**Date:** April 05, 2023 @ 6:30PM

Attendance

 Chief Wallace Kevin Woodworth Elmer Shew

 Elysia Johnson Quentin Holmes Mike Gamble

 Ted Arnold Kandice Diskin Val Rylands

**Call to Order: Budget Committee Chair (2022-23)** Edward (Ted) Arnold @ 1835 Hours

Last year’s chair, Ted Arnold opened the meeting and asked for nominations for this year’s chair. Elmer Shew made motion for Ted Arnold to be the budget chair again this year, Kevin seconded the motion. Motion Carried 6-0

Mr. Arnold then asked for nominations for budget secretary. Val made a motion that Kandice be appointed to the position and was seconded by Kevin. Motion carried 6-0.

Mr. Arnold then turned the meeting over to Chief Wallace to explain the budget process and this year’s budget.

**Overview of Budget Process** – Chief Wallace explained the budget process and the requirements as set forth by state and district policy. The Chief asked if there were any questions, and none were asked.

**Assessor’s Information and Calculations –** Chief explained the average collection rate in Lane county is currently 98.3%, but as always he has budgeted for a collection rate of 94%. Chief Wallace explained that using the assessed value of the fire district found in the counties table 4a he budgets a 3% increase to that value each year. We have been using 3 % for about 10 years and that has always been a low number and safe number as the district usually averages a 4 % increase. Using this information and the permanent tax rate of the fire district the chief gets the total estimated amount of taxes to be received. Chief Wallace asked if there were any questions and there were none.

**Budget Message** – Chief Wallace Read through the budget message stopping at the end of each paragraph to ask if there were any questions. The Chief explained the new radio contract and the increase in personnel this year. Dr. Holmes asked the Chief how he worked the budget with the staffing grant still out with no answer. The Chief explained that if the grant was awarded that the district would use the monies budgeted for the new hire as the matching portion required by the state of Oregon.

Kevin asked the chief to explain the district and apparatus to all the new member of the committee. Chief Wallace explained in detail the district layout and equipment.

**Review Budget Documents** – Chief Wallace proceeded to go through all budget document page by page and line by line. At the end of each page the chief stopped and asked if there were any questions or concerns. Mike asked about the cost of the new reader board and how the cost was being split with the school district. The chief explained the sign is about $40,000 and our half Will be $20,000 but he did budget an extra $5,000 for unforeseen cost.

Mike Also asked if all the budget numbers were even due to rounding up and if that is the plan to budget higher than we are expecting. The chief explained he always aims a little high and plans on coming in under budget. He explained that is also how we have built the cash carryover that has allowed us to bring on another full-time employee this year.

The Chief explained why taxes did not go up even though we added an additional FTE. The Chief stated that we are well under budgeted taxes for our budgeted payroll and that when we do go over it is due to conflagration deployments and that is almost impossible to budget.

The Chief also explained that this year we are seeing the cost in general insurance go up and that is in part to the amount of claims around the 2020 fire season that the pool has had to pay out.

Chief Wallace also explained that we would be levying a smaller amount this year for the bond as we had carryover there as well and this will be the last year for the bond payments.

The Chief asked if there were any additional questions and or concerns about the budget. There were none. The Chief explained it was up to the committee at this point to approve the budget or request a second meeting.

**Public Comment:** None

Mr. Arnold voiced he appreciation of the budget and the Chiefs great work. No one else had any questions or concerns. Mr. Arnold asked if there was a motion to approve the budget as read. Dr. Holmes made a motion to approve the 23-24 budget as proposed. Val Rylands seconded the motion. Motion carried 7-0

Chief Wallace thanked everyone for their time. The Chief received a call and had to leave. Ted made motion to close the budget meeting and was seconded by Val. Motion carried 7-0 and meeting ended at 19:45

Minutes By Chief Wallace