

HOODLAND FIRE DISTRICT #74
BOARD MEETING MINUTES
DECEMBER 10, 2024

Board Members: Nora Gambée, John Drake, Mary Ellen Fitzgerald, Cliff Fortune, and Terry Niedermeyer. Five voting members in attendance.

Staff and Volunteers: Jim Price; Fire Chief, Scott Kline; Division Chief, Brian Henrichs; Division Chief, LT Evan Jarvis, FF Pat McAbery, and Kelli Ewing; Office Administrator

Guests: Nick Seibel (USFS), Meta Loftsgaarden (USFS), Alex Cettie (Otak), Sarah Eckman (Clackamas County) [Zoom], David Linz (Otak) [Zoom]

1. Call to Order: By Nora Gambée at 7:00 PM

2. Roll Call

3. Pledge of Allegiance: Led by Mary Ellen Fitzgerald

4. Persons to be Heard. None

5. US Forest Service Presentation

A. Meta Loftsgaarden - USFS

i. The 2020 fires caused significant property damage in Ripple Brook. In response, the Forest Service received \$76 million in funding from Congress. Rather than replacing Ripple Brook, the Forest Service is considering relocating. They have allocated \$5 million for housing projects at the North Compound. To cover the remaining funds needed, the Northwest Community Outreach Foundation will provide a loan. The housing is intended for both Forest Service personnel and the local community, with management entrusted to a nonprofit organization.

ii. A total of \$5.6 million is currently available for allocation towards fire facilities. The Forest Service has expressed interest in collaborating with Hoodland Fire on the development of an interagency building whether that be at the Dorman site or the North Compound. The Forest Service's requirements for the facility include three bays and three office spaces.

iii. USFS funding must be allocated by February 28, 2025. These funds could be used to reduce the cost of the bond, which is due for submission at the beginning of February.

iv. Location: There are numerous logistical challenges to address, including concerns regarding security, proximity to the highway, and bridge accessibility. Both the Dorman Center site and the North Compound have their respective pros and cons. The Forest Service is highly enthusiastic about the potential collaboration with the fire district and is open to finding compromises.

v. Teaming up would potentially open more options for funding.

MOTION MADE: By Mary Ellen Fitzgerald to consider an agreement drafted by US Forest Service to Partner on an Interagency Station

2ND: By John Drake

DISCUSSION: Cliff is okay with North Compound. Meta agrees. Union would like to work with USFS on collaboration. Funding is available now. Two unions can work together. If this agreement is agreed upon, making sure that the public is well informed of the changes before bond time is important and would need to happen quickly.

VOTE: Motion Passed Unanimously, 5 Ayes. Nora Gambee (Aye), Cliff Fortune (Aye), Terry Niedermeyer (Aye), Mary Ellen Fitzgerald (Aye), and John Drake (Aye)

6. Fire Station Project

A. New Station Project Update

i. The community open house held in November was a success. It was well attended by community members, as well as representatives from the community garden, the CPO group, and the farmers' market.

B. Replacement Project Outreach Summary

i. The CPO meeting was well attended, with productive discussions regarding the options of building a new station versus remodeling the current one. Primary concerns included the cost impact, the ODOT signal light, the proximity to the school, and the potential issues with pick-up and drop-off traffic. There was strong support for the new station, with many expressing a desire for a facility that can withstand an earthquake.

ii. There will be increased community outreach efforts with the Government Camp and Rhododendron CPOs, as well as with Unidos; the Spanish-speaking community group. It was also felt that a citizen committee should be formed.

iii. Working with Senator Merkley's office to explore the possibility of USDA grants. Additionally, Otak has been reaching out to private companies for support. The Board requests a monthly grant status chart.

v. The Community Garden group has concerns about altering the shape of the existing garden, as it would require replanting the plots. However, the garden will be expanding to approximately double its current size and will be enclosed with a fence.

vi. The next Community Engagement Open House scheduled for January 23, 2025, 5:30 PM - 7:30 PM.

C. Scope of Services – Otak Contract Extension

i. The current contract ends on December 31, 2024. An extension is through construction, which is divided into phases. Phase 2 will run from January 1 to June 20, 2025. Otak will not proceed with any work following the bond vote unless they receive approval from the board to do so.

MOTION MADE: By Terry Niedermeyer to approve Otak Contract extension to 6/30/2025 in the amount of \$64,000.00.

2ND: By John Drake

DISCUSSION: None

VOTE: Motion Passed Unanimously, 5 Ayes. Nora Gambée (Aye), Cliff Fortune (Aye), Terry Niedermeyer (Aye), Mary Ellen Fitzgerald (Aye), and John Drake (Aye)

D. Discussion on Mackenzie Invoice

i. The Board expressed ongoing concerns regarding Mackenzie's failure to provide itemized bills for services rendered. Despite multiple requests, no progress has been made on this matter. It was emphasized that an itemized bill is essential for transparency and proper record-keeping.

ii. The Board agreed that the check for Mackenzie's contract will not be signed until an itemized bill for the services rendered is provided.

7. Approval of Minutes

A. Board of Directors Meeting on November 12, 2024

MOTION MADE: By Mary Ellen Fitzgerald to approve the Board of Directors Meeting Minutes on 11/12/2024

2ND: By John Drake

DISCUSSION: None

VOTE: Motion Passed Unanimously, 5 Ayes. Nora Gambree (Aye), Cliff Fortune (Aye), Terry Niedermeyer (Aye), Mary Ellen Fitzgerald (Aye), and John Drake (Aye)

8. Communications

A. Board Upcoming Reminders

i. District Christmas Party December 14, 2024, 1:30 PM – 3:00 PM

ii. Regular Board Meeting Tuesday, January 14, 2025, 7 PM

iii. SDAO Conference February 6 – 9, 2025 in Bend, OR. (Cliff, Mary Ellen, John).

B. Thank you card and flag from a patient

C. Thank you and donation from Brandt Family

D. Confirmation that James Nice would like to renew his Budget Committee term.

9. Reports

A. Chief's Report: Fire Chief Jim Price

i. The call count for the month is 66, with a total of 914 for the year. The average turnout time is 1:57, and the average time to arrival is 12:11. The majority of the calls were EMS related.

ii. Chief's Interviews – One candidate declined the position, so the offer was extended to a second candidate. Unfortunately, this candidate was injured, so a conditional offer was extended with an updated start date of March 3, 2025.

B. Staff Report: DC Brian Henrichs

i. Recertification paperwork has been submitted to DPSST.

ii. The new engine has been undergoing repairs and was expected back today, but additional issues were identified, causing a delay. It should be returned within a week.

iii. Surplussed vehicles are ready to be sold and will be listed on GovDeals in January 2025.

iv. Preparation for the upcoming SDAO Safety evaluation is underway.

v. 2002 Engine is being refurbished in Las Vegas.

C. Staff Report: DC Scott Kline – No Report

10. Finance

A. The majority of FY 2024-2025 Tax monies have now been received.

B. Year-To-Date Budget Report updated as of today.

C. Transaction Report is current and includes all checks from today.

11. Unfinished Business

A. Volunteer Relations Update - None

B. Strategic Plan

i. Draft will be reviewed at next board meeting.

12. New Business

A. Agenda suggestions for next month's meeting. None

13. Motion to Pay Bills

MOTION MADE: By Cliff Fortune to pay bills as submitted

2ND: By Terry Niedermeyer

DISCUSSION: Cliff Fortune declared a potential conflict of interest due to a conference reimbursement check.

VOTE: Motion Passed Unanimously, 5 Ayes. Nora Gambee (Aye), Cliff Fortune (Aye), Terry Niedermeyer (Aye), Mary Ellen Fitzgerald (Aye), and John Drake (Aye)

14. Board Member Comments

A. Cliff Fortune is excited about the USFS deal and funds.

B. Terry Niedermeyer feels that this deal would help the community with funding the project.

C. Nora Gambee feels that the community will be excited about the new developments.

15. Executive Session. None.

16. Other New Business. None.

17. Adjournment

MOTION MADE: By John Drake to adjourn the meeting.

2ND: By Cliff Fortune

ADJOURNMENT: By Nora Gambee at 9:26 PM

Respectfully Submitted,

Kelli Ewing

Kelli Ewing, Office Administrator

Notes Type By: Christi Harris, Administrative Assistant