

HOODLAND FIRE DISTRICT # 74
SPECIAL BOARD MEETING MINUTES
JANUARY 31, 2022

Those Present: Board Members: Shirley Dueber, Nora Gambee, Cliff Fortune (Zoom), Mary Ellen Fitzgerald (Zoom), and Jacob Rackley (Zoom). Staff: Jim Price; Fire Chief, DC Scott Kline, and Kelli Ewing; Administrative Assistant. Guest: Liv Brumfield.

1. Call to Order By: Shirley Dueber at 8:57 AM.
2. Roll Call.
3. New Business.
 - A. Presentation by Liv Brumfield from Representative Earl Blumenauer's Office regarding the Legislative Concepts for Recreation Enhancement, Wildfire Resiliency, and Conservation for Mount Hood and the Columbia River Gorge.
 - i. Congressman Earl Blumenauer has been gathering information and listening to concerns and is working to craft legislative solutions.
 - ii. Hoodland Fire is concerned about Fire Safety, Emergency access and fuels reduction to protect residents.
 - iii. Hoodland Fire District is surrounded by BLM and USFS lands, more support, crews, and resources are needed for response and fuels reduction.
 - iv. Legislative Concepts include fire risk assessment and fuels reduction in popular recreation areas.
 - v. Concerns regarding above ground powerlines. PGE is currently asking for Federal funding to relocate powerlines underground. Congressman Blumenauer is supportive of these efforts.
 - vi. Concerns regarding the Wilderness designation that are near Hwy 26 and near communities. This would make it even harder to do fuels reduction projects in the future.

3. A. Continued

vii. USFS Mount Hood no longer has dedicated Prevention employees. It is not a priority; it is an afterthought. The signs are not maintained and are in disrepair. In the past the Prevention employees would patrol, make public contact, and were on site and had the interworking “boots on the ground” knowledge. Many programs were cut when the USFS lost their funding due to the logging shut down. Access is limited because the USFS roads are no longer maintained because of the staffing cuts. Now the USFS is mostly administrative people that hire contractors to perform the work.

viii. Hoodland Fire is applying for the FEMA AFG Grant and we appreciate Congressman Blumenauer’s support of the FEMA AFG Grants which really help small fire departments.

ix. Concerns regarding access for the public and Emergency access because Hwy 26 is at capacity and there is a lack of secondary access. Traffic delays can be up to 4 hours during the busy season. If shuttle services, trains, transportation hubs are being considered there is concern regarding a multi-passenger shuttle crash overwhelming our emergency services resources.

x. Funding is needed for a new station for Hoodland Fire, because we are surrounded by Federal Land there is a lack of buildable land. Our tax base doesn’t increase with the amount of activity. Congressman Blumenauer’s is supportive of Federal funding to help build capacity and infrastructure.

4. Board Member Comments.

A. Mary Ellen Fitzgerald – Lots of discussion on Fuel Reduction. Thank you for your input DC Scott Kline.

B. Shirley Dueber – Appreciates that we were able to share our concerns.

C. Nora Gambee – Recommends staying in touch and following up with Liv Brumfield and Congressman Blumenauer’s Office.

D. Cliff Fortune – Appreciates Liv Brumfield’s willingness to help with Grants.

5. Other New Business.

A. First CBA Meeting is today, Fire Chief Jim Price and Board Members Nora Gambee and Jacob Rackley will be attending this meeting.

B. In case they are needed, Executive Sessions will be advertised on the Regular Board Meeting Agendas until the CBA is complete.

6. Adjournment by Shirley Dueber at 10:18 AM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Carolyn M. Norgard

Carolyn M. Norgard, Financial Manager

Notes Typed By: Kelli Ewing, Administrative Assistant