



# CITY OF LYONS

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## JOINT MEETING MINUTES

October 13, 2020

Location: St. Patrick's Hall,

**City of Lyons Representatives Present:** Mayor Lloyd Valentine, Councilors Mike Wagner, Jessica Ritchie, Troy Donohue, Mark Orr, City Recorder Micki Valentine, Planning Consultant Dave Kinney, Public Works Richard Berkey

**Lyons Rural Fire District Representatives Present:** Board President Gary Rychard, Boardmembers Cindy Wagner, Tiffany Silbernagel, Fire Chief Bob Johnston

**Lyons-Mehama Water District Representatives Present:** Board Chair Richard Voltin, Superintendent Bill Grimes

**Public Present:** John Markert – Lyons-Mehama Water District Field Technician

**Meeting Began:** @ 6:00 pm by Mayor Lloyd Valentine

Mayor Lloyd Valentine thanks those present for coming and asked for introductions.

Mayor Valentine provides brief overview of topics of discussion.

Jessica Ritchie thanks the fire department and water district for their response to the fire. And the mayor's & recorder's response as well.

Mike Wagner thanks them for their response.

Mayor Valentine thanks Chief Johnston for keeping in touch. He also reported that he was in town most every day of the evacuation and trying to keep in touch as best as he could and drove around to survey the city.

Mayor Valentine asked how can we help the fire department and water district.

Ritchie explains that council recognizes that we are three different entities and communications may be a concern and what can we do. We want to be sure the city is doing our part. It's all of our community. If we are to go up for a grant or bond – we want to show the community that all three entities agree that it needs to happen.

Rychard explained that he worked on the city's emergency operations plan many years ago and wants to know if it has been updated since then. Orr adds information regarding evacuation routes and didn't know if all entities were part of it. Rychard said there were a lot of entities there. Rychard suggests updating the plan. Kinney says the city plan would be part of the county plan, which includes all of the small cities in the canyon area. He adds that emergency response

plans are voluntary actions – the purpose is so that each entity knows what their responsibilities are and what the other entities responsibilities are. And if there are resources that need to be shared that you know how to get them – list of local contractors, agencies. During the fire there were public & private contractors providing equipment & materials to help fight the fire. He adds when looking for funding being able to show a united front – we need this piece of equipment – all three entities are in support of it. Ritchie says we don't want to be in charge of the fire district or water district we just want to work together. We want to be helpful. Donohue adds that we just want to get everybody working together. With the fire there was no communication – his neighbor knocked on his door (notified of evacuation). He is concerned that we did not get a level 1 or level 2 notification. Richard Voltin says that he thinks we need to educate the community on what to expect. Donohue said they discussed about placing a (draft) site at the river that the fire district could use as a direct siphon out of the river. Chief Johnston commented that they used Freres ponds and water system when the water system was depleted. When the fire was on Jennie Road the power was cut-off, the water district pumps didn't work. They worked with Pacific Power to get power back to the water district pumps. There was a leak found, sprinkler systems were going. Grimes communicated with Johnston that the water was low so the fire district started using Freres water. Ritchie asks if a draft site would be useful – Johnston confirms that it would. Grimes agrees and they have already discussed it. It doesn't take long for sprinkler systems to deplete the tank. Ritchie adds that the other communities were experiencing the same thing, in regards to the sprinkler systems. She agrees that we need to educate the community. Mike Wagner adds that this is good information to have as we all have community members coming to us for information. We are here to help the people in our community. Kinney asks Grimes if they have an emergency generator? He replies that they do not, the power was out for about 5 or 6 hours. Discussion about a lawsuit about why power wasn't cut to the area. Rychard suggests educating the public about how the water system works. Grimes says to draft out of the river, you would have to talk to the Army Corps of Engineers. It wouldn't be a big problem to draft out of the river – he thinks there are other places to draft from. Johnston adds that the Freres Park ponds may be a source. Ritchie doesn't believe there is enough water and may have difficulty with state agencies. Johnston said the Jordan draft site was done with limited funds – some parts were donated. This time of year the pool that the pipe sits in fills up with sand. He thinks using the river could have the same problem. The draft site is not a priority but is something for the future. Donohue suggests there may be disaster funds available to accomplish it. Rychard comments with problems of what's coming down the river due to the fire and future wind events that grants should be looked at to support the water district to make sure it keeps working. Voltin responds that they have been trying and attending legislative sessions and talked with Fred Girod. Ritchie believes there will be federal money especially for the canyon because of the fire, if they act on it quick enough. Kinney said he has been assisting Mill City with a loan and they added a generator for their water system today. He added that there are grant and loan dollars at the state level. Fred Girod is the chair of the capital construction committee and on committee to respond to the wildfire. Business Oregon can also assist. A proposal needs to be put together to present to them. Kinney adds that the winter storms are a concern. Mill City lost power for 3 or 4 days some years ago – the water and sewer systems weren't operating and had to deal with how to provide those services. Lyons needs to look at that and in particular to the water supply. Health Division recommends 3 to 5 days of water in emergency storage system. Ritchie asks if fire district can get an idea of what the cost of a draft site would be. Donohue adds that there are options to powering the site. Rychard adds that part of the emergency plan requires that you must have 96 hours of fuel. Johnston adds that there has to be a backup source of fuel as well. The fire hall has natural gas and propane as backup. The cost for the system around \$25,000 and was put in about five years ago. They placed a fence

around the Jordan site and a light. Vandals shot out the light within two days. They also have a problem with cars parking in front of it. Concerns is if Army Corps of Engineers will allow it and who will keep cars from parking there. Orr asks what the cost would be for a generator for the water district and if it could also backup the draft site. Grimes said that one of the problems under the bridge is the amount of people that park there in the summer. Grimes says the 100-year flood level needs to be considered, a road to the site would need to be built and it needs to be protected from winter storms. Donohue says that's why we're having this meeting so that we can draw upon your knowledge to see if there is a solution for a plan to be put in place. Wagner adds that we want to work together and recognizes that each organization has different skills, and limited resources. He got involved with city council because it looked like the city was going to dissolve. We just want the community to be better. The only way for the community to be better is if the three organizations work together on some common goals. With the limited tax base like we do, if we're going out for any kind of money, we should be talking to the other organizations including the school. If any of us are going out for any kind of money we should be talking to the other organizations. You can't ask for multiple bond measures at the same time. Ritchie adds that she would like to know what's going on so if you need a generator we can support that in the community and maybe attend a board meeting see if we can help. Wagner says we can help by putting something on the readerboard – it's for the community – it's one way the community gets their information – it's difficult to get information out to this community. Voltin says that someone would need to service the equipment regularly. Donohue says it would be easy to set that up. Orr suggests that the city may put some money towards it. Ritchie adds that the city has been fiscally conservative. Donohue suggests coming up with a realistic plan of what it's going to take. Then approach people in the legislature with a realistic cost plan. Ritchie says the city needs to pull up the (emergency) plan, review it, send a copy over to them, and let them review it and recommend changes. While it's fresh come up with the two top things whether that's a tank and generator being the priority for emergency preparedness – another tank to hold for another day of water and a generator to run if when the power goes out. We look at the fire districts two goals and the water district's two goals and see what we can come up with. Donohue says with Dave's expertise he can point us in the right direction. Voltin says as far as the water tank goes, they have already done all the work. Grimes adds they've got 60 % completed but the money situation is the problem. Grimes said cost is about 5.1 million. Rychard suggests working with a smaller group, a sub-group of this one. Sub-group would define the priorities and direction. Wagner states that he has experience working with the legislature and with Fred Girod. Ritchie asks if it's ok if one of them sits in their board meetings so that we know what the issues are and what's going on, what the needs are. Voltin says they've never had an issue. Fire district doesn't have a problem with it. Donohue says it's a whole new council everyone trying to function together. Donohue thanks everyone for coming. Voltin says he just doesn't know how to get the money or where to get the money from. He doesn't know how to make the people understand. Kinney says there will be money available as a result of the fire but it's going to depend on how well prepared and has very specific projects and can justify the need. Kinney says that Bill may need to update his plans with updated cost estimates and change his priorities around. Rychard comments that it sounds like the water district is the closest and what can we do to support them. Kinney says it is important making sure the agencies know that the community is working together and agrees on priorities. It makes it more difficult to get the money if not. Wagner adds that if we can take the work that's already been done and get someone else to pay for it that would be wonderful. He adds that it is a process to get the message out to the people – the message needs to be taken to the people in different ways – it takes a lot of work. Ritchie adds that she's from a different generation, the younger people here rely on the internet, Facebook, for their information. If you don't have that they don't hear. How can we help? Need to put the

umbrella of emergency over it because of the fire. Donohue asks what information do we need so that we can move forward with the water tank project. Grimes said it wouldn't take very long. He interprets that the group is saying that he needs to add the generator to the project. Ritchie says his project is the closest to being "shovel ready". It will be the first project that we work on together. Wagner asks if we are doing the sub-committee. A couple people from each organization to work on it and review it. Grimes said the water district has a board meeting tomorrow night. He will ask for permission to go back to the engineering firm and have them update the cost and add an emergency power system to the existing plant. It will be up to the board to say. Kinney agrees that is the right first step. Ritchie asks when is the meeting – Grimes responds it will be here (St. Patrick's Hall) at 7pm tomorrow night. Kinney also like the suggestion to get a small group together to look at the old emergency response plan and identify some priorities for each agency and put in priority order. Rychard asks if Sgt Klein is closest contact with Linn County – Kinney responds that he is and Klein would be willing to put something together. Voltin asks if they take care of the engineering part what do they do about paying for it. Grimes said it would come out of their budget. Voltin says engineering costs were budgeted at \$500,000. Grimes said that his priorities are, before the tank it would be to build the pipeline first, the pipeline over to forestry would be at the bottom of the list. The 13<sup>th</sup> Street core-sampling showed that they couldn't go under the ponds at John Neal Park. Rychard volunteer to work on the city's emergency operations plan. Ritchie asks if one month is enough time to locate the plan. Micki Valentine reports that it is on her desk. Ritchie says when – Rychard says it's up to the city – we need to get Klein and all the players back to the table – need to update those who are currently in those positions – Army Corps as well. Orr says to Rychard that they should have the same one that we have. Rychard says the school district works with Stayton. Ritchie asks if it can be done in one month or in January – to get a sub-committee meeting together. Rychard says thanks for the invitation to the meeting.

Mayor Valentine thanks the Water District and Fire District for all their hard work during the fires and hands out thank you cards.

Voltin appreciates the meeting and the goal of working together.

Meeting Ended @ 7:25 pm

Transcribed by Micki Valentine  
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