

**GILLIAM COUNTY FIRE SERVICES
MEETING MINUTES – SEPTEMBER 1, 2020**

The meeting was called to order at 7:59 am by chairman Gary Bettencourt. Other members present were Bobby Christensen and Donald Jamieson. Absent Larry Eubanks and Roger Lyda.

Guests: Fire Services Coordinators Laci Olsen

Public Comment: None

Minutes: It was moved by Bobby Christensen and seconded by Donald Jamieson to approve the March 5, 2020 minutes as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Financial Report: Donald Jamieson made a motion to accept the financials from March 5 2020 through August 18, 2020 as presented. Bobbi Christensen seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Unfinished Business:

1. A discussion was held about the IGA draft, Laci will get it to each fire district, Bobby Christensen and Donald Jamieson will give it to each of the Cities.

Donald Jamieson made a motion to approve the new Intergovernmental Agreement for Fire Coordinator Services with the addition of the referenced Fire services Job description. Bobby Christensen seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

New Business:

1. Laci Olsen's one-year review was presented. The board doesn't feel they need to be involved in the actual review process but would like see the reviews after they are complete.
2. Laci Olsen presented the coordinators report as follows:

Calls

- a. So far in 2020 North Gilliam County RFPD responded to 52 calls
 - 19-Motor vehicle crash
 - 12-outside fires
 - 10- Stand-down or wrong location
 - 5- medical assist
 - 4- Vehicle Fires including train fires
 - 2- Structure fires including Mobile home and Waste Management Tire Shop

- b. So far in 2020 South Gilliam County RFPD has responded to 20 calls
 - 16-outside fires including haystack and trash fires
 - 2- Motor Vehicle Crashes
 - 1- Flu fire
 - 1- Agency Assist Structure fire at Waste Management
 - 1- Medical assist
 - 1- Motor home fire

Grants/Funding-

South Gilliam County RFPD received \$9,584.00 for the 2020 Volunteer Fire Assistance Grant. This will cover the cost of paint for the M078 and two sets of structure turnouts for South Gilliam County RFPD.

I was unable to get access to the Assistance to Firefighter Grant due to a delay getting set up as an entity administrator through SAM.gov. I will be applying next year still hoping to get new SCBAs for South Gilliam County RFPD.

North Gilliam Approved \$50,000 for new SCBAs to be purchased this fiscal year.

Personnel

- a. **North Gilliam County RFPD has 13 Volunteers.** One of our volunteers moved to the east coast and we lost another one due to suicide earlier this year. The volunteers at North Gilliam County are still very eager to learn and attend trainings and are very dependable for response.
- b. **South Gilliam County RFPD has 22 volunteers on the roster.** Jacob Hathaway joined the department about a month ago and has already completed his wildland training and responded to fires.

Training

Training at both districts were canceled from Mid-March to beginning of June due to the Covid-19 pandemic. However, after meeting with both Chiefs, we agreed to use an online learning platform called Target Solutions, which would allow the volunteers to still get training in. We have since resumed in-person training but only for trainings we can do outside. Target Solutions has allowed the volunteers to do the classroom portion of training at home in their own time. This will also allow us a more effective way to put on the structural firefighter academy for our crews and allow us more hands-on time. Unfortunately, our outside trainings we had planned in April, such as extrication, hazmat operations, and wildland fire investigation, were cancelled due to Covid-19. I am waiting to hear when we can reschedule them, however most agencies are not traveling outside the district for trainings.

a. North Gilliam County RFPD –

With the acquisition of two structure engines, we have spent many training nights learning the function, going over the Compressed air foam systems, and making sure everyone is familiar with how the trucks are set up. We spent a night driving to all the water sources around the north end of the county. And had some training nights that involved “mock wildland fires” to help with size up skills, radio communication, area familiarization etc. We have also completed our annual drivers rodeo and driver’s refresher. The annual Wildland refreshers were completed online using target solutions, the fire shelter training was waived this year.

Kevin Olsen was able to complete his firefighter 1 training, and while there was a delay in being able to get the skills day done due to Covid- Adam Cole, Jim Whelan and Paul Keefer made a special trip to Arlington on August 1 to make it happen. Kevin and myself have submitted our Application for Certification through DPSST. While its not a requirement to be certified it is an asset to the fire districts when it comes to things like ISO ratings.

b. South Gilliam County RFPD- South Gilliam County has had lower attendance numbers since resuming training but, understandably, some members are trying to minimize any possible exposures outside of their work place. For training we have been doing mostly wildland fire focused training. Having the volunteers work on simulated events and get them working as a team and focusing on communication. We also had our annual drivers rodeo this summer.

Community- Marvin Vetter, with Oregon Department of Forestry and Don Toshida with BLM came out on March 7&8 and taught a consolidated Wildland Fire class for the community. Attendance was good, and we hope to be able to offer this annually as it could be a great way for farmers to get their firefighting employees their required fire training for OSHA.

Coordinator Continuing Education-

I was able to apply for Certification for Firefighter 1 in August, after a long wait trying to find people willing to do our Skills assessment. Now that we will have 3 certified firefighters in the county, this process will not be so difficult in the future because we can do our own Skills assessments!

The classes I had planned to attend this spring were cancelled. I have finished my Fire Officer Training offered via Target Solutions. I am eagerly awaiting more in person class opportunities to continue moving forward with my training. I would like to attend the EMR class offered by the North Gilliam Ambulance service from Sept 9-Oct 15. It is every Monday and Wednesday 6-10pm and cost is \$300. I spoke to both chiefs and they are both supportive and willing to be flexible and help with the districts training those 5 weeks.

Districts

The training break in the late spring gave me a great opportunity to work updating and writing many of the needed policies for both Districts. We are still waiting for a board meeting to approve them all, but that should take place this month.

FEPP/FPP

We were able to get two Humvees for Gilliam County through our FEPP agreement with ODF. One is at North Gilliam County RFPD and one is at South Gilliam County RFPD. We equipped them with a skid unit that has 200 gallons of water, a pump and a hose reel from WPI. Radios will be installed on the 9th.

Mask fit testing-

The county covered the cost of the mask fit test machine recalibration. In the future if all agencies contribute toward the calibration cost, we can continue to use it. We have to have mask fit testing for N95 masks. This would include the ambulance services, clinics, fire departments, and sheriff's office.

The county has received a grant to assist in agencies needs for Covid-19 . With that we were able to get some half mask respirators. Which will also need mask fit tests but are reusable unlike the N95.

Fire Services Dodge-

Early August on my way to work in Condon the Fire Services Dodge died while driving across Shuttler flat. I had it towed to Hermiston to Swag diesel who, ran it through multiple regen cycles and relearn the turbo. At this time, they have not charged for anything but were also not sure the issue was resolved.

3. Laci Asked if Fire Services would be willing to pay for her to attend the EMR class offered by North Gilliam Medic and everyone agreed it would be ok and a good class to have.
4. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic Arlington Schools will have to have distanced learning up until at least October 2020. Laci asked if it would be ok with the board if she were to take her daughter to Condon in the fire services dodge. Bobby and Donald were ok with it and Gary mentioned a concern for liability.

Next meeting March 2021

The meeting adjourned at 8:26 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted

Laci Olsen, Gilliam County Fire Services Coordinator