

Lane Fire Authority

Minutes for March 16th, 2017 Regular Board Meeting 88050 Territorial Hwy., Veneta

Members Present:

Greg Deedon Bill Clendenen Ryan Walker John Baxter Pete Holmes

The regular board meeting for Lane Fire Authority was called to order at 6:11 p.m. by Board President Pete Holmes.

Minutes, Treasurer's Report and Bills:

Minutes from the February 16th Board Meeting were approved.

Treasurer's Report:

There were no questions.

Correspondence:

Chief Ney read several thankyou's from community members.

Chief's Report:

Medic 101 – Medic 101 is staffed. Engineer/paramedic Larry Merrill is reassigned to Station 101 which allowed us to accelerate staffing the medic 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday-Friday. Before going to dispatch saying we are covering this area these particular hours, we will monitor the calls and let things settle as we work our way into this new system.

OSHA – During the last several months quite a few fire districts in Lane County have had OSHA inspections. The focus for OSHA appears to be fire departments. LFA has had one OSHA inspection done on a consultation basis which will give us a "buy" for a period of time before an official inspection. The safety side of the consultation/inspection has been completed -we received feedback on some very minor issues. An appointment is scheduled for the hygienist. Hopefully this will give us some breathing room - once a district is under consultation there is a window of time in which a district cannot be penalized by OSHA.

Santa Clara Fire Department – Chief Ney met yesterday with the paid staff of Santa Clara. Chiefs Ney and Wood are putting together a proposal of what things could look like and how we might help them provide better service to their citizens under an IGA. Station 61 would be shut down, using Santa Clara station 62 and staffing it with volunteers pulling shifts, rather than community volunteers responding from home, the core of the engine company could be formed from station 115. Santa Clara's historic model does not work anymore.

There are many, many times when they get 2nd & 3rd tap-outs. One issue is that 4 of the 5 board members are former volunteers and are somewhat resistant to change.

Chief Heppel has been offered and tentatively accepted the position of Deputy Chief with Eugene/Springfield Fire. He expects to be gone sometime around the end of May the first of June- no definite date is set for his departure.

Chief Ney's short term plan is to move his office to 115 for several months after Chief Heppel leaves. He has run ambulance service before and as a paramedic he can help staff the reserve medic. Being at 115 will also give Chief Ney the opportunity to build stronger relationships at 115 and broaden his view of the district.

In the long term the position will need to be filled, however, Chief Ney does not want to rush into filling the position.

Public Comment:

None

Volunteer Association Input:

Preston Henne, new Association president, is on shift and cannot attend the meeting.

Best Practices:

Proposed Policy 6.4 Educational Benefit. - Many of our personnel, especially career staff, are funding their further education themselves. Chief would like LFA to contribute towards funding additional education and Policy 6.4 is a first draft working towards that goal. Questions were raised about length of service and seeing a return on investment. A point was made about having an educational benefit for volunteers that meet certain criteria including time served. This may serve as an incentive for younger volunteers to stay with LFA longer.

Chief Ney prefers this educational benefit not be part of the contract - if it needs to be altered the contract won't need to be opened.

Chief Ney will work on language and specific requirements such as minimum GPA (a suggestion of 2.5 was made).

The board agrees that generally, additional education is beneficial. Director Walker will get a copy of his employer's education policy. There will most likely need to be two policies, one for paid staff and one for volunteers.

Chief Ney will work on revising the policy presented and a parallel draft for volunteers and have them ready for next month's meeting.

New Business:

Topic	Appoint Budget Officer for Fiscal Year 2017-18
Discussion	
Action taken	Motion made by Greg Deedon and seconded by John Baxter appointing Chief Ney as budget officer for fiscal year 2017-2018. All ayes.

Topic	Approve Budget Calendar for Fiscal Year 2017-18
Discussion	Each board member previously received a copy of the budget calendar.
Action taken	Motion made by Greg Deedon and seconded by John Baxter accepting the budget calendar as presented for fiscal year 2017-2018. All ayes.

Topic	Approve Resolution 2016-6 Transferring Funds from Contingency Fund to Personnel Services Fund
Discussion	Unanticipated personnel services expenditures (FMLA, overtime, vacation, administrative leave etc.) are putting LFA near 100% of the budgeted amount. Chief Ney is also adding substantially to temporary and seasonal workers, primarily to bring in a couple of single role, part time, paramedics. Chief Ney read aloud resolution 2016-6.
Action taken	Motion made by Bill Clendenen and seconded by Greg Deedon approving resolution 2016-6. All ayes.

Topic	Purchase of Vacant Property Adjacent to Station 101
Discussion	Board members previously received a copy of the contract between the current buyer and seller for the vacant property adjacent to station 101. Chief Ney recommended proceeding with the purchase of the property. A determination was made to assume the contract rather than acquire a new loan. Next month Chief will most likely recommend listing the "back lot" at Station 101 as surplus
Action taken	Motion made by John Baxter and seconded by Greg Deedon approving the purchase of the vacant property adjacent to Station 101. All ayes.

Health Insurance – The increase for LFA's health insurance renewal is 3.88% overall including dental and vision. Due to OFCA & SDAO combining there is a larger group of insureds which is why savings are better this year. There is a quarterly recap of the program which is very important to see where the money is going (what is paid out and what is profit). The program is still administered by Moda and there is no change for those who use the plan. Keeping the group as one entity and averaging claims smooths out the peaks and valleys which in turn make budgeting easier.

PERS Budgeting – PERS will probably increase from 16% to 22% this year. Senate Bill 559 would change the final salary average from 3 to 5 years. Senate Bill 560 would cap the amount of salary used to calculate the final average at \$100,000. If SB 560 this goes through, many agencies anticipate losing quite a few people. Chief Ney is watching both bills closely.

Once a person has retired (signed a contract), PERS benefits cannot be altered which is why many people close to retirement may go ahead and retire now to avoid a reduction in benefits.

Fire Chief Evaluation – Chief Ney reminded everyone to complete the chief's survey if they haven't already. Results of the survey should be ready by the next board meeting. The survey was gratis of ESCI.

Board Positions - Thankyou to Pete, Bill and John for running for board positions.

There being no further business the regular board meeting of Lane Fire Authority was adjourned by Pete Holmes at 7:14 p.m.

NEXT MEETING: Thursday, April 20th 6:00 p.m.

LOCATION: 88050 Territorial Hwy., Veneta, OR