

DOBBINS/OREGON HOUSE FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

P. O. BOX 164, OREGON HOUSE, CA 95962

Minutes of Regular Meeting

June 25, 2024

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Chair Pessoa at 6:31pm

QUORUM

The Dobbins/Oregon House Fire Protection District Board of Directors met for their regular meeting on the date above with a quorum being present as follows: Charles Sharp, Lani Pessoa, and Clerk Peter Pillsbury, also serving as Director. Directors Justin DeVorss and Greg Holman were absent. Bookkeeper Lorrie Million was absent. There were four members of the public present. Chief Mike Butler arrived at 6:36pm.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Tim Wells thanks our firefighters for their work on recent local fire. Greg Stinsler expressed his disappointment regarding letters received about Rices Crossing pressurized fire hydrants. He feels effort and resources toward alternatives would be much better for our community.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Chair Pessoa and seconded by Director Sharp to approve the minutes for the May 28, 2024, regular meeting. The roll call vote was:

Director Sharp (yes)

Director DeVorss (absent)

Director Pillsbury (yes)

Chair Pessoa (yes)

Vice Chair Holman (absent)

There were (3) Yes, (0) Noes, (0) Abstain & (2) Absent. Motion passed.

CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED

(26-2024) BAR – Notice of Non-compliance

(27-2024) Emails regarding Rices Crossing Fire Hydrants, various (19):

Deborah Hoerner, Edward Brode, Susan Luccini, Matthias Meyer, William Twombly, Catherine and Damien Lambert, Blair and Laura Wilson, Sonia Jaramillo and Steve McCulley, Sonia Stefani, Grace Pugh, Marlyss Berkan, John Craig, Bruno Angelin, Geoffery Rowland, Aiko Moudry, Marie and Michael Stoodley, Frances Ankers, Bo Christensen, Carmina and Dorian Matei

(28-2024) Yuba County Auditor Direct Assessment 2024-2025 Tax Bills

(29-2024) Yuba County New Financial System Tyler E-ERP 2024

FIRE CHIEF REPORT

Incident Report – Chief Butler distributed the Incident Report. The Chief briefly described the 47 incidents from this month.

The emergency system reporting software is being replaced. Adds email, enhanced text, streamlined reporting.

Rate going up slightly in line with improvements and added features. Chair Pessoa will prepare warrant to pay for new subscription.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Financial Reports – Chair Pessoa reported that Books updated to June 10.

Budget Adjustments – None. No budget adjusts as we are in process of getting ready to adopt new budget.

Warrants to add to Agenda -

- #52-043607 in the amount of \$30,592.00 to GSRMA – Insurance Premium
- #52-043608 in the amount of \$1,260.39 to Card Service Center- Credit Card (internet service, QuickBooks, equipment parts)
- #52-043609 in the amount of \$355.35 to PG&E – Utility Bill for Main Station

A motion was made by Chair Pessoa and seconded by Director Pillsbury to approve addition to the Agenda of above three(3) Warrants. The roll call vote was:

- Director Sharp (yes)
- Director DeVorss (absent)
- Director Pillsbury (yes)
- Chair Pessoa (yes)
- Vice Chair Holman (absent)

There were (3) Yes, (0) Noes, (0) Abstain & (2) Absent. Motion passed.

Warrants –

- #52-043605 in the amount of \$1,007.79 to DOHFA (Dobbins – Oregon House Fire Auxiliary) – Recology Dumpster
- #52-043606 in the amount of \$559.86 to Suburban Propane – Propane

A motion was made by Chair Pessoa and seconded by Director Pillsbury to approve the five(5) above listed Warrants as submitted. The roll call vote was:

- Director Sharp (yes)
- Director DeVorss (absent)
- Director Pillsbury (yes)
- Chair Pessoa (yes)
- Vice Chair Holman (absent)

There were (3) Yes, (0) Noes, (0) Abstain & (2) Absent. Motion passed.

ADHOC COMMITTEE REPORTS

ByLaws (*Pessoa, Holman*) - See Old Business (B).

Budget (*Pessoa, DeVorss*) - See Finance Report and Old Business (A).

Assessment Fees (*Pessoa*) - Pending meeting with Mike Lee.

Bill Paying (*Holman, DeVorss*) - No Report.

DIRECTOR TASK STATUS REPORTS

- Grants (*Sharp, Holman*) – Waiting on needs list from Chief.
- Information Technology (*Pillsbury*) – See Old Business (C).
- Audits (*Pessoa*) – See New Business (B).

AUXILIARY

Rissa was not present. Chair Pessoa discussed paint color request of Sage green and darker trim for Thrift Store. Not ready yet with final ideas for new sign.

OLD BUSINESS

A) Discuss Preliminary Budget

No changes to Preliminary Budget. Next month will adopt final budget.

B) Review Bylaws, discuss any proposed changes

First Reading. After Second Reading, we can formally adopt new Bylaws. No new suggestions. Will continue next meeting.

C) Discuss moving to “DOHfire.gov” domain and switching to new hosting plan. Option to approve.

Domain is applied for and waiting for processing. Should take about 8 weeks. New hosting plan will allow formal District email addresses with the extra charges imposed by current hosting plan. Chair Pessoa mentioned that the US House of Representatives now officially recognizes Special Districts.

Motion was made by Director Pillsbury and seconded by Chair Pessoa to approve moving the website to the DOHfire.gov domain name and subscribing to a new hosting plan to allow us to set up email accounts using the new domain name. The roll call vote was:

Director Sharp (yes)
Director DeVorss (absent)
Director Pillsbury (yes)
Chair Pessoa (yes)
Vice Chair Holman (absent)

There were (3) Yes, (0) Noes, (0) Abstain & (2) Absent. Motion passed.

D) Discuss bids for purchase of new Type 3 engine. Option to approve.

Chief Butler described two estimates. One for a composite body version by Intek for \$318,888 and a second for a metal “diamond plate” construction material for \$259,399.41 from Cascade.

These are both 400gal water capacity built on Ford F550 chassis. Captain Roy Young pointed out that these are actually “Type 5” engines.

Discussed pros and cons of different materials. Composite resists corrosion better. Not really a problem for us. Metal build has better chance of repair-ability if damaged. Both builds use poly (plastic) water tanks.

Difference in cost of about \$60,000 could be used for other needed equipment.

At least two-year lead time once engine is ordered.

These are estimated costs and expected to go up significantly in the near future, so not delaying is important.

Motion was made by Chair Pessoa and seconded by Director Sharp to approve \$260,000 for the bid from Cascade Fire Equipment. The roll call vote was:

Director Sharp (yes)
Director DeVorss (absent)
Director Pillsbury (yes)
Chair Pessoa (yes)
Vice Chair Holman (absent)

There were (3) Yes, (0) Noes, (0) Abstain & (2) Absent. Motion passed.

E) Discuss bids for painting Thrift Store Building. Option to Approve.

Continue next meeting.

F) Discuss bids for replacing Thrift Store sign. Option to approve.

Chair Pessoa described that the staff at Auxiliary had provided desired colors and verbiage but after visiting three sign shops, it was unanimously recommended to go with white background, logo, and black lettered “Thrift Store”. Recommended vinyl, 4’x4’ (instead of current 2’x8’). Quoted at \$350 per sign. Suggest buy 2 signs and mount back-to-back.

Chief Butler suggested using “Print Works” to make aluminum signs like what Collins Lake is using. Uses UV coating to prevent fading. Margaret Binderup will discuss with Auxiliary and coordinate with Chief Butler who will contact Print Works. Continue for next meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

A) Presentation by Chair Pessoa - YC New Financial System for Special Districts

Yuba County has new financial system that is supposed to start next week. Old warrants will be replaced with new forms. Req new sig forms for each fund account. There still some account coding problems that are supposed to be fixed this week. Have not yet received corrections.

B) Adopt Audit Resolution 2024-06 for Fiscal Year 2021

Motion was made by Chair Pessoa and seconded by Director Pillsbury to approve adoption of Audit Resolution 2024-06 for Fiscal Year 2021. The roll call vote was:

Director Sharp (yes)
Director DeVorss (absent)
Director Pillsbury (yes)
Chair Pessoa (yes)
Vice Chair Holman (absent)

There were (3) Yes, (0) Noes, (0) Abstain & (2) Absent. Motion passed.

BOARD & STAFF DISCUSSION, QUESTIONS, COMMENTS:

Chief Butler - Station WiFi router needs to be replace. Recommended Tim Wells find a new unit for us.

Discussion Regarding Rice's Crossing Hydrants -

Chief Butler reports he has received emails regarding a post on "Yuba Foothills Journal" citing the 150,000-gallon water tank at the Yuba Water Agency facility and pressurized fire hydrants. Chief Butler asked if the board authorized this post to be put out there. **Chair Pessoa** remarked absolutely not. The Chief asked how this happened without prior approval by the Board. **Director Sharp** brought up the Chief talking with a County Supervisor about wanting fire hydrants. responded that was about the North Yuba Water District installing them on Frenchtown Road, not Rice's Crossing. **Director Sharp** reports he had a conversation with Supervisor Messick and showed him a map Director Sharp had drawn to which Supervisor Messick indicated it would be up to the Fire Protection District to ask the Yuba Water Agency to do a grant for a feasibility study.

Chair Pessoa reports she also spoke with Supervisor Messick who had a different opinion on the conversation. She commented that everyone who has read these posts or received these emails believes that you (Director Sharp) are representing the Fire Protection District and that the Fire District has asked you to do this. Further, Director Sharp does not have the authority and has not been authorized to make such posts or proposals. This is willful misinformation and making people feel unsafe, suggesting the Fire Dept is not working for them, and the public should be afraid of what is happening. Director Sharp is not an engineer and the map drawing itself is not an engineered drawing. It was not approved by the DOHFPD Board.

Director Sharp responded that it was "Just a concept idea."

Chair Pessoa then went on to comment on her earlier conversation with Supervisor Messick. The YWA would, if it were approved, pay the full cost of a feasibility study. The problem arises that, even if it is feasible, the total estimated cost of such a project would be \$3-\$5 million. Even though the YWA would pay up to 70% of the construction cost DOHFPD would have to pay between 30-50% which makes this project impossible for the district. **Chair Pessoa** noted that Director Sharp should not put something out to the public leading them to believe that (pressurized hydrants on Rice's Crossing Rod) is something that is going to be happening.

Director Sharp insisted that the map drawing is just a draft and is an idea based on the existence of the YWA new water tank. He argued that the posts and map are done purely in a personal capacity. **Chief Butler** disagreed and pointed out that official email addresses were used which makes it Fire District business. **Chief Butler** notes that this was never talked about as a Board and that this sort of thing should be talked about before it is posted or made public. **Director Sharp** stated that he did not understand that, to which **Chair Pessoa** stated that if you don't understand it then you need to check with us, you do not do this.

Director Pillsbury commented that the "Pressurized Hydrants" posts and emails looked like they represented an actual formal proposal for a project, an engineered drawing, which is just not the case, and that he could go through a lengthy list of reasons why such a project is simply not a good idea.

Director Sharp then indicated that Chief Butler wanted pressurized fire hydrants, to which **Chief Butler** replied yes, but that is not the way to do it.

Chair Pessoa asked the firefighters present if they wished to comment. **Captain Roy Young** stated that if someone gets themselves elected or appointed to this Board and represent yourself as such on a public platform, then that's how people view you and anything you say then reflects on this Board. So, if you are not careful about what you say, then they think you are speaking for the Board unless you specifically put in a disclaimer. He also commented that frankly, the plan does not work. There may be a tank there but there is no gravity pressure and who is going to power a 200hp pump to maintain 24 hour a day pressure. Capt Young goes on to mention that Supervisor Messick suggested at a past meeting that the DOHFPD should approach NYWD about a feasibility study for hydrants that Capt Young states has already been done and he believes Director Sharp was asked to follow up on it which has not been done.

Chair Pessoa notes this is dangerous because you have led a group of people to believe that (hydrants) are something that can be done and when it does not happen, they think that you were right, this Board is not working for them. It is just misleading people with an idea you came up with.

Captain Stensler mentioned that Director Sharp has a significant presence on several social media platforms and that when people see you commenting, they know your name and know you are a director and associate that with your comments and posts. **Director Sharp** asked if we could then work on public relations, **Chief Butler** responded, that we never needed to until you came on board and started putting posts up.

Director Sharp asked what he could do moving forward and was advised to remove references to his hydrant project from social media and consider that anything related to fire that he wants to talk or write about in public should, since he is a representative of the Board, first be brought to the Board, to which **Director Sharp** agreed.

Director Sharp - Mentioned the Deer Creek Resources Protection Plan in 2014 it suggests that the Fire District should work with the Renaissance Vineyard to designate an official evacuation area. Mentions that this might create a liability issue for the District and asks if we should send a letter to ask them to remove reference of the District being responsible for evacuation areas from future versions of the Plan.

ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned by Chair Pessoa at 8:21pm

Respectfully Submitted:

Peter Pillsbury, Clerk of the Board