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## SCIO FIRE DISTRICT

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P.O. Box 1 Scio, OR 97374 \* 503-394-3000

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES August 15, 2023

The Board of Directors of the Scio Fire District met at St. 91 located at 38975 SW Sixth Avenue, Scio Oregon.

**Board of Directors:**

- Paul Dykast, President
- Sioux Ellis, Vice President
- Larry Brown, Secretary/Treasurer
- Pat Traeger, Director
- Katrina Clouse, Director

**OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE:**

Fire Chief Kyle White, Administrative Assistant Amy Watson, Captain Randy Boyer, Richard LaBelle, Terri Barker, Mandy and Brendan Boyer, Nicholsa Riedel, Ethan Massari, Levi Forson, Andi and Ted Park, Tiffany Weber, Mike and Ronda Traeger and JR Traeger.

**CALL TO ORDER:** The meeting called to order at 7:00 pm by President Paul Dykast.

**ATTENDANCE:** Roll called. Quorum established.

**FLAG SALUTE:** Flag Salute led by President Paul Dykast.

Larry Brown was addressing a statement made at last month's board meeting. He stated that he did not vote to dismiss former Chief Levi Eckhardt. He did vote to accept his resignation.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Mike Traeger – Commented on the five investigations pending: Stillman case, accusations against Chief Eckhardt, and Megan Signs incident, accident involving the Rescue and the issues with the hiring process. He questioned the posting of the Executive Session.

Ronda Traeger – Commented on accessibility and receiving information on meetings, minutes, and audio recordings in a timely manner. She would like this to be addressed and improved upon and will be requesting the audio from here on out. She stated that her husband Mike Traeger has volunteered with the district and is dedicated to this community.

Tiffany Stillman – She addressed the Board regarding the investigation into her family. This topic will be addressed in today's Board Meeting.

Richard LaBelle – Commented about the hiring process. It was posted in the Executive Session and SDAO (Special Districts Association of Oregon) conducting the process.

Steve Boros – Commented that he is a fire fighter volunteer with the district for three years and is resigning. He stated that the reason he is resigning is because of being attacked by community members.

Ted Park – Addressed the Board asking on how to resolve the issues with investigations. He would like to move forward. He has listened to District employees and volunteers being attacked and the hiring process being questioned. His wife is a volunteer and is receiving backlash from the community. She did not get the chief position but is moving on.

**CONSENT AGENDA: Brown moved to accept consent agenda which consisted of minutes of July, payment of bills, check review, and 2023-24 expenditure sheet. Katrina Clouse seconded the motion. Motion carried. (Yes – Dykast, Brown, Clouse)**

**ADDITIONS OR DELETIONS TO THE AGENDA/ APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Brown moved to accept the agenda. Clouse seconded the motion. Motion carried. (Yes – Brown, Dykast, Clouse)**

#### **INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS:**

**CORRESPONDENCE:** *Chief White*-We received a thank you note from the Scio Parents Club. They wanted to thank us for our donation to their Spring Fling auction.

#### **STAFF REPORTS:**

*Chief White* – 1) We are in a new fiscal year, and we have received .2% of taxes. 2) We had a good turnout for National Night out and had approximately 400 people who attended 3) Due to the excessive heat we have opened the Community Center open to the public as a cooling station 4) New volunteer updates: We have one in the process and four more applications pending 5) The OSFM Upstaffing Grant that we have in place has been valuable in us quickly responding to various fires we've had this summer 6) Engine 91 has been fixed.

*Administrative Assistant* – On July 25<sup>th</sup> Kori Sarrett from Accuity LLC performed our annual audit. We are still waiting for the results from Accuity.

#### *Volunteer Association –*

*Nicholas Riedel* – He is the President of SCB Association (Scio Crabtree and Bilyeu Den) which is all three of our fire stations. They meet every odd month. previously they met in July and will meet again in September. National Night out was a huge success and brought together the community and to visit with our stations. We were able to obtain new volunteers because of it. Their next event is Fire Prevention Week which will be in the third week of October.

#### **OLD BUSINESS:**

*President Dykast* – He would like to address the Stillman family concerns. Dykast and Chief White spoke with our lawyers from the Local Law Group, and the lawyer recommended that we accept the finding of the investigating doctor. President Dykast's recommendation is to have another investigation in order to talk to people who were there during this event.

**Clouse moved to have another investigation into the Stillman family concerns and how should proceed further. Brown seconded the motion. Motion carried. (Yes – Brown, Dykast, Clouse)**

Dykast suggested that Chief White and the District look into who should be hired for the investigation. They should be someone who is outside of the Scio Community. He is looking forward to speaking with all Board Members regarding this matter and seeing how they would like to be as well. Chief White addressed the family about the new investigation, and asked if they would accept the results from this investigation. Tiffany Stillman agreed she would accept the results of the new investigation.

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

Chief White – 1). Final forms for the 2023-2024 Adopted Budget were presented to the board. The Budget Committee will also receive these final forms. 2) Equipment Replacement Plan – The sheet shows the life expectancy of the apparatus and engines. It describes how it goes from primary status to reserve status or to surplus. This list also includes the replacement schedule. The Chief is asking to reestablish this ERP that was created in 2016 and was not implemented. This will be used going forward as a framework to use on the equipment status and be used as a Replacement Schedule of our equipment.

**Clouse moved to accept the replacement schedule. Brown seconded the motion. Motion carried. (Yes – Brown, Dykast, Clouse)**

3) SCBA update – SCBA bottles are three years from expiring. Stayton Fire Station was recently given a grant and they are willing to give us a deal on their existing bottles that were purchased in 2019. They have a 15-year life span and will buy us some time until a new decision is made. 4) ACH withdrawal for paying bills that are due to be paid on the 10th of the month. In lieu of cutting checks, these bills will now be paid via ACH. Invoices will be presented to the board at each meeting. 5) Suburban Slide Out Cage – Chief is asking to consider this as surplus equipment. It does not fit any of our current equipment.

**Brown moved to accept the suburban cage as surplus. Clouse seconded the motion. Motion carried. (Yes – Brown, Dykast, Clouse)**

6) F150 Console - 2022 Command Vehicle has a custom console for radios. The previous stock console has been removed and the Chief is asking to consider this as surplus equipment.

**Brown moved to accept the stock console as surplus. Clouse seconded the motion. Motion carried. (Yes – Brown, Dykast, Clouse)**

**AGENDA SUGGESTIONS:** Clouse would like to make sure we are expressing community dispute between board members and past issues. She is asking for transparency to be added on the next agenda.

**GOOD OF THE ORDER & BOARD COMMENTS:** None.

**NEXT MEETING:** Board Meeting on September 19th, 7 p.m. Station 91 – 38975 SW 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Scio OR

**ADJOURNMENT: Brown moved, and Clouse seconded to adjourn meeting. Motion carried unanimously.** Meeting adjourned at 7:51 p.m.

Submitted by:

  
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Amy Watson, Administrative Assistant

  
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Larry Brown, Secretary/Treasurer