

## Rogue Valley Fire Chiefs Association – Monthly Meeting Minutes

**Location:** Mercy Air Airport

**Date:** 10/15/2024

**Time:** 0900

**Call to Order:** 0900

### **New Members / Special Guests:**

- Fire Chief Sanchez was unable to make it to the meeting, however he requested his thank you to the group, and looks forward to meeting us all and setting separate meetings with the departments.

**Approval of Last Month's Minutes: Motion to approve: Wolfard/ 2<sup>nd</sup> Hammond, Motion Passed by all members.**

**Approval of Financial Report: Bank balance per Chair \$5,269.64 Motion to approve: Wolfard/ 2<sup>nd</sup> Rasor, Motion Passed by all members.**

**Additions to the Agenda:** None

### **Old Business:**

- Updates on the Supervising Physician contract with Asante. Chief Thompson and Chief Hussey are working on this Jackson County contract has expiration in July 2023 and is currently in the legal department for review.

### **New Business:**

- RVFCA Officer Bylaws Review/Amendment Discussion – Chief Thompson is working on this project and will report out at the next meeting. Actual voting will come out in a survey in November, and results of the voting will be confirmed at the December luncheon in the business section.
  - Nominations: Chief Wolfard was nominated by Chief Crume for the Vice President nomination. Chief Wolfard is accepting the nomination. First nomination for the position was from DC Prince, and Second nomination was from Chief Anders, and all persons in the room, moved forward.
  - Secretary/Treasurer: Past practice dictates moving the position forward, however the discussion is to leave this position in place. A first and second were moved, and the body of the association moved forward.
- RVFCA Budget/Expenditures Discussion – an annual budget is to be worked on with Chief Holmes, Chief Crume, and Chief Wolfard to start a process in January 2025 with an official audit and vision for the next year. And will be moving forward together with the Strategic Plan.
- December Christmas Luncheon – Initially was scheduled at Grants Pass Fire and is now being moved to the Medford Fire Department – more to be discussed at the next meeting.

### **Section Reports:**

- Operations (Fire/EMS) (Brown): Developing technical advisories groups, with Ops group tagging on the mission and guidance, RITA by-in, and then back to the Chiefs association for implementation. Wildfire season review is moving forward for the next fire season, as it worked out very well for all the departments with daily staffing and needs of the system. The wildfire group is meeting monthly until fire season to better the needs, and discussions of how to do better for the next fire season, along with ODF partners. Also, Chief McBride is heading up the Ops

- Group. Membership discussion is asking for participation in the Ops group, Chief McBride has sent out an email.
- RITA (Gavlik/Howard): Fire Academy registration open for the Jan 4<sup>th</sup>, 2025, through RITA website. Bringing a nozzle forward class in February, location TBD. SOWS planning task force is being started with the help of Chief McGowan. Fire Officer one class is full.
- RV Prevention Co-Op (Kassab): Elections coming up on the group. Projects of the Youth Corp is being worked on and currently working in Applegate. IGA with ODF, Defensible space for about 100 homes. CWGG out next month, might be last round. The group is sitting well in the financial area. Looking for participation of members and new members. Next schedule meeting is next Thursday.
- FDBC (Hussey/Holmes): Discussion about the 501C3 status, with the RVFCA number is not registered with the Secretary of State and is needing more research into this. More discussions to be had on this subject, with RITA and Prevention Co-Op. And thanks to the group about the availability of resources to be possible sent out.

### Advisory Reports:

- 911 Centers: (Harris/Guenther) No report
- ASA: (Clough/Sartain/Hammond/Mathews)
  - Clough-Mercy Flights: Conference Oct 29<sup>th</sup> with a national speaker for peer support, great conference to be had. See flyer for information or registration. MF is working with Providence and other agencies and creating an alternative destination model for low acuity patients, planning meeting at the end of the month, and go-live in January 2025. MF is hosting Senator Ron Widen for tour/conversation on Oct 24, in regard to EMS reimbursement, and challenges of shortages, and financial issues. Get your talking points to Sheila if you have any concerns to be addressed.
  - Hammond – Jackson Co#1: Old ambulance being re-mounted in Iowa, and a board member was driving it back there and had mechanical issues on the way there to drop it off. Seasonal firefighters working until Oct 31, and then back to normal staffing.
  - Ashland and AMR had no reports
- Hazmat Team 8 (Howard): Refresher kicking off today at FS#14. And then completing on the 25<sup>th</sup>, if there are any questions, please let him know. TEEX spill water response training with Medford Water / Training Nov 5-7, with hands on drill the last day.
- Technology Group: (TBD) No Report – Group is looking at a replacement for Rigaud and will report out at another time.
- OSFM: (Rubrecht/Stacy/Lashley/Vonn)
  - Rubrecht: OSFM burned a lot of acres this summer, and she will send out an end of summer report later. \$35million dollars spent, with legislative discussions. An all-staff meeting was held and thank you's from the OSFM command staff, were shared. An RVFCA AAR would be nice to happen. Also, please reach out to Sara if you have projects during the winter months that she could assist on. And there is planning for the next fire season happening. State level funding is a focus of OSFM. Please send in SB762 stories to show the good work that happened with those dollars, and the importance of how the money was spent. There is a presentation style of these through the OSFM office. Any TFL deployment thoughts on process or experiences on how to improve things in the next fire season, very important to make sure that we capture any concerns.
- SW Oregon Coordinating Group: (Quinones/Glode/Lack/Kurzyniec)
  - Quinones officially replaced Larson at this point for records sake. And Lack is the FSS contact, and the summer is starting to wind down, and personnel is starting to deplete the services this month.
  - Kurzyniec: Summer staffing model coming to an end in Oct, first of Nov, and then field

reduction work to be started.

- EM/LEPC: Payne
  - (Rubrecht) Delaney is out sick now. She is now the replacement for Holly Powers taking place on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of this month. The next step will be to find an assistant. Chris is still there as the CWPP Coordinator. Tell Delaney Congratulations!! Update, she is working on the Genesis state contract for Zone Haven. EM/Jackson County SO did an evacuation drill with Ashland Fire/PD/EM and will be looking for other trainings. Sgt Grieve will be replacing Sgt Richards, as he is retiring Dec 31. Stae Homeland Security grant should be announcing recipients in the next few weeks. Delaney is conducting a 60-day assessment, and public works tabletop exercise TBD, and the Great Shake Out is scheduled for Thursday, Oct 17<sup>th</sup>, and Citizen Alert will be tested that day.
  - Ott (Howard) Also advised about the great shake out. Medical surplus impacts due to the hurricanes, and they are working with companies for impacts and needs. Upcoming Training, ICS300 Nov 5-7, with openings, contact him. Cascade rising exercise (not sure of the name now) is being conducted.
- LEPC report – anyone want to take leadership role?
- Rogue Community College: (RIIS) Nothing to Report
- OFCA: (Hussey) Brown: Roundtables Jan 10-12 in Eugene. New lobbyist group working with SDAO/OFCA and numerous discussions will be happening soon.
- PIO: (Weber) Working on next PIO meeting, next month. Join if interested, please see Natalie.
- S. Oregon Public Safety Chaplains/SOCERT: (Saada) SOCERT training last month with 43 individuals was held.

#### **Agency Brief Out:**

- Williams Fire District: Still looking at filling the open Fire Chief position. Nicco Holt is remaining in the position as the Acting Fire Chief. More to hopefully report on next month.
- Fire District #5: IGA signed with FD#3 at the last BOD meeting. Station 3 re-opened the other day. Staffing issues at Station 4 still happening. Operations is currently changing and attempting align with how other departments are doing.
- Grants Pass Fire is honoring Firefighter Cory Fox, and thanks to the departments assisting to make the event happen for the on-Duty crews. The new T6 is in service and haven't had an opportunity to utilize it. Developing a policy and training on the pump. Any questions or needs, please reach out to Joe Hyatt or Wayne Nelson. Fire Chief Sanchez is working hard and apologizes for not being here today.
- FD3 IGA with FD5 being worked on as noted above for the Administration needs. SAFE audit completed, and if you need information, please reach out. Firefighter testing is at the end of the month, and they have tripled their applications from years past, and this a joint testing with FD5. The district has moved into the new Administration building on the campus, if you haven't been there recently, come on by. And building out a logistics building, any input is appreciated. Fuels crew will be starting soon and had a lot of applicants. And there is discussion about D3 hosting an AFG writing seminar from FEMA, set to be for the end of the month. Charleston 9 presentation is happening, and don't worry about the cost, with two sessions.
- Applegate – Safe audit last month, reach out if you want information. Cody Goodnough resigned with the district, and after the testing process, Lt Dave Blakely was selected to take the Deputy Chief position, pending background, and should be in office by the end of the month. Josephine County BCC is working on a Fire District creation, with numerous things in play with the BCC/Board Directors and appointing of a Fire Chief is going to be interesting and stay tuned for any updates that might happen, it changes weekly. First reading is Oct 23 at 0900, and second is Nov 20<sup>th</sup> at 0900. Applegate is attempting to implement ORS regarding the annexation of the 7-mile fire district boundaries. They are looking at annexing in 776

properties into the fire district, as they have been locked in and they will be sending out notifications to property owners about the annexation process that is happening. Chief Wolfard will be taking this to the BCC tomorrow morning, with the proposal. This is not to hurt the relationships built or financial in nature, and that he is working with Rural Metro staff, on this project.

- Jacksonville FD – An Open-House event was well attended by the community. The Fire wise group has been very busy, and they are extremely happy with the amount of work being completed, and they have utilized an old ambulance for the Firewise crews. Fuel reduction this sat from 0800-1300 in the parking lot.
- ODF – “Before You Burn” permit phone app is being discussed again, and she has been contacted on how to work with the system, with any changes being noted. A google sheet will be sent by Natalie, if you want to be a part of the process. And they are willing to come out and talk to the group.
- Evans Valley: Spaghetti feed happening this Friday, 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary from 1630-1900. Opening for a Shift Officer has been sent out to the departments if anyone is interested.
- Medford: New City Manager working well, very approachable, and supportive of public safety. Working with ORW for design of the new fire station construction, hoping to have the project started in March 2025, and the expansion of fire station 13, and looking at the costs and plans. New data system specialist starting tomorrow, as this is a new position within the fire department. Navigating the support staff position for life save with 27 applicants, and the process will conclude in the next few weeks. T6 is being worked on and will be in service soon.
- IVFD: Hydrant project is finally moving forward with a project manager, and hopefully completed by June 2025. Division Chief Kris Sherman has retired and doing a work back till the end of December, at which time, we will be flying a Logistics position out to applicants.

**Adjournment 10:15 AM**

Next Meeting: **ODF Central Point, November 19, 2024**