



## LEBANON FIRE DISTRICT BOARD MEETING MINUTES

June 10, 2025

- ☒ Robert Taylor, Board President
- ☒ Dale White, Vice President
- ☒ Wyatt King, Secretary/Treasurer
- ☒ Matt Herb, Member
- ☒ Robbe Boren, Member

- ☒ Joseph Rodondi, Fire Chief
- ☒ John Tacy, DC of Operations
- ☒ Ken Foster, Fire Marshal
- ☒ Mark Fitzwater, DC of Training
- ☒ Desiree Barker, Chief Administrative Officer
- ☐ Michael Perkins, Recruitment Lt.

### CALL MEETING TO ORDER AT 5:30 PM

### FLAG SALUTE

### MINUTES

#### Agenda item # 1 – Approval of May 13, 2025 Board Meeting Minutes

Member King made a motion to approve the minutes as written, Member Boren 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion.

#### Vote:

Board President Taylor - Yea  
Vice President White - Yea  
Secretary Treasurer King - Yea  
Member Herb - Yea  
Member Boren – Yea

Motion Approved.

### CITIZEN COMMENTS

(Limited to 5 minutes per speaker)

There were no citizen comments.

### NEW BUSINESS

#### Agenda Item #2 – Ambulance Fee Discussion

Chief Rodondi opened the Ambulance Fee Discussion. The question up for discussion is whether we want to and/or how we want to bill the Aid Call Rate listed in our Fee Schedule.

- The Aid Call Rate is loosely defined as an ambulance response where we have administered medical assistance, advised transport to a hospital, but the patient declines the transport, also known as treat-in-place.
- We are seeing a significant increase in lift-assist calls. Linn County doesn't have a very robust senior assistance program that would help prevent these call types.
- We are providing aid regularly where we do not transport. One example mentioned was when assisting a diabetic patient to return their blood sugar to within their normal limits, they may decline transport.
- Other Districts are billing lift assists aid calls, but some are only billing facilities not the patient. We have noticed our services being used to supplement facility staff on occasion.
- This is a possibility to add revenue to support the expenses we incur to provide the services.

- Staff can gather more data for the Board to make a more informed decision.

Secretary/Treasurer Herb made a motion to move forward with gathering data, Member Boren 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion.

Vote:

Board President Taylor - Yea  
Vice President White - Yea  
Secretary Treasurer King - Yea  
Member Herb - Yea  
Member Boren – Yea

Motion Approved.

**Agenda Item #3 – Lebanon Community Hospital Updates**

Chief Rodondi and DC Tacy met with LCH regarding rumored future changes to service levels.

- They were reassured by LCH that no decisions have been made regarding proposed closures to L&D, general surgery, and other services.
- LCH is looking at their services SHS wide to bridge their budget deficit.
- LFD is concerned about reduction in their services, as are the Linn County Fire Defense Board Chiefs. As SHS / LCH reduce services, they will have a downstream impact to all 911 pre-hospital care services. The Linn County Fire Defense Board wrote a letter to SHS / LCH leadership opposing the elimination of local services.
- Chief Rodondi has discussed his concerns with Commissioner Tucker.
- We will continue to watch the situation closely.

**Agenda Item #4 – Basic Life Support (BLS) Ambulance Pilot Program**

Chief Rodondi began the discussion reminding the Board that the single role program shuts down January 1, 2026, as part of our budget reductions.

- We have approached LCH to fund \$35,000 pilot program for the summer, however, have not heard back from them as of this meeting.
- We have 2 student volunteers we can employ for the summer to man a BLS ambulance.
- The BLS ambulance will respond only to low acuity calls (Code 1 or Alpha).
- This will reserve ALS staff for more critical calls thus lessening the load on our ALS crews.
- The BLS ambulance will be opposite of Medic 30 July 1 through September, during the hours of 2 pm to midnight.
- We hope the hospital will see this as a value and we can partner with them. This isn't likely to be sustainable without funding.

DC Fitzwater presented the pilot program on screen.

- We train our resident volunteers and would like to keep them rather than seeing them leave for other agencies.
- Colleges are dropping their paramedic programs due to disinterest. Medics are very difficult to find.

- This program benefits the resident volunteers by providing the opportunity to earn money during the summer.
- Alpha calls that increase in complexity will require a qualified staff member to respond to assist the BLS staff.

## **REPORTS**

### **Agenda Item #5 – Financial Report**

CAO Barker presented the FireMed graphs showing two years of history and the current year to-date.

- The top graph represents counts, the bottom represents revenue.
- Revenue is lower than our projections, but it is still exceeding the discounts applied.
- The coupons haven't had any impact. Coupons are still circulating.
- An open enrollment period was suggested.

CAO Barker then presented the Ambulance Revenue graph showing two years of history, the current year, our last year average, and our current year average.

- The average is up approximately 4% over last year. We anticipate it will increase.
- LFD in-house billing still has 5 insurance claims, that have yet to process. The insurance companies delay, which has a direct result on the amounts shown.
- Chief Rodondi informed the group that Sweet Home has also moved their billing to Tactical Business Group.
- TBG reported \$1.9 million in accounts receivable at the end of April.

CAO Barker informed the Board that the transfers approved at the last meeting were in the Financial Statements.

### **Agenda #6 Legislative updates**

Chief Rodondi and DC Tacy updated the Board on the items still pending in the legislative session.

- DOT shortfall is having an impact in the legislative session.
- Balanced billing has moved forward to committee, but EMS is still undetermined.
- Special District Fairness and Accessibility Act is a replacement to the Special District Grant and is still active.
- Most of our community is Medicare/Medicaid patients. The Federal Medicare/Medicaid cuts may still impact us negatively. OHA is predicting \$1 million across the state.
- Balance billing is now with a subcommittee so will remain active after June 29.
- We are hopeful that the EMS modernization will be released to a subcommittee. EMS modernization has a focus on the labor workforce.

### **Agenda Item #7 – Non-Represented Staff Address the Board**

There were no non-represented staff present to address the board.

### **Agenda Item #8 – Union Address the Board**

Lt Carroll represented the Union. The Union fully supports the BLS pilot program.

### **Agenda Item #9 – Volunteers Address the Board**

June 10, 2025

DC Fitzwater notified the Board that 5 graduated the volunteer academy. The swearing in is June 19th.

**Agenda Item #10 – Fire Chief Report**

- Conflagration season has started. The Oregon State Fire Marshal's mapping indicates a significant amount of threat potential. State Teams may be more active due to diminished IMT Management Teams than before. We will participate again this year.
- The Oregon Fallen Firefighters Memorial is June 17th.
- Worker's compensation was budgeted for \$120k, but it is \$144k which will strain the budget. This is an industry increase across the board with SAIF. We do pay a portion of eligible claims to keep our rates less.
- The 1917 apparatus is 96% complete. It was restored with the volunteer help from our fire fighters.
- Entech has donated their services to transport our engine to Henderson NV in July for refurbishment. They've only asked for mention on our social media.

**ADJOURN TO EXECUTIVE SESSION PER ORS 192.660(2)(d): TO CONDUCT DELIBERATIONS ON LABOR NEGOTIATIONS**

**RECONVENE REGULAR SESSION**

**OTHER AGENDA ITEMS**

There were no other agenda items.

**ADJOURN REGULAR SESSION AT 7:03 pm.**



Robert Taylor, Board President



Joseph Rodondi, Fire Chief