

GILLIAM COUNTY FIRE SERVICES
MEETING MINUTES – SEPTEMBER 22, 2021

The meeting was called to order at 9:00a am by chairman Bobby Christensen. Other members present were Roger Lyda, and Donald Jamieson, Gary Bettencourt via zoom. Absent Larry Eubanks.

Guests: Fire Services Coordinator: Laci Olsen

Public Comment: none

Minutes: It was moved by Donald Jamieson and seconded by Roger Lyda to approve the April 26, 2021 minutes as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Financial Report: Roger Lyda made a motion to accept the financials from July 1, 2020- June 30, 2021 and Financials from July 1, 2021- September 9, 2021. Donald Jamieson seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Unfinished Business:

1. Update about ORS 190 and Ordinance timeline
2. Transferred insurance for Fire Safety House to Fire Services, will work on title transfer when ORS 190 is complete.

New Business:

1. Present 2 Year Review – Discussion will be held at the budget meeting. Laci will have her 3 year review available at that time since the merit increases are behind a year due to time of review and budget season.
2. Public Safety Night will be October 19 in Arlington and October 26 in Condon. I would like to buy hot dogs and chips and Soda.
3. **Fire Services Coordinator Report as follows**

Calls

1. **Calls** – North Gilliam has responded to 63 calls so far in 2021 which is puts us on pace for a slightly higher than normal call volume.

11- Grass fires/outside fires

4- vehicle/train fires

7- false alarm activations

1- Odor removal for propane

11- Stand down or no incident found at location
19- motor vehicle crashes
10-Medical assist

In 2021 South Gilliam Volunteers responded to 21 calls so far.

9 Outside fires including authorized burns that were not called in
1 Structure fire
2 motor vehicle crashes
1 medical assist
5 cancelled in route
1 vehicle fire
1 sprinkler activation at Summit Springs
And an odor investigation

Grants/Funding-

South Gilliam County RFPD was awarded the special projects grant for \$17,775 with \$5,925 match for new 4500 PSI Scott SCBA bottles. This will allow us to buy 20 new bottles. The purpose of this was to put the 2003 Scott SCBA packs in service that Yamhill fire had donated to the fire district in the spring.

I also applied for the AFG grant for \$68,914.29 with \$3,445.71 match for new Scott SCBAs for the South Gilliam County RFPD and I was notified on September 3 that we had been awarded that grant as well. Scott had a price increase as of September 1 which raised the price for just the packs and masks alone to \$68,000. We had already ordered the SCBA bottles for the Special Projects grant at that time so thankfully we will still be able to purchase and put the new packs in service.

Gilliam County will now all have the same SCBAs which will allow for interoperability during structure fires. Most of our surrounding counties use Scott as well.

I had applied for a grant through the Oregon State Fire Marshalls office for \$200,000 in hopes of purchasing a new water tender for South Gilliam County RFPD, but we were not awarded that grant.

Personnel

- a. North Gilliam County RFPD has 15 Volunteers** and they are very active in training and response. This year Kameron Holmes, a traveling wind technician joined the fire district after taking the wildland class that we taught last spring. Eric Akin recently joined the department. He is from Hood River and has his Firefighter 2 and instructor certifications through the state already. He completed his wildland classes this month and is a regular responder. Jacob Hathaway and Dakota Smith are transferring from South Gilliam County RFPD to North Gilliam County RFPD as they are moving to

Boardman, but they are both working at Waste Management during the week. Tina Oana is working on her wildland training and joined earlier this summer.

- b. **South Gilliam County RFPD has 14 volunteers on the roster.** We are getting the same handful of people every week at training and those same ones are the ones responding to most of the calls. Robert Clark is moving to Washington and turned in his pager and radio. Dakota and Jacob have moved to Boardman and transferred to North Gilliam County RFPD. Shaina Watkins is now a volunteer with Pendleton Fire.

Training

- a. **North Gilliam County RFPD** –So far in 2021 North Gilliam Volunteers have accumulated over 470 training hours. Training attendance is pretty regular with the same handful of volunteers each week. We have finished our BLS First aid for the department, worked a lot on pre fire planning, area familiarization, and engine operations this year. With a busy summer we spent many nights doing AARs and Vehicle maintenance.
- b. **South Gilliam County RFPD**- South Gilliam County RFPD has accumulated over 540 training hours so far this year. We also have the same group of folks attend training that attend the calls. We finished our BLS CPR classes, toured a new water source near Ferry Canyon, worked on pump operations on the brush trucks and pumpers, and similar to North Gilliam, this summer has included many AAR and maintenance nights. Dustan Hall finished his Fire Officer classes via target solutions.

This Saturday both districts have been invited to a training day on an acquired structure in Condon. We will have the opportunity to practice size up, walk arounds, engine operations, search and rescue, and ladder skills.

We are hopeful to get our crews through the Structure FF2 material this Fall.

Coordinator Continuing Education-

I completed the S-131 put on by Clackamas Community College and have applied for my certification for WFF1 which was the next level of wildland training.

I attended the National Volunteer Fire Councils conference in May. I took a roadway safety course, recruitment and retention course, and Firefighter Cancer prevention class.

The National Fire Academy put on a Safety Officer Course that I attended and received my certification.

I am looking for an S-230 class which would finish the needed courses for Engine Boss and allow me to instruct the S-131 for our fire departments. I am also hopeful we can do the Wildland Fire investigation class with Scott Macintyre from the Forest Service this spring. It has been on hold due to Covid.

Community

I had 4 burn ban posters made that I put up at each entrance to the county. I checked on them last week and they are still standing. I want to save them and use them each year when we enact the burn ban. The Burn ban will be lifted October 15.

Jim Payne was the Fire Chief in Sherman County until about a year and half ago when he retired from Chief. He was still a volunteer. He passed away earlier this month and his services will be Sunday September 26. We have worked closely with Jim and his wife Shawn Payne, who was the emergency manager for Sherman County, and I feel it is important to participate in his services and show Gilliam Counties support and appreciation for all the help over the years.

We offered a community Wildland S-130 and S-190 class in April and May. Shannon Coppock assisted in teaching the class with me. We had a decent turn out of community members and a firefighter from Sherman County.

Chris Fitzsimmons and I have met with three of the energy companies this year, and had a large meeting with a number of the turbine sites planning and executing emergency response drills. Our next meeting is Tuesday the 28 with Avangrid. We will tour the wind sites and then set a date to plan the emergency response drill.

I am continuing to offer CPR/ First Aid classes to those in the community that need it as my time allows.

I attend the Oregon Trail Fire Training Association meetings each month. They have not held any classes since the beginning of the Covid pandemic, and it sounds like that isn't going to change in the near future.

Vehicle Maintenance

North Gilliam purchased an engine from Blanchat last year. It has been having some issues and needs some warranty work done. The component that failed is on backorder due to the common failure of it, but the Kenworth shop in Pendleton is coming out to fix it when they get the part.

Travis with Roadside diesel has the compressor and brake parts for the old tender at North Gilliam on order. He will be coming to make the repair when he gets the parts.

The Grumman that was donated to North Gilliam Fire had a fuel pump O-ring go out. I did not have the special tools needed to set the timing, so we hired the Cat Mechanic that works at Waste Management to come help me replace the fuel pump and it is now back in service.

6751 which is a 2015 Ford F550 had a plugged catalytic convertor and a damaged tail pipe. Bonney's in Hermiston replaced the section of damaged pipe and we purchased a new catalytic convertor (it was out of the warranty period) and I installed it.

South Gilliam Fire's tender 2 has had some mechanical issues, suspension issues and brake issues that have been noted the last year. When we were unable to get the grant for a new tender, we had Roadside Diesel out of the Dalles come out and give us an estimate for repair. The estimate was a little over \$3,000. Our options are limited without having funding for a newer tender. He will plan on coming out after fire season is over.

Brush 3 had a major exhaust leak that we took to Bonney's in Hermiston to have repaired. It also seized an idler pulley and shredded the belt earlier this month. Greg took care of that repair.

While I know repairing and doing the maintenance is not part of my job description, when I have the time, I find it is easier to do it than try to spend the drive and wait time to have someone else take care of it. With 9 fire apparatus and North and 10 Fire apparatus at South that can be quite time consuming.

Next meeting April 2022

The meeting adjourned at 9:30 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted

Laci Olsen, Gilliam County Fire Services Coordinator