**VERNONIA RURAL FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT**

**MINUTES FOR November 12, 2024, Regular Meeting**

**MEETING CALLED TO ORDER:** 7pm by Michaela Demeter

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA**

**ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA:** None

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Micheala Demeter (Miki), Neil Kennedy, James Pisarsky and James George. Shelley Hess absent

**VISITORS PRESENT:** Karin Goodman, Matt Meyer, Charollette Tannery, Brandon Carr, Mike Sergeant on staff with Metro, Kendrick Leaverton, Dan Hanson, Brandi Abney, Trinity Weber, Courtney Barklow, Mark Brown, Ben Davis, Jason Smith, Scott Laird, Bri Brogli, John Brody, Linda Dodds, Tiaya Brody, Jack Brody, Chief Greg Brody, Frank Cieloha, Weller, Chief Rodney Linz from Banks and his wife, and Jake Ratliff, Vernonia Police Officer.

**CHIEF’S SEARCH:** Neil explained that there was a job posting with one applicant. The inter-view Pannel unanimously agreed on the applicant.

James George made a motion to hire Chief Brody. Motion was seconded by Neil and motion carried unanimously by members present.

**SWEAR IN OF CHIEF BRODY** He was pinned by family members and a good friend. Brody commented that before he got serious, he talked to many people; staff, volunteers, Board members and community members. He asked about this organization. “It is truly an incredible, resilient organization. It has been through a lot physically & internally and every time this organization has shined through. I am proud to carry forth and start a new chapter and improve upon things we have already created. We are going to face a lot of things coming up. We have things we need to work on. Will things change? Probably. I do not think we should be afraid to say change is something we cannot be afraid of. Our ultimate goal is to serve members of this community in the absolute best and finest way. As your Fire Chief that is my promise to you.”

**APPROVAL OF 10-8-2024 Regular Meeting Minutes** – James George made a motion to approve the minutes of the October 8, 2024, regular meeting as typed. Neil seconded the motion, and the motion was carried unanimously by members present.

**NEWSLETTER:** Charollette said the next article will not be until January.

There will be a pancake breakfast and open house on December 14th. Board asked if that can be advertised in the Voice.

**11-12-2024**
**Page 2**

**CORRESPONDENCE:** Thank you card, from a community member that our crew went on a call to their home.

**TREASURER’S REPORT:** James Pisarsky made a motion to approve the bills as listed. Neil Kennedy seconded the motion, and the motion was carried unanimously by members present.

**CHIEF’S REPORT:** Chief Brody sent out his report to the Board ahead of time but handed out a copy and then read it. See attached copy. Brody explained the reason for several items that he would like to surplus. The Board asked that these items be put on next month's agenda.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**GRANT CONSTRUCTION UPDATE/ STATION RENEWAL –** Talked about under Chief’s report.

**BOARD POLICIES –** Tabled

**STRATEGIC PLAN –** Tabled

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**BURN PERMITS –** Brody explained that he does not feel we bring in enough income from Burn Permits and to allow access for people to apply for them on-line he would like to drop the fee. Neil made a motion to drop the fee for Burn Permits tonight. James Pisarsky seconded the motion, and the motion was carried unanimously by members present.

**CREDIT CARD** – A brief discussion followed on why there was a need for another District Credit Card. Neil made a motion to approve a Vernonia Fire Credit Card in Chief Brody’s name. The motion was seconded by James George and the motion was carried unanimously by members present.

PHONE SERVICE – Chief Brody brought to the Board a new phone service and the costs associated with it. A brief discussion followed. Neil made a motion to invest in an automated phone system. James Pisarsky seconded the motion, and the motion was carried unanimously by members present.

**AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION –**

Steve Weller made a comment.

**AGENDA SSUGGESTIONS FOR FUTURE METTINGS –** Miki asked that under New Business; Monitor surplus, Tactical Equipment Surplus, Donating materials less than $250 and Hazardous Material disposal.

**11-12-2024**
**Page 3**

**GOOD TO THE ORDER – All Board Members** thanked Chief Meyer for all he has done for Vernonia and our community. We gave him a card with a gift card to a nice restaurant inside.

**ADJOURN:** 8:07

**NEXT MEETING:**

Tuesday December 10th, 2024, 7pm Regular Board Meeting.

Minutes Approved this \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, 2024

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Signed – Karin Goodman Secretary for the Board Initialed –Michaela Demeter – Board Chair