

GILLIAM COUNTY FIRE SERVICES
MEETING MINUTES – MARCH 3, 2021

The meeting was called to order at 8:59am by chairman Gary Bettencourt. Other members present were Roger Lyda, Bobby Christensen, and Donald Jamieson. Absent Larry Eubanks

Guests: Fire Services Coordinators Laci Olsen, Bookkeeper: Shannon Coppock

Public Comment:

Minutes: It was moved by Donald Jamieson and seconded by Roger Lyda to approve the September 1, 2020 minutes as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Financial Report: Roger Lyda made a motion to accept the financials from July 1, 2020-March 2, 2021 as presented. Donald Jamieson seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Unfinished Business:

1. Donald Jamieson made a motion to elect Bobby Christensen board chair and Larry Eubanks vice chair, Roger Lyda seconded the motion, the motion carried unanimously.
2. Discussion about ORS 190 Changes for IGA. County Attorney recommended doing an ORS 190. City of Condon wants it done this fiscal year. Insurance will stay same for CIS. Annual review cost will increase.

New Business:

1. Discussion of Merit increase for Laci Olsen based on her one-year review last July. COLA increase for 2021 budget is 1.3% for 2021, Roger made a motion to increase Laci Olsen's salary by 5% including the Cost-of-Living adjustment. Bobby Christensen Seconded the motion, the motion carried unanimously.
2. Discussion of comparative financials, discussion of misc. line item. Board decided to meet again for the ORS190 and approve the budget at that time. The meeting date was set for Monday April 26th in Arlington at 9am with zoom in option.

3. Public meetings, public information discussion, the board would like to see zoom meetings available for all future Fire Services meetings, they would also like them to be recorded.

4. **Fire Services Coordinator Report as follows**

Calls

1. **Calls – North Gilliam responded to 74 calls in 2020.**

21- outside fires

4- structure fires

4- vehicle or train fires

7- medical assists

36- motor vehicle crashes

2- wrong location / unable to locate

2021 is already off and running for North Gilliam with 10 calls, half of which were motor vehicle accidents. A couple wrong location/no Incident found, 2 medical assists, and an RV fire.

In 2020 South Gilliam Volunteers responded to 27 calls which is slightly less than a typical year.

19 Outside fires including authorized burns that were not called in

3 Structure fires including an Agency Assist to North Gilliam for the fire at Waste

1 motor home fire

2 Vehicle crashes

2 Ambulance assists

In 2021 South Gilliam has had four calls. One structure fire caused by an electrical failure, burn barrel not called in, and a fire alarm at the high school that was a false alarm. The fourth alarm was at summit springs memory care at 10pm, however there was no response to that call which we had a meeting about.

Grants/Funding-

South Gilliam County RFPD was awarded almost \$10,000 for the Volunteer Fire Assistance grant, which paid for two sets of turnouts, and modifications needed to turn the 1078 into a brush truck.

Yamhill Fire Donated over 20 Scott SCBA packs and mask to South Gilliam. We will need to find funding to purchase 20-24 4500 PSI bottles. Explanation of outdated and hard to service SCBAs.

I have applied for the Brothers Helping Brothers grant, hoping to get \$20,000 to purchase high pressure SCBA bottles for South Gilliam.

Last month I submitted the Assistance to Firefighters grant for \$73,000 to replace the 1992 and 1997 Drager SCBAs at South Gilliam.

I am currently working on a grant that was opened up by the Oregon State Fire Marshalls office to assist in fire prevention and defense in the wildland urban interface. I am requesting a grant to replace Tender Too at South Gilliam.

North Gilliam County RFPD was able to replace 8 of their 1992 Scott SCBAs this year!

Personnel

- a. **North Gilliam County RFPD has 13 Volunteers** and approximately 90% active. One firefighter was injured at work and has been out for a couple months but he was a huge help this summer and is eager to get back. He has still made a point to attend training too. There is regular training attendance each week, and the crew is eager to learn. The biggest accomplishment is that there hasn't been a single call that North Gilliam was not able to respond to this year.
- b. **South Gilliam County RFPD has 17 volunteers on the roster** and are about 60% active.

Training

The thrill of online training dissipated quickly last year. However, it made it possible to get training hours in while we were not having in person classes. I would like to keep

target solutions platform, as it will be fantastic for Firefighter 1, Firefighter 2 and Fire Officer classes, however I will drastically cut back the number of subscriptions.

Unfortunately, there are still no classes available out of the county. The Oregon Trail Fire Training Association has not classes on the roster, and DPSST cancelled their winter school. I was able to find some online classes through Clackamas Community College. They are offering a S-131 Class in April (which the last class I need for my next level of Wildland firefighter) I am interested to see how they do their online platform for this style of class and hopefully come out with some ideas on how to offer it to our fire departments as well.

- a. **North Gilliam County RFPD** – In 2020 North Gilliam Volunteers accumulated over 650 training hours! Training attendance used to be so sporadic it made it hard to plan trainings, and impossible to request outside instructors. This year we were able to host DPSSTs Flammable Liquids and Gasses Class. DPSST has not been to North Gilliam in many years. They will return with the Car fire prop, firefighter survival, and Mayday training this year! We have been working on our structure fire skills this winter- hose deployment, hose handling and advancing, taking a hydrant, and many weeks getting familiar with our new SCBAS. This next month we will have our extrication training.
- b. **South Gilliam County RFPD-** South Gilliam County has had lower attendance numbers since resuming training as mentioned earlier. However, they also had just over 650 training hours last year. Our goal is to invite some other departments and host the same DPSST trainings as North Gilliam. I have been hesitant to schedule them due to the low training attendance but combining departments could help. We have also been working on our structure skills as mentioned above, additionally we have done multiple weeks of search and rescue training. This next month we will also have extrication training!

c. **Coordinator Continuing Education-**

I completed my EMR class that was offered by North Gilliam Medic! It was incredibly informative and I have already been able to use the skills I learned. I am waiting for my license application to get approved.

I am signed up for the S-131 class in April and would like to do a couple online FEMA classes too, but I wanted to find something a little less expensive, however outside classes are not opening up yet which makes it very hard.

I completed my Fire Officer classes on Target Solutions this past year as well. I have my radar on for any opportunity for outside classes. As I mentioned in my interview, I get a great deal of energy and motivation from other instructors and classmates. I am still taking every opportunity I have to make connections to other departments. Last week when I went to Yamhill to pick up the SCBAs I was able to learn a lot about the grant process and options from the Fire Chief there. It was very encouraging talking to him about his department and how far it has come. His positive attitude is contagious- probably why they have 50 volunteers and are 90 % active! He shared his AFG, and SAFER grants with me for next year.

Districts-

With the lockdown last year, I was able to work on some policies and documentation that was not available or out of date at both districts. South Gilliam County RFPD has approved all those policies and documents. North Gilliam has not had a board meeting to discuss or approve them.

I made a website for North and South Gilliam County RFPDs. There is a page to highlight each volunteer, apparatus, meetings and agendas, a volunteer tab and more. I read about the importance of districts having a website and how it can help keep the public informed and is also a great resource for recruitment of new volunteers. It just took time to put together but maintaining it should be simple. The cost is \$18 per year.

Community

Jordan, Herb and I will be putting together a meeting with the ranchers and farmers in Gilliam County. We are still working on a date for that. The senate bill 590 stirred up some questions and intrigue. I found the article that had been passed around to be quite misleading. SB 590 allows cropland to be counted in the formation of a Rangeland Fire Protection District. However, an RFPA and Fire District cannot co-exist in the same protection area. Gilliam County has no unprotected land and therefore no RFPA can be formed in Gilliam County. There was mention of concern that we are missing out of the benefits of an RFPA, however we not only get the benefits and funding of a fire district, we also reap the benefits of the surplus equipment that the RFPAs do. I would like to present this information in that meeting, as well as encourage some folks to join the department if they are interested in using FEPP equipment.

Another item of discussion will be communication. For about \$80 they can have a Bofang radio with our VHF frequencies. I spoke with Chris Fitzsimmons and she said she is more than willing to give out the frequency information. Boardman, Ione, Yamhill, and I am sure more departments use these radios for their firefighters but I think it would be a great way for all the farmers helping us on fires, to communicate what they are doing! Chief Claughton would like to

get some for the North end of the county, and I will ask South Gilliam Board what they are willing to do.

As the districts training schedule allows, I plan to attend the Arlington and Condon City Council meetings. With both meetings being on a Wednesday and that being the same night as training in Condon, it has been impossible to attend but I would like to let them know what has been going on at both districts this last year

Fire Services Dodge-

I took some vacation time toward the end of last year and decided to have the fire services dodge serviced at the same time. They changed out the differentials, transfer case, transmission fluid and filter, and changed the fuel filter. I had this done at SWAG diesel. I have not had any more stalling issues since they looked at it earlier last year.

Next meeting September 2021

The meeting adjourned at 10:12 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted

Laci Olsen, Gilliam County Fire Services Coordinator