

Pleasant Hill Goshen Fire & Rescue
Pleasant Hill Rural Fire Protection District
Goshen Rural Fire Protection District
Joint Board Meeting in Person/Zoom Meeting
March 8, 2022

Call to Order

The hybrid Joint Board Meeting was called to order at 6:40 p.m. by Fire Authority Board President, Willie Bronson.

Flag Salute

Attendance:

Pleasant Hill Board Members: President Terry McDiarmid, Vice President Todd Anderson, Secretary/Treasurer Rhett Green, and Board Member Darrell Shoemaker via zoom. Absent: Board Member Kevin Flory.

Goshen Board Members: President Willie Bronson, Vice President Rose Reinertson, Secretary/Treasurer Cameron Saxon, and Board Member Tom McClellan.

Pleasant Hill Goshen Fire & Rescue Board Members: President Willie Bronson, Vice President Terry McDiarmid, Secretary/Treasurer Tom McClellan, and Board Member Darrell Shoemaker via zoom.

Staff: Fire Chief Andrew Smith, Captain Riley Moore, Administrative Assistant Bonnie Graham, Executive Assistant Haley Meshnik, Division Chief Matt Barnhart, and Volunteer Firefighter Aaron Anderson.

Guests: GT Miller, Bob Schutte, Jeff Dolgin, and Karen Kordon.

Zoom: Robert Castleberry.

Welcome to Visitors: GT Miller, Bob Schutte, Jeff Dolgin, and Karen Kordon.

Public Comment:

Karen Kordon shared with the board that merger and consolidation has been thrown around several times to the community and it is not new. She shared that most of the Pleasant Hill community is aware of what it is and adamant against it. Karen explained that she was a Pleasant Hill Board member when the first discussion of the IGA was started, and the main concern that the Pleasant Hill community had was that there would be a continued presence in their community. Karen shared that the community feels like they were sold down the river. Karen recognizes that the fire station needs to be upgraded, but that the community has not wanted to put money towards a new building. When she was on the Pleasant Hill Board ten years ago, they looked into bringing in a single wide trailer for the responders to sleep in and the possibilities of various upgrades to the existing building that could be

done. Karen is upset that “nothing has been done and the building has just been abandoned”. She expressed that when the board goes to the community, they need to answer these concerns. Karen said that the only thing that the average community member cares about is that when they call 911, how long will it take for you to get there. Karen is asking the board what they are going to do to address these concerns. Karen agrees that the Pleasant Hill tax rate needs to increase, but she does not understand why, after all these years, it needs to go up \$0.89. She questioned how they plan to staff the new fire station once it’s built.

Willie Bronson responded that we understand her concerns and that at the upcoming Town Hall meeting on March 31st, we will be presenting our plan that will address all those concerns. Willie shared a few of the ideas and presented challenges we face with Karen, but the Town Hall will have the ample time to address everything the boards are currently working on and wanting to address with the community. Karen Kordon added, “There is no doubt, these are top notch people working here” and a little later she added that, “she completely understands that there needs to be a tax increase to help pay for the Pleasant Hill fire/EMS needs.” Karen is asking the board to explain what the tax increase will be specifically for and how they plan to staff the Pleasant Hill station.

Terry McDiarmid responded to Karen, sharing that he has been a Pleasant Hill resident for 41 years and lives by the Pleasant Hill station. Terry shared that a lot of Karen’s points he kind of agreed with when he first got on the board (July 2021). Terry added that this is a whole new board since all the failed levies and previous attempts. However, once he was on the board, he saw all the numbers, what the costs actually were to do what we need, and he realized there was more involved. He expressed that he is not saying we need a \$5 million fire station, but we need a functional fire station in Pleasant Hill. Terry said that our role on the board is to do that in the most cost-effective way. Terry McDiarmid shared that he is open to listen to anyone and he does not want anyone’s ego getting in the way of building a fire station. Terry McDiarmid agreed with Karen that he wants a staffed fire station in Pleasant Hill.

Todd Anderson shared with Karen Kordon that he can hear the emotion in her voice about why we have to raise the tax rate and why we have to replace the fire station. Todd went on to explain that we have heard from other Pleasant Hill community members who are adamant that the station has to be replaced. Todd said we need to work together to find a compromise for what will work. He shared that the Board’s main goal is to improve the service that the Pleasant Hill residents have. Todd said that it is going to take some understanding from both sides. Todd says he hears the emotion in her voice and adamant about the rates. Karen Kordon responded that she thinks the rates have to go up. Todd Anderson said that she has neighbors who are adamant that the station needs to be replaced and he thinks there needs to be some working together that needs to happen. Todd said he is hopeful that she will come to the Town Hall meeting and listen to what we have to say, and his hope is that she will come with an open mind. Todd recognizes the service she has done on the board in previous years, but as times have changed, ideas have changed, and the needs of the community have changed, he just asks that she comes to the Town Hall meeting with an open mind.

Bob Schutte addressed Terry McDiarmid and shared that the more issues you have on the ballot, the more chances you have for the community to vote no. Bob Schutte shared his concerns about dissolution. Bob says he will not get “on board” with the board’s goals. Bob said his only goal is to get a new fire station in Pleasant Hill. Bob says he has all the confidence in the world that once the new

building is built, they will find the people to fill it, even if you have to go out for an operations levy. Bob says, you don't get something for nothing. Bob Schutte said that most fire departments operate on operation levies. When they need more money, they take out a bond or levy to cover costs. He says that he knows what it takes to get the citizens' initiative bond measure on the ballot for a new fire station.

Terry McDiarmid clarifies asking about Bob's proposal that if we go out for the fire station bond, then we also ask for an operations levy to staff the station. Bob says it will be a yes vote or a no vote for a fire station. Terry replies that we cannot staff the station at \$1.10 and we will have to go out for an operations levy to staff the station. Bob says it will take 3-4 years for the fire station to be built and then you can go out for the operations levy to staff it, closer to when it is completed. Karen Kordon says that she thinks they are missing something, if you are asking the voters to pay more money, and she added that she agrees that the current \$1.10 is not enough, that there needs to be a presence in Pleasant Hill and improve the response times.

Jeff Dolgin shared his concerns about the IGA, and he feels that Goshen should return to old ways. He shared that he looked at Halsey Fire Department and they have 6 bays and is a nice-looking station. He suggests Pleasant Hill go with a pole barn and not a \$5 Million station. Jeff shared his concern about how often the Goshen station is used verses the Pleasant Hill station. He asked, if Pleasant Hill is going to pay up when the Goshen station needs maintenance done? He concludes with saying that he hopes that they can move on and make each department what they can be.

Correspondence:

- Closure email with Liz Loomis.

Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

- PLEASANT HILL Minutes of February 1, 2022, Work Session Minutes** - The minutes of February 1, 2022, Work Session Meeting were both reviewed. **Terry McDiarmid made a motion to approve the minutes of the February 1, 2022, Work Session Meeting. Rhett Green seconded. Motion passed unanimously.**
- GOSHEN Minutes of February 1, 2022, Work Session Minutes** - The minutes of February 1, 2022, Work Session Meeting were both reviewed. **Rose Reinertson made a motion to approve the minutes of the February 1, 2022, Work Session Meeting. Cameron Saxon seconded. Motion passed unanimously.**
- PLEASANT HILL GOSHEN FIRE & RESCUE Minutes of February 1, 2022, Work Session Minutes** - The minutes of February 1, 2022, Work Session Meeting were both reviewed. **Tom McClellan made a motion to approve the minutes of the February 1, 2022, Work Session Meeting. Terry McDiarmid seconded. Motion passed unanimously.**
- PLEASANT HILL Minutes of February 8, 2022, Work Session Minutes** - The minutes of February 8, 2022, Work Session Meeting were both reviewed. **Todd Anderson made a motion to approve**

the minutes of the February 8, 2022, Work Session Meeting. Rhett Green seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

- e. **GOSHEN Minutes of February 8, 2022, Work Session Minutes** - The minutes of February 8, 2022, Work Session Meeting were both reviewed. **Tom McClellan made a motion to approve the minutes of the February 8, 2022, Work Session Meeting. Rose Reinertson seconded. Motion passed unanimously.**
- f. **PLEASANT HILL GOSHEN FIRE & RESCUE Minutes of February 8, 2022, Work Session Minutes** - The minutes of February 8, 2022, Work Session Meeting were both reviewed. **Terry McDiarmid made a motion to approve the minutes of the February 8, 2022, Work Session Meeting. Tom McClellan seconded. Motion passed unanimously.**
- g. **PLEASANT HILL Minutes of February 8, 2022, Public Hearing Minutes** - The minutes of February 8, 2022, Public Hearing Meeting were both reviewed. **Terry McDiarmid made a motion to approve the minutes of the February 8, 2022, Public Hearing. Rhett Green seconded. Motion passed unanimously.**
- h. **PLEASANT HILL Minutes of February 8, 2022, Board Meeting Minutes** - The minutes of February 8, 2022, Board Meeting were both reviewed. **Todd Anderson made a motion to approve the minutes of the February 8, 2022, Board Meeting. Rhett Green seconded. Motion passed unanimously.**
- i. **GOSHEN Minutes of February 8, 2022, Board Meeting Minutes** - The minutes of February 8, 2022, Board Meeting were both reviewed. **Tom McClellan made a motion to approve the minutes of the February 8, 2022, Board Meeting. Rose Reinertson seconded. Motion passed unanimously.**
- j. **PLEASANT HILL GOSHEN FIRE & RESCUE Minutes of February 8, 2022, Board Meeting Minutes** - The minutes of February 8, 2022, Board Meeting were both reviewed. **Terry McDiarmid made a motion to approve the minutes of the February 8, 2022, Board Meeting. Todd Anderson seconded. Motion passed unanimously.**

Review of Monthly Financial Reports

- Chief Smith shared that it's the time of year when we have mandated testing done on some of our equipment, like extrication, SCBAs, and compressors.

Pleasant Hill RFPD

****Transaction List & Financial Review.** The Board reviewed the financials and transaction list.

Terry McDiarmid made a motion to approve the Pleasant Hill RFPD Financials and to pay the Pleasant Hill bills. Todd Anderson seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Goshen RFPD

****Transaction List & Financial Review.** The Board reviewed the financials and transaction list. **Tom McClellan made a motion to approve the Goshen Financials and to pay the Goshen bills. Cameron Saxon seconded. Motion passed unanimously.**

Fire Authority

****Transaction List & Financial Review.** The Board reviewed the financials and transaction list. **Terry McDiarmid made a motion to approve the Fire Authority Financials and to pay the fire authority bills. Tom McClellan seconded. Motion passed unanimously.**

Staff Reports

Fire Chief's Report

**The Board reviewed the Fire Chiefs Report and further staff reports, which were attached as addendums and are available on file.*

Topics Discussed:

- Inspections
- Year End Statistics
 - Table 18 – Alarm Analysis By response Area
- Budget Consideration
 - FY 22/23 Budget Adoption Timeline
- Salary Study
- Coffee Chat with the Chief
- February Alarms
- Training & Operations
- Operations & Staffing Report
- Monthly report from Captain Moore and Lieutenant Roll

Unfinished Business

- **Fire Authority –**
 - **Town Hall**
 - Additional Work Session Planned March 22nd at 5:30pm
 - **2020/2021 Audit**
 - No comments or concerns
- **Goshen –**
 - **New Board Member:** If you have any ideas, run it by the chief.

- **Pleasant Hill – None.**

New Business

- **Fire Authority Action Items:**

- Resolution 2-22 Accepting Revenue from the Three Rivers Foundation Grant
Terry McDiarmid made a motion to accept Resolution 1-22 Accepting Revenue and Authorizing Expenditures for the Three Rivers Foundation Grant. Tom McClellan seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

- I. Grant was for \$11,500 to purchase 3 positive pressure fans. Battery and electric option and don't produce carbon monoxide.

- **FY 22/23 Budget – Appointment of Budget Officer**

Fire Authority

Appointment of the Budget Officer -

Terry McDiarmid made a motion to appointment of Chief Smith as the 2022/2023 Budget Officer. Tom McClellan seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Pleasant Hill RFPD

Appointment of the Budget Officer -

Todd Anderson made a motion to appointment of Chief Smith as the 2022/2023 Budget Officer. Rhett Green seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Goshen RFPD

Appointment of the Budget Officer -

Rose Reinertson made a motion to appointment of Chief Smith as the 2022/2023 Budget Officer. Cameron Saxon seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

- **Transparency on the Website – pleasanthillgoshenfire.org**

- Board decided they will choose what phone number or email they want posted on the website for the community to contact them. They will let staff know.

- **2022 Salary Study Recommendations**

- Salary Study & Comparison Guide, Table A – Proposed FY 22/23 Organizational Salary Scales, Table B – Salary Comparison by Local/Statewide, Table C – CPI-U Oregon Consumer Index Cost of Living for 4 years, and Salary & Benefits Salary Range July 1st, 2021.
 - Chief Smith's recommendation is that annually the board keeps tabs on what the cost-of-living adjustment looks like and what the index is doing. Then each year make an informed decision.
 - Willie Bronson decided to table decision until the April board meeting and understands the urgency of this for budgetary purposes.
 - It was appreciated how much work Chief Smith put into these documents.

Tasks for before next meeting:

- I. Prepare for Town Hall, message, spokesperson, handouts, posters, and PowerPoint.
- II. Review salary study and proposal to make a decision at the April Board meeting.
- III. Fill vacant budget committee positions.
- IV. Let admin know what phone number or email you would like on the website for residents to contact you.

Willie Bronson adjourned the meeting at 7:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Haley Meshnik

Recording Secretary

Approved