

COLESTIN RURAL FIRE DISTRICT  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

February 21, 2003

PRESENT: Cheri Avgeris, Peggy Moore, Peg Stewart, Teri Thomas, Mary Jo Trainor, Steve Avgeris, Andy Herskind.

ABSENT: None

The meeting was called to order at 6:05 p.m. at the Hilt Church.

MINUTES

It was M/S/P (Stewart/Thomas) to approve the January minutes as distributed.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Cheri reported that the tax fund has \$22,533.15 and the General Fund has \$311.36. We received a \$300 donation from Lisa Buttrey and David Cothran. We spent \$280 for a color copier for the office and transferred the old one to the Church for training. Teri reported that we now have computerized checks, which also does data entry simultaneously.

RESPONSE FROM BLM

Peggy reported that she spoke with Dan Thorpe of ODF who has been working with BLM to respond to our letter regarding fighting fire in the monument area. The key points that they are addressing is that there is fundamentally no change from the previous regulations, that ODF has the primary fire suppression responsibility and that heavy equipment must be approved through ODF. The bottom line appears to be that CRDF has the right to perform initial attack to protect its residents and their property.

Dan Thorpe and representatives from BLM have offered to attend the next meeting. The Board suggested that the Chair contact them for the letter and that a second visit is not necessary.

CHIEF'S REPORT

Steve reported that CRFD responded to four calls since the last meeting. One was a traffic roll over, one a heart attack (which was not fatal), one a train call that was a false alarm and one a report of a car over the cliff on upper Colestin. This was the same car in the Christmas report. Tape was put around it to avoid further calls.

Steve is inviting Jackson County Road representatives to the March meeting to discuss ways to help make that part of the road safer as it has been the center of many of the accidents over the years.

We received a letter from resident Taylor Sloan, thanking Steve and Cheri for all they do and praising the last Newsletter for its quality and information.

Peg Stewart, Teri Thomas and Mary Jo Trainor's seats are up for election this May. The filing date is in March and the terms are four years.

Steve reported that Jackson County is asking fire districts to take on fuel control inspections for landowners in their Districts. This will become policy but they are asking for comment. The Board and the Chief will respond that in order for this to be effective, enforcement must accompany this task. The board asked Steve to convey the idea of the District receiving at least half of the revenue associated with this task with the other half going to the county.

Steve and Cheri have been working countless hours on finding an engine that will allow us to use the FEMA grant. In the process, Steve was contacted by ODF who will provide CRFD with a free, four wheel drive frontline structure engine that is being surplused out. It is gas, not diesel but will certainly add power for fire fighting efforts.

It was M/S/P (Stewart/Avgeris) to accept the engine and to authorize selling 44-13 which will pay for fixing the new engine. The minimum bid will be \$3,500 and it will be handled as a sealed bid, announced to residents in the area with the deadline being March 30th.

Mary Jo will make signs for posting at Stateline, the Mailbox area on the ski road and at Station 1. We will also place an ad in the Nickel.

It was M/S/P (Stewart/Trainor) to use the money to fix the new engine with any balance going to the general fund.

Steve reported that there are two possibilities for the FEMA engine. The money must be spent and the engine completed by September 30th. The money can be accessed in stages until September 30th. Steve found a cabin chassis in Montana for \$32,000. It has low miles and is an excellent buy. It can be sent to Southern Fire in Georgia for outfitting it as a structure engine. This company will purchase, paint, build and transport the engine to Georgia for \$ 69,000. CRDF would be responsible to bring it from Georgia to Oregon.

The second alternative is to purchase the truck and have CDF build it in Fort Jones. This would be the better alternative if it can be completed by September. Hose and other equipment are not included in either option. It was M/S/P (Avgeris/Trainor) to purchase the cabin chassis and to see if the CDF option will work. If not, at least we'll have the basic truck and can work from there.

Cheri reported that the heating bill for station one was \$260 last month. The District received a bid from National Heating in Medford to put in a heating unit for \$700, which includes materials, labor and a one-year warranty for a new unit. It was M/S/P (Thomas/Trainor) to purchase this system, which will ultimately save the district money in heating fuel costs.

Steve reported that trainings will begin on March 22nd at 5:00 at the Hilt Church and will occur every other Saturday.

#### NEWSLETTER

Peggy reported that Betsy Bradshaw has put the initial District Web Site up. It can be found at [www.crfd.org](http://www.crfd.org). Comments and suggestions are welcome. The web site will eventually include a record of Board minutes, the budget, training notices, information on fire safety, history of the district and other items. This will reduce the cost of the Newsletter and allow for short quarterly updates that can be mailed.

#### NEXT MEETING

The March meeting will be on March 21st at 6 p.m. at the Hilt Church. The May meeting will be on May 23rd rather than May 16th.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Peggy A. Moore