: Chief Bucich was unable to attend, however his written report was included in the Board packet. Also discussed:

Water Tank: Deputy Chief Bart Thompson reported that the project is currently on hold. During the site prep, water/ethernet lines were located. Deputy Chief Thompson is investigating the best steps for proceeding.

New Engine: The new Type I engine was delivered to Hughes Fire in Springfield. They are working on a punch list of repairs, based on the engine specs.

1631: Additional repair items were found. 1631 is still in the shop.

Surplus Engine: During the March 21, 2022 Board meeting, Lee Means moved to donate one of the 30+ year old vehicles to a smaller District in need. The motion was seconded by Rick Thompson and passed unanimously. The surplus engine is being prepped to donate to Silver Lake Rural Fire Protection District. Chief Little, from Silver Lake RFPD is excited to replace their 1978 open cab fire engine.



McKenzie Fire & Rescue

Administrative Assistant Dulcy Pierce reviewed grants currently open and pending, the renewed copy machine lease, and reviewed conflagration reimbursements.

Action Items

Appoint Budget Officer: Bruce Daniel moved to appoint Fire Chief Darren Bucich as the 2023-2024 Budget Officer. Raymond Byrne, Jr. seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Resolution #10 - Accepting Revenue & Authorizing Expenditures for the Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG), \$47,619. ***Raymond Byrne, Jr. moved to accept Resolution #10 - Accepting Revenue & Authorizing Expenditures for the Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG), \$47,619. Lee Means seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.***

Resolution #11 - Accepting Revenue & Authorizing Expenditures for the Double Creek Conflagration, \$36,773. ***Lee Means moved to accept Resolution #11 - Accepting Revenue & Authorizing Expenditures for the Double Creek Conflagration, \$36,773. Raymond Byrne, Jr. seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.***

No Unfinished Business

New Business

Swearing In Ceremony: John Sullivan was given the Oath of Office by President Bruce Daniel as the appointed interim Board member.

Good of the Order

It is with deep sadness that the Board announced the passing of longtime Board member Rick Thompson. Rick served on the McKenzie Fire & Rescue Board of Directors for almost 15 years in addition to the McKenzie Fire & Rescue Boosters Association. He will be missed. ***Raymond Byrne, Jr. moved to give an honorary gift of \$250 to East Lane Veterinary Clinic in Rick's honor. Lee Means seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.***

The Board requested that a Get-Well basket be sent to Maui Medical Center for Christina Bucich. Administrative Assistant Dulcy Pierce will send an email to the Board when completed.

The Awards Banquet will be held on Saturday, February 25th at the Training Center in Leaburg. Social hour begins at 5:30 p.m.

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 21st, 2023, at 12:00 p.m. at the Leaburg Training Center.

Meeting adjourned at 12:38 p.m.

Raymond Byrne, Jr., Secretary / Treasurer



McKenzie Fire & Rescue

Minutes Addendum

On Tuesday, January 17th, 2023, Administrative Assistant Dulcy Pierce was directed to send an email to all Board members, requesting feedback regarding emergency compensation to assist Chief Bucich and his wife during their unexpected medical emergency.

It was agreed that these were undue circumstances in an expensive location. In addition to the added expense of hotels, rental cars, meals, etc, they would be required to amend their return flight to first class so that Christina Bucich may remain in a reclined position of comfort.

On Wednesday, January 18th, Raymond Byrne, Jr. made a motion, via email:

“Raymond Byrne, Jr. would like to make a motion to the Board that the District help offset the additional expenses, up to \$5,000, not covered by insurance for the Bucich family during their extended stay. This would include hotel, car rental, and the airline upgrades that will be required. Any additional incidentals can be discussed during the February Board meeting for possible reimbursement.”

Raymond Byrne Jr and Derek Wing voted AYE. Following concerns voiced by Bruce Daniel and Lee Means, Derek Wing rescinded his vote until Administrative Assistant Dulcy Pierce could investigate the ethics of the motion set before the Board.

Administrative Assistant Dulcy Pierce contacted both Special Districts Association of Oregon and Local Government Law on Wednesday, January 18th.

Mark Wolf, Local Government Law, is the districts direct counsel and believes because of the unusual circumstances, the Board can make this decision with an addition/amendment to the District policies.

He recommended the addition/amendment might read something similar to this: “The Board of Directors may approve financial restitution on a case-by-case situation for employees who may be financially disadvantaged due to medical emergencies, acts of God, extenuating and unusual circumstances.”

He also recommended, based on the policy approval, not giving out a lump sum but instead, use a direct reimbursement process based upon submitted receipts that would be approved by the Board. While this does not offer immediate assistance, it would be a clean way to help, with no additional expense to the District. Otherwise, if the funds are given directly, it is considered a bonus and subject to taxes which would cost the District additional funds.



McKenzie Fire & Rescue

After speaking to Mark, Spencer Rockwell with SDAO, returned Dulcy Pierce's call. While he didn't offer any concrete reason why the Board should not be able to make this decision, he recommended ***not*** moving forward with the motion to assist due to ethical reasons. His first question was "would the Board do this for any other employee/volunteer?" He felt it would not look appropriate and recommended seeking assistance elsewhere.

Following both conversations, Mark Wolf, Local Government Law, recommended any future discussion take place in a future meeting. The Board agreed to table the discussion until the February meeting.

Dulcy Pierce
Board Clerk
Administrative Assistant