

Regular Board Meeting
Corbett Fire District #14
Board of Directors
September 8, 2021

Present: Chair Shannon, Vice-chair Purvine, Secretary/Treasurer McHenry, Director Brothers and Director Weber

Staff: Fire Chief Dave Flood and Office Administrator Heidi Timberman

Guests: Assistant Chief Rick Wunsch, Assistant Chief Brent Younker, Captain Daren Martin, Volunteer Association President Joe Fahlman, Volunteer Association Secretary/Treasurer Jasmine Zimmer-Stucky, Terry Cook, Malcolm Freund and Josh Svaren

The Board Meeting was opened at 6:30 p.m. by Chair Shannon

Minutes

Chair Shannon asked if anyone had any comments on the August 11, 2021 Board Meeting minutes. There were no comments.

Vice-chair Purvine made a motion the August 11, 2021 Board Meeting minutes be approved as presented.

Secretary/Treasurer McHenry seconded.

4 yes votes and 1 abstention, motion carried.

(4 yes votes: M. McHenry, V. Purvine, D. Shannon & F. Weber; 0 no votes; 1 abstention: P. Brothers)

Monthly Financial Review

Office Administrator Timberman presented the August 2021 financial reports. All funds were within adopted budget appropriations for the fiscal year. The LGIP interest rate remains at .55% as of July 29. There were no unusual or unplanned expenditures for August except for Wrentham Market and Bootleg fire conflagration payroll. Reimbursement packets for both of these have been submitted to OFSM. Payroll will be processed and request for reimbursement will be submitted for the Patton Meadow fire this month. She provided a recap of individual line items whose % of budget is higher than the % of the fiscal year completed.

Audience Testimony

Terry Cook presented a proposal to acquire an approximately 28' wide strip of our Springdale property in order to create a new gated driveway to his home

from the highway; the strip is approximately 170' long. This would also relinquish the current easement to Josh Svaren. Chair Shannon asked if he was making an offer; Mr. Cook said he is willing to negotiate. Chair Shannon explained that we do have plans to improve the Springdale station within the next couple of years and there are simply too many unknowns at this time to consider the proposal. We do not want to say no but we are not in a position to say yes at this time. Mr. Cook was asked to bring the proposal back in a year or two.

METRO Properties: tax loss to small districts

FC Flood reported there has been no new progress on this issue. Chair Shannon reviewed the prior exchange of letters and information FC Flood provided; it seems less of a priority to respond to them than it does to start some coalition building and letter writing to collateral districts. A continued dialogue is most likely unproductive however we do want to continue so as to have something to present to collateral districts and lobbyists. The coalition would be made up of districts outside of the metro boundary that have been directly affected by Metro property purchases. Locally that would include the Corbett Water and School Districts.

Springdale Market property improvements

Terry Cook made a presentation to the board earlier in the meeting. Josh Svaren was in attendance but did not speak to the board. FC Flood hasn't had any more communication with Mr. Svaren.

Hydrants

Mr. Fruend attended the last meeting of the water district and reported that no comment was made on the substance of the letter from our board but that two of their board members thought it was rude. Mr. Hargens and Ms. Piper were going to meet with FC Flood however no contact has been made at this time. FC Flood reported that, at that meeting, it was brought up that the fire district owed money for some hydrants installed in previous years. OA Timberman followed up and found that we were not billed and will not be billed for this work.

COVID-19

FC Flood reported that beginning October 18, our volunteers are subject to the OHA Vaccination Mandate. All members must provide proof of vaccination or a COVID-19 Medical or Religious Exception by that date. Members not complying with the mandate will not be responding on any patient care calls. The mandate is currently set to expire January 31, 2022.

Fire Chief Recruitment

Chair Shannon restated FC Flood's intent to retire from the position of Fire Chief. OA Timberman contacted SDAO HR Services to find out if we need to do a posting and recruitment. The response was no although it is recommended. Chair Shannon summarized the changes made when FC Flood was hired, including hiring and compensating a fire chief and making wholesale changes to the leadership in the department. We went through an extensive process at the time and were fortunate to get someone who was retired, professional and competent throughout all of the areas we needed a chief to be in. We are in a very different position six years later. We have a different structure of leadership, assistant chiefs who have been instrumental, and a variety of captains and lieutenants who have seen it happen throughout. Chair Shannon hopes the board will agree to promote from within. He believes FC Flood has a strong recommendation as to who is an appropriate next chief. We can also solicit other recommendations from within the leadership of the department. Chair Shannon proposed that we craft a process to identify and promote from within based on the work that was undertaken in 2015 when FC Flood was hired. He acknowledged that FC Flood has taken on many tasks that are not appropriate for a fire chief and at a wage substantially lower than the position calls for. The board has a role to play in changing the position so that it is more appropriate for its quasi-volunteer status. This would include moving some administrative tasks to the OA and changing some obligations of our volunteer firefighters to include those FC Flood has undertaken. FC Flood, OA Timberman and senior leadership are to bring some proposals to the board for the increase in OA hours. Board members in connection with senior leadership can draft some changes to the way firefighter tasks are organized, how hours are calculated and how LOSAP contributions are connected to those hours. The goal is to have the incoming fire chief in a position to supervise rather than execute. FC Flood added that minimum requirements for membership in the department needs to include tasks. He also believes there are some tasks that can be hired out similar to the mowing at Corbett and Springdale. Vice-chair Purvine asked if the firefighters have had any input into the recruitment. They have not this time around. FC Flood believes no fire department wants someone from the outside and it is not likely we will find someone willing to move here for \$30,000. Association President Fahlman thinks it would be a sign of respect to ask the membership for their opinion. Chair Shannon reminded everyone that prior to hiring FC Flood the membership did choose the FC; it didn't work so well and is how we ended up where we did six years ago. Vice-chair Purvine thinks the recruitment should be open to the public. Chair Shannon disagrees based on the process we went through previously. FC Flood pointed out that when an agency goes outside to promote, the message it sends is that the board doesn't think anyone inside is

qualified to do the job. In many cases, just look at Portland Police, Fire and School District, when they go outside, they make horrendous choices. Secretary/Treasurer McHenry wants to make sure the community is aware of why we are making the decisions we make; we need to be very aware of our public facing message. Chair Shannon is not so worried about how the process looks but rather that it is right. Captain Martin noted FC Flood's statement to the membership and the board at the time that he was going to train someone for the position during his planned tenure of five or six years. The message that sent to the board was that the welfare of the department, not his authority, was his priority and that is the message the board wants to send to every firefighter that joins the department. We want each member to know that we train for our future leaders and that everyone has an equal opportunity to move into those positions. FC Flood fully advocates that we maintain within all possibilities to recruit and hire from within and that our membership remains 100% volunteer. Chair Shannon made a motion we initiate the fire chief recruitment process with a statement of intent that we intend to recruit and hire, through the process we touched upon tonight, from within.

Director Brothers seconded.

4 yes votes and 1 abstention, motion carried.

(4 yes votes: P. Brothers, M. McHenry, V. Purvine, & D. Shannon; 0 no votes; 1 abstention: F. Weber)

Facilities

FC Flood plans to present facility upgrade drawings to the board at next month's meeting. His plan is to add an approximately 50' x 70' building behind and immediately adjacent to the Corbett station, probably separated by 8' to 10', that has two apparatus bays and room for workout, laundry and supply room facilities. It would not have living quarters but would include a day room so that firefighters have an area with a tv and desk that is separate and has its own a/c. Down at Springdale we would add a separate building to house the main structural engine and have an office. The existing structure would house the brush unit and have a tactical tender. The goal with both being separate buildings is that no seismic or ADA upgrading would be required to the existing buildings. The new buildings would house the structural engines and water tender. The brush stuff would not. His best estimate at this time for a bond is between \$1.5 and \$2 million.

Chief's Report

Run reports for August – calls for the month about average; predicting over 500 for the year; usual breakdown; one failure to respond to a traffic accident near Rooster Rock – four of our firefighters were on deployment to Patton Meadow fire and no others responded – this was one of the mutual aids received by

Gresham; FC Flood coordinated the Multnomah County deployment to the Patton Meadow fire as Scott Lewis from Gresham, Fire Defense Board Chief, was on vacation

Recruits – eight recruits are going on to the physical agility test; we interviewed 11; one recruit has Department of Defense experience so will not be required to go through the process for new recruits

Life Packs – EMS Captain Adams is working on getting a couple of replacements and also some service work done on our old ones

Badge Ceremony – we plan to hold a badge ceremony for our last recruit class at the November board meeting

Multnomah County – on September 17 Commission Chair Kafoury and Commissioner Lori Stegman will be out to discuss the county roads situation within the district with FC Flood, AC Wunsch and OA Timberman; FC Flood will use the opportunity to begin talking about renegotiating the EMS contract

BOEC – failure to pick up 911 calls has significantly increased; FC Flood dispatched a call from the school last week for a bee sting when the caller could not get through to 911 and called him directly; would the board be open to that becoming the standard?

Items not on Agenda

None

Agenda Suggestions for Future Meetings

BOEC

Chair Shannon adjourned the Board Meeting at 8:17 p.m.