

BANKS FIRE DISTRICT #13

13430 NW MAIN STREET, BANKS, OR 97106

EMERGENCY BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Meeting Date: Tuesday, January 23, 2024

Meeting Location: Banks Fire District #13, Banks Fire Station 13 Training Room

Call to Order: Board Chair Kevin Henning called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Board Members Present: Kevin Henning, Clint Jackson, Mark Standley, Jr., John Wren and Pete Lux

Board Members Absent: None.

Approval of Agenda (Action Item): Clint Jackson made a motion to approve the January 23, 2024 Emergency Board Meeting Agenda as presented. Pete Lux seconded the motion. Voting for the motion: Mark Standley, Jr., Clint Jackson, Pete Lux and John Wren. Opposed: None. The motion carried.

New Business:

- Discussion of out of county response issue. One of our Mutual Aid partners, Elsie Vinemapple had a board change last July. Since that time there has been disagreements between the Chief and the Board. The Board is wanting to remove the Chief and other officers in the department. They had a Special Board Meeting this past Sunday regarding this issue. Other volunteers showed up for the meeting along with approximately 70 people from the community that were not in agreement with the board. The majority of the current volunteers stated they will leave if the chief is terminated.

This issue is a high risk issue to Banks Fire District as the Board Chair released a letter to the Elsie Community on social media that included the statement that Banks Fire District would respond to all of Elsie Vinemapple's calls up to milepost 20. Milepost 20 is 40 minutes away from Banks Fire District. We do not have the resources to guarantee coverage. We will provide as many resources that we can, but our number one commitment is to the citizens within our district.

PIO Scott Adams has prepared a press release to state Banks Fire District's position and that we will do what we can to help but the district is not committing to anything. We hope that the Board and the Chief can work things out and keep the district running.

Board Chair Henning asked if Elsie does terminate the chief and all of the volunteers leave what will that do to Banks Fire? Chief Linz stated it could increase our calls to Elsie from approximately 2 to 3 per month to 10 per month. Chief Linz continued that we would screen the calls and respond to the critical calls. Chief is also looking into billing for service which could be an option.

Board Member Wren asked what our Medical Director thinks of this – can we respond out of our county? Chief stated we can still respond due to the Mutual Aid agreements in place and he would check with Dr. Daya to get his thoughts on this issue.

EMERGENCY BOARD MEETING MINUTES FOR JANUARY 23, 2024

Chief stated when responding we would need to change our tactics and do what we can as we can't send our whole department and leave our district unattended. There is really no clear answer. We do need to set the expectation that Banks Fire will respond but only if we have resources available to respond to Elsie and have crews remain available for Banks. Banks Fire will do everything we can to minimize the risk for both Elsie and the citizens of Banks. There is a board meeting tomorrow night that will determine the status of Chief Wammack. We will know more at this time.

Chief spoke with the Fire Defense Board which stated other jurisdictions would respond to help Banks Fire if necessary.

Board Member Jackson asked who steps in in circumstances like this – who will take over Elsie? Chief said he wasn't sure – possibly Oregon State Fire Marshal but there are no guarantees.

Board Member Lux asked if Banks Fire's statement will be distributed so community members will understand Banks Fire District's part in this. Board Chair Henning asked when the statement would be released. Chief replied tomorrow if the board approves the statement.

PIO Adams stated that the Elsie community need to be informed of Banks Fire's part in this and that we don't want their community to have a sense of false security.

Board Member Wren stated that Banks Fire should not get involved with social media and Chief Linz agreed.

The Board's consensus is that the most important issue is that we respond if we have the resources available and when we respond that we respond safely with an experienced crew. Chief stated that the district will not respond to Code 1 calls and will only respond to the critical calls. If we were called to a structure fire, we would need to change the tactics and send a 4 person crew and would not go interior.

Pete Lux moved to approve the statement created by PIO Scott Adams with the spelling correction of from Olney's to Oney's in the statement. Mark Standley seconded the motion. Voting in favor: Pete Lux, Clint Jackson, Mark Standley and John Wren. Opposed: None. The motion carried.

Attached: Banks Fire District #13 1/23/2024 Board Statement

Adjourn Meeting: There being no further business Board Chair Kevin Henning adjourned the meeting at 6:54 pm.

Pete Lux
Secretary

Kari Erwert
Recording Secretary