

**CASCADE RURAL FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT  
REGULAR COMMISSIONER'S MEETING MINUTES  
September 9, 2021**

Commissioner Larry Scarborough called the commissioner's meeting of the Cascade Rural Fire Protection District to order at 5:30 p.m. at the 109 East Pine Street Fire Station.

The following Cascade Rural Fire Protection District officials were present: Commissioner Larry Scarborough, Commissioner Mike Arnold, Fire Chief Steven Hull, Emergency Medical Services Director Keri Rueth and Secretary / Treasurer Pam DeChambeau. Commissioner LaDawn Saxton participated by phone.

Larry Scarborough made a motion to amend the agenda to add mill levy increase discussion, and Mike Arnold seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Mike Arnold made a motion to approve the agenda as amended, adding the mill levy discussion, and Larry Scarborough seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Larry Scarborough opened the public hearing and stated the hearing was to consider public comment on the proposed increase in emergency medical services fees. Stated the notice of the public hearing was published for two weeks in The Star-News on August 26 and September 2, 2021. No members of the public were present and no written correspondence has been received commenting on the proposed increase in fees. Keri Rueth presented the current emergency medical services fees and the Medicare and Blue Cross Fee Schedule 2021. Presented an increase in the emergency medical services Treat and Release fee from \$125.00 to \$175.00, the Basic Life Support - Emergency fee from \$575.00 to \$625.00, the Advanced Life Support Level 1 - Emergency fee from \$675.00 to \$775.00, the Advanced Life Support Level 2 - Emergency fee from \$875.00 to \$975.00, the mileage fee for miles 1 thru 17 from \$11.00 per mile to \$17.00 per mile, and the mileage fee for miles over 17 from \$9.59 per mile to \$11.00 per mile. Larry Scarborough closed the public hearing.

LaDawn Saxton made a motion to approve the minutes of the August 12, 2021 regular Commissioner's meeting, and Larry Scarborough seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Larry Scarborough made a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report and payment of the bills dated September 9, 2021, and Mike Arnold seconded the motion. Mike Arnold requested patient confidentiality when posting payments received for emergency medical services, verified the fees charged for liquified petroleum gas tank inspections, and confirmed the Alaska Airlines expense is to travel to Chehalis Washington for an ambulance prebuild inspection. Motion carried.

### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

Keri Rueth, reporting the Steve Hull, reported an update about still waiting for Valley County to establish a Development Impact Fee Committee to move forward to develop impact fees. Reported Hughes Fire Equipment tested the pumps on the engines and the ladders on August 17 and there were no failures on the pumps or ladders. Reported the kitchen remodel is complete and a really good job was done. Reported the ambulance bay door has been repaired.

Keri Rueth presented and reported on signing the Idaho Emergency Medical Services terms and conditions paperwork for the grant received in the amount of \$140,000.00 to purchase an ambulance. Reported an update on the order and specifications for the purchase of the ambulance. Reported on traveling September 27 to Chehalis Washington and do a prebuild walk thru of the ambulance and traveling back when the ambulance buildout is complete for a final inspection and to drive the ambulance home. Reported a tentative completion date for the ambulance of February 2022.

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

Keri Rueth, reporting for Steven Hull, reported 44 incidents for the month of August 2021, reported the average is 50, and reported many back-to-back incidents. Reported on department training resuming the first and third Wednesdays of each month. Reported six applications were received for the open position of Firefighter / Paramedic and three applicants will be interviewed Thursday, September 16. Presented and reviewed the estimate from Granite Excavation to remove existing asphalt and pave at the 109 East Pine Street fire station. Reported 986 square feet of asphalt will be removed and paved in the amount of \$6,783.99 at the 109 East Pine Street fire station.

Keri Rueth reported on the Cascade Medical Center receiving a United States Department of Agriculture grant in the amount of \$15,000.00. Reported on the Cascade Medical Center creating the Healthy Aging Population Network. Reported on the committee formed between the Cascade Medical Center, Cascade Rural Fire Protection District, the City of Cascade, and the Community Center (formerly the Senior Center). Reported on using the funding to assess helping the aging population in our area; asses the needs of the aging population, asses how to keep the aging population in the community, whether it's a facility or more community paramedic or other agencies caring for the aging population at home. Reported on hiring a consultant to assess the aging population as stated above, on three consultants applying, and on meeting Monday to hear the consultants fifteen-minute presentations. Reported the highest consultant fee requested for the assessment was \$11,000.00. Reported on Tuesday northern Idaho went into a crisis standard of care mode with their hospitals. Reported there are no beds or personnel to fill the need that they have right now. Reported on Idaho Emergency Medical Services holding an emergency meeting Tuesday night and going over crisis standards of care for Idaho emergency medical services agencies. Reported on another meeting tonight with the Idaho Emergency Medical Services Physician Commission and putting protocols in place for the crisis standard of care mode.

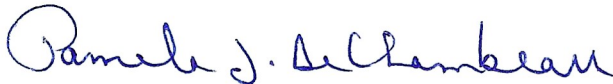
Resolution 21-07 declaring the 1991 Ford ambulance surplus property was reviewed. Discussion followed on listing the ambulance for sell. Larry Scarborough made a motion to approve Resolution 21-07, declaring the the 1991 Ford ambulance surplus property, and Mike Arnold seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Larry Scarborough made a motion to accept the recommendations for the increase in Emergency Medical Services fees, and LaDawn Saxton seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Larry Scarborough requested to determine the process to increase the fire district tax levy, to determine the amount of funding needed, and to determine the process to hold a public vote in May 2022 for an increase in the fire district tax levy. Discussion followed on the need to expand the building, the need for another fire truck, the need to retain employees, and the need to hire more personnel. Discussion followed on impact fees funding growth related expenditures. Steve Hull discussed staffing safety issues.

There being no further business, the regular commissioner's meeting of the Cascade Rural Fire Protection District adjourned at 6:19 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Pamela J. DeChambeau  
Secretary/Treasurer

Approved:



Larry V. Scarborough  
Chairperson