

**Crooked River Ranch RFPD
6971 SW Shad Rd
Terrebonne, OR 97760-9250**

August 27, 2024

A Special meeting of the Crooked River Ranch Rural Fire Protection District Board of Directors took place on Tuesday, August 27, 2024, at 3:00 pm. It was held at the Crooked River Ranch Fire District Fire Station, located at 6971 SW Shad Road Crooked River Ranch, Oregon.

Special Meeting Minutes

Called to Order at 3:00 pm by Director Palmer.

1.1 Flag Salute – led by Director Pahl

1.2 Roll call was conducted by Director Norberg and the following individuals were in attendance: Directors Palmer, Pahl, Norberg, Costigan and Gayheart, as well as staff members Fire Chief Sean Hartley, Administrative Assistant Dana Schulke and Captain Alysha Delorto. The following members of the public were in attendance: Mike Dries, Katie Dries, Bill Burt, Beth Gatchel, Lynn Breeden, Maureen Spurgem, Robin Huber, Walt Templeton, Barbara Tomlinson, David Tomlinson, Michael Lex, George Johnson, and Pam Halladay. The following members of the public attended via the Zoom platform: Tony Prior (from Sisters-Camp Sherman Fire), Mike Knoke, Barbara Oakley, and Jeff Rasmussen from Jefferson County Administrative Officer. There was also a public member named “Diane” and another person attending which showed the initials of “TCD7”.

2.1 Update from Jefferson County meeting/PGE offer – Director Palmer gave a quick overview of this topic for the audience members who are not familiar with this topic. He stated that PG&E overpaid on their taxes to Jefferson County last year, in the amount of \$1.7 million dollars. Through various checks and balances that Jefferson County did, they found out that all special districts must share the load and must pay back that amount to PG&E, even though the fire district receives no benefit from PG&E. This would have cost the District \$60K. There were questions from the public regarding Pacific Power vs. PG&E. At this time Director Costigan and Chief Hartley put together a slide show for the public to understand how the taxes are distributed to Jefferson County. It indicated that there are forty different zones in Jefferson County, and Crooked River Ranch has four zones. Your Assessed Tax Value is multiplied by all individual tax millage rates, of which Crooked River Ranch Fire has several funds. Director Costigan then explained how proportionate taxing works. He then stated that the Department of Revenue determines the responsibility of the big three, which are Communications, Transportation and Utilities. He further explained and elaborated on the taxing formulas. He stated that our share is currently \$55,983 and initially we had to pay interest on top of this number. He said that when the taxes come into Jefferson County, they will be taking this amount right off the top, so CRR Fire will not be seeing this money to operate. He then stated that PG&E has offered a \$500,000 grant and if Jefferson County distributes these funds proportionally to all taxing districts, our liability would drop to \$40,290. He further explained what Fund 240 was (ARPA) and how some taxing districts received financial aid from this, however fire districts did not, and he is asking Jefferson County to have more communication with special districts when significant tax challenges arise in the future. At this time there were questions from the Zoom attendees and from the members of public. Director Costigan stated that for

the record, Jefferson County is really working with all the special districts on this matter and has been very receptive to suggestions on how to pay the money back to PG&E. Chief Hartley stated that all the Jefferson County Commissioners are looking for ideas from us to pay back the money. Discussion ensued between members of the public and the Board regarding the assessed value vs real market value of your home. Director Palmer stated that Commissioner Wunsch from Jefferson County has put forth two separate options/ideas to pay back the money. Director Costigan reviewed the options with the Board and public. All Board members agreed that they liked option two. Discussion ensued between Jeff Rasmussen and the Board members regarding the unallocated ARPA funds that Jefferson County received and how they could be utilized as a solution to this situation. Lynn Breeden asked Jeff Rasmussen if there have been any other ideas proposed to solve this problem. Jeff stated not that he is aware of, only the one proposed by Commissioner Wunsch. Discussion ensued between Jeff Rasmussen and Director Palmer regarding the \$500K PG&E grant and if it is only earmarked for this situation, and how it will be distributed. Director Palmer explained to the audience how the Board has created three subcommittees to pursue this issue, so it does not happen again. He stated to the audience that he is asking the political committee (Director Costigan and Director Gayheart) to represent our Board at the Jefferson County Commissioner's meeting tomorrow.

2.2 Discussion and decision on input for Jefferson County Commissioner's meeting with PG&E, on Wednesday –

Director Costigan made a motion to recommend to the Jefferson County Commissioners tomorrow that our Board supports Option 2 (receipt of ARPA funds) to help defray the costs of the burden to our District. Director Norberg seconded the motion. All in favor stated "Aye," motion carried, (5-0).

A member of the public asked if this option does not go through, what will be cut from the District to pay these funds back to PG&E. Chief Hartley then explained to the public that we had built this year's budget; we were not aware of the PG&E tax overpayment. We had budgeted for another FF/Paramedic which we have not hired yet and have not utilized that money so far for that position. We have also budgeted for a part-time administrative employee to help Chief and Dana. Our plan was to fly this position in September; however, we will not advertise for it until January 2025 now. This will all depend on the decision from the Jefferson County Commissioners. Per Jeff Rasmussen, he is hopeful that they will decide tomorrow, but no guarantee. Per Director Palmer, we will just have to wait and see what happens with this before we go forward with hiring the FF/Paramedic and part-time administrative position.

Meeting adjourned by Director Palmer at 4:08 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Dana Schulke, Administrative Assistant