



☒ Robert Taylor, Board President
☒ Dale White, Vice President
☒ Wyatt King, Secretary/Treasurer
☒ Matt Herb, Member
☒ Robbe Boren, Member

☒ Joseph Rodondi, Fire Chief
☒ John Tacy, DC of Operations
☒ Ken Foster, Fire Marshal
☒ Mark Fitzwater, DC of Training
☒ Desiree Barker, Chief Administrative Officer
☐ Michael Perkins, Recruitment Lt.

CALL MEETING TO ORDER AT 5:30 PM

FLAG SALUTE

MINUTES

Agenda item # 1 – Approval of May 13, 2025 Board Meeting Minutes

Member King made a motion to approve the minutes as written, Member Boren 2nd the motion.

Vote:

Board President Taylor - Yea
Vice President White - Yea
Secretary Treasurer King - Yea
Member Herb - Yea
Member Boren – Yea

Motion Approved.

CITIZEN COMMENTS

(Limited to 5 minutes per speaker)

There were no citizen comments.

NEW BUSINESS

Agenda Item #2 – Ambulance Fee Discussion

Chief Rodondi opened the Ambulance Fee Discussion. The question up for discussion is whether we want to and/or how we want to bill the Aid Call Rate listed in our Fee Schedule.

- The Aid Call Rate is loosely defined as an ambulance response where we have administered medical assistance, advised transport to a hospital, but the patient declines the transport, also known as treat-in-place.
- We are seeing a significant increase in lift-assist calls. Linn County doesn't have a very robust senior assistance program that would help prevent these call types.
- We are providing aid regularly where we do not transport. One example mentioned was when assisting a diabetic patient to return their blood sugar to within their normal limits, they may decline transport.
- Other Districts are billing lift assists aid calls, but some are only billing facilities not the patient. We have noticed our services being used to supplement facility staff on occasion.
- This is a possibility to add revenue to support the expenses we incur to provide the services.

- Staff can gather more data for the Board to make a more informed decision.

Secretary/Treasurer Herb made a motion to move forward with gathering data, Member Boren 2nd the motion.

Vote:

Board President Taylor - Yea
 Vice President White - Yea
 Secretary Treasurer King - Yea
 Member Herb - Yea
 Member Boren – Yea

Motion Approved.

Agenda Item #3 – Lebanon Community Hospital Updates

Chief Rodondi and DC Tacy met with LCH regarding rumored future changes to service levels.

- They were reassured by LCH that no decisions have been made regarding proposed closures to L&D, general surgery, and other services.
- LCH is looking at their services SHS wide to bridge their budget deficit.
- LFD is concerned about reduction in their services, as are the Linn County Fire Defense Board Chiefs. As SHS / LCH reduce services, they will have a downstream impact to all 911 pre-hospital care services. The Linn County Fire Defense Board wrote a letter to SHS / LCH leadership opposing the elimination of local services.
- Chief Rodondi has discussed his concerns with Commissioner Tucker.
- We will continue to watch the situation closely.

Agenda Item #4 – Basic Life Support (BLS) Ambulance Pilot Program

Chief Rodondi began the discussion reminding the Board that the single role program shuts down January 1, 2026, as part of our budget reductions.

- We have approached LCH to fund \$35,000 pilot program for the summer, however, have not heard back from them as of this meeting.
- We have 2 student volunteers we can employ for the summer to man a BLS ambulance.
- The BLS ambulance will respond only to low acuity calls (Code 1 or Alpha).
- This will reserve ALS staff for more critical calls thus lessening the load on our ALS crews.
- The BLS ambulance will be opposite of Medic 30 July 1 through September, during the hours of 2 pm to midnight.
- We hope the hospital will see this as a value and we can partner with them. This isn't likely to be sustainable without funding.

DC Fitzwater presented the pilot program on screen.

- We train our resident volunteers and would like to keep them rather than seeing them leave for other agencies.
- Colleges are dropping their paramedic programs due to disinterest. Medics are very difficult to find.

- This program benefits the resident volunteers by providing the opportunity to earn money during the summer.
- Alpha calls that increase in complexity will require a qualified staff member to respond to assist the BLS staff.

REPORTS

Agenda Item #5 – Financial Report

CAO Barker presented the FireMed graphs showing two years of history and the current year to-date.

- The top graph represents counts, the bottom represents revenue.
- Revenue is lower than our projections, but it is still exceeding the discounts applied.
- The coupons haven't had any impact. Coupons are still circulating.
- An open enrollment period was suggested.

CAO Barker then presented the Ambulance Revenue graph showing two years of history, the current year, our last year average, and our current year average.

- The average is up approximately 4% over last year. We anticipate it will increase.
- LFD in-house billing still has 5 insurance claims, that have yet to process. The insurance companies delay, which has a direct result on the amounts shown.
- Chief Rodondi informed the group that Sweet Home has also moved their billing to Tactical Business Group.
- TBG reported \$1.9 million in accounts receivable at the end of April.

CAO Barker informed the Board that the transfers approved at the last meeting were in the Financial Statements.

Agenda #6 Legislative updates

Chief Rodondi and DC Tacy updated the Board on the items still pending in the legislative session.

- DOT shortfall is having an impact in the legislative session.
- Balanced billing has moved forward to committee, but EMS is still undetermined.
- Special District Fairness and Accessibility Act is a replacement to the Special District Grant and is still active.
- Most of our community is Medicare/Medicaid patients. The Federal Medicare/Medicaid cuts may still impact us negatively. OHA is predicting \$1 million across the state.
- Balance billing is now with a subcommittee so will remain active after June 29.
- We are hopeful that the EMS modernization will be released to a subcommittee. EMS modernization has a focus on the labor workforce.

Agenda Item #7 – Non-Represented Staff Address the Board

There were no non-represented staff present to address the board.

Agenda Item #8 – Union Address the Board

Lt Carroll represented the Union. The Union fully supports the BLS pilot program.

Agenda Item #9 – Volunteers Address the Board

DC Fitzwater notified the Board that 5 graduated the volunteer academy. The swearing in is June 19th.

Agenda Item #10 – Fire Chief Report

- Conflagration season has started. The Oregon State Fire Marshal's mapping indicates a significant amount of threat potential. State Teams may be more active due to diminished IMT Management Teams than before. We will participate again this year.
- The Oregon Fallen Firefighters Memorial is June 17th.
- Worker's compensation was budgeted for \$120k, but it is \$144k which will strain the budget. This is an industry increase across the board with SAIF. We do pay a portion of eligible claims to keep our rates less.
- The 1917 apparatus is 96% complete. It was restored with the volunteer help from our fire fighters.
- Entech has donated their services to transport our engine to Henderson NV in July for refurbishment. They've only asked for mention on our social media.

ADJOURN TO EXECUTIVE SESSION PER ORS 192.660(2)(d): TO CONDUCT DELIBERATIONS ON LABOR NEGOTIATIONS

RECONVENE REGULAR SESSION

OTHER AGENDA ITEMS

There were no other agenda items.

ADJOURN REGULAR SESSION AT 7:03 pm.

Robert Taylor, Board President

Joseph Rodondi, Fire Chief