

☒ Rebecca Grizzle Commission Chair
☒ Alesanne Dugan, Commissioner
☐ Jeff King, Commissioner

☒ Joseph Rodondi Fire Chief
☒ Desiree Barker, Chief Administrative Officer
☐ John Tacy, Division Chief

CALL MEETING TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 2:00 pm by Commissioner Grizzle.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes from May 16, 2024, were reviewed.

Commissioner Dugan made a motion to approve the minutes. Commission Chair Grizzle 2nd, all in favor, motion approved.

CITIZEN COMMENTS

There were no citizen comments.

AGENDA ITEM #1 – BATTALION CHIEF PROMOTIONAL LIST

Chief Rodondi provided a summary of the Battalion Chief's testing.

- The last Battalion Chief's list expired after two (2) years, including a one (1) year extension approved by the Civil Service Commission.
- Four candidates applied and test for Battalion Chief.
- Three passed the required 70%. The test consisted of a District restructuring presentation, an incident command scenario, and Human Resources challenges.

Commissioner Dugan made a motion to approve the eligibility list as presented. Commission Chair Grizzle 2nd, all in favor, motion approved.

OTHER AGENDA ITEMS

- Chief Rodondi updated the commission the necessary District restructuring necessary to reduce the expenses. Rising costs are exceeding revenue increases. We projected an \$850,000 deficit in 2025/2026.
- Chief Rodondi summarized the fiscal year 2025/2026 Budget Reduction and Organizational Restructure presented at the February 11th board meeting. It is receiving little publicity.
- The Recruiting & Retention Lieutenant will return to operations.
- Chief Rodondi explained OHA's attempt to reduce their workload for GEMT. The change reduced the Federal amount significantly to agencies throughout Oregon. That change was challenged, and OHA is working to correct their error.
- Chief Rodondi informed Civil Service that though OR has declared EMS is an essential service, there is no funding to support it. The fees we charge are not covering the costs due to the cap in Medicare payments.
- Commissioner Dugan is hearing the consistent message from various Chiefs. The fire service and EMS funding is continuing to get worse.
- Commission Chair Grizzle shared her knowledge of misinformation coming directly from the web.
- The political climate in does not appear to be in favor of additional support. There may be no correction to the imbalance of Medicare. This will force agencies to reduce services. Without a change, the threat to lose EMS services in Oregon is very real.

- City agencies are adding fees to their bills to attempt to bridge funding gaps. They chose to add fees knowing it is unlikely to receive community support to pass a levy.
- Chief Rodondi explained some challenges we face due to PERS and benefits. Private sector doesn't have the same requirement so can pay staff those monies directly. The applicants we've seen are not attracted by the benefits. They prefer to forgo the benefits for the money in their paycheck.

THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED AT 2:20 p.m.

Rebecca Grizzle, Commission Chair

Joseph Rodondi, Fire Chief