

**COLESTIN RURAL FIRE DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
May 30th, 2003**

PRESENT: Cheri Avgeris, Peg Stewart, Mary Jo Trainor, Teri Thomas, Peggy Moore, Steve Avgeris, Sharron Halverson, Lisa Buttrey, Matt Damon.

ABSENT: None

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

MINUTES

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

TREASURER'S REPORT

Cheri reported that the general fund has \$25,258.40 and the Tax fund \$3,892.31. The only significant expenditure outstanding is the Worker's Comp insurance payment.

BUDGET

The budget committee presented two versions of a proposed budget. Since the District must come up with \$6,500 to match the FEMA grant for the structure engine the Board has two options. It can budget the \$6,500 in the 2003-04 budget or it can take the money from the savings/contingence account of about \$18,000. To approve the first budget, the reductions would come from Facilities Maintenance and Repair (primarily the fire house) and protective clothing. Steve pointed out that we might have some savings from purchasing a light bar and some other items for the truck, which could reduce the need for the entire \$6,500 to be budgeted.

Members of the Board and the Budget Committee discussed a variety of options. Since the truck will not be operable until September 1st and since the amount budgeted for turnouts is enough to purchase about 3 sets, the Board felt budgeting the \$6,500 in the budget itself would be the best option. Certainly, as fire season progresses and we have a better sense of both donations and fundraising opportunities, we can add money to the protective clothing line item and purchase turnouts.

Teri pointed out that she has reconciled the past three years with respect to savings or contingency money. Unless there are back taxes received from the county and rebated to the District we will probably not add money to that contingency amount. However, the radio loan was paid off and money that had been budgeted in 2002-03 can go into that account.

Sharron suggested that the Board pursue getting an ISO 8 rating, which would reduce homeowner insurance by about 50%. Steve has been working on this but the qualifications for an ISO 8 are very stringent. Five responders must respond to each incident, and the district must be

able to pump 200 gallons a minutes for 20 minutes. We do not have the equipment, even with the new structure engine, to do this. A water tender would be needed but the problems surrounding that solution include qualified drivers (must possess a commercial license) and the conditions of most of the roads in the valley for access.

While this is not impossible in the future, it is not possible in the near future.

The idea of having homeowners donate back 50% of the savings in insurance was mentioned.

It was M/S/P (Stewart/Avgeris) to approve the budget, as proposed that includes the \$6,500 matching dollars for the FEMA loan.

The Board thanked the Budget committee for all its hard work and a special thanks to Teri Thomas for all of her work and advice on the budget.

ELECTIONS

Peggy congratulated Peg Stewart, Teri Thomas and Mary Jo Trainor on their reelection to the Board.

CHIEF'S REPORT

Steve reported that CRFD responded to one structure fire, which was fully involved (50% of the roof and more than 40% of the structure). Mutual aid from Hilt, CRFD and District 5 (with a water tender) and nine volunteers were unable to save the structure. The people waited over 20 minutes to notify the District. This was the worst structure fire in 21 years.

One medical and one small wild land fire occurred this month as well.

Work has been started on 44-13 and CDF believes this engine will surpass theirs.

Steve reported that Carole Herskind's mother passed away last night. A card will be sent to Carole and Andy from the Fire District.

BLM RESPONSE

Steve passed out copies of the BLM response to the Monument. He, and the Board, has several concerns about the letter. There is serious concern that the time it would take for agencies to arrive and assess the situation and allow CRFD to enter into a response mode could destroy homes and property in CRFD's district that could be avoided with a quick initial attack. The Board discussed possibilities for responding to these concerns and developed the following motion.

M/S/P (Trainor/Stewart) that the CRFD Board supports its Chief in making the decision about the extremity of a fire situation that immediately threatens the District. ODF will be immediately notified and CRFD will perform an initial attack, using whatever means are necessary to contain the fire. The motion was passed unanimously.

4th of JULY

Peg Stewart and Lisa Buttrey reported we have 200 flags. Teri Thomas volunteered to be one of the three or four adults needed to supervise the Junior Fire Fighters in selling the flags. Steve will check at training tomorrow and if there are enough people, we will order an additional 400 flags to sell.

NEXT MEETING

The meeting was adjourned at 7:45

The next meeting is Friday, June 20th at 6:00 at the Hilt Church.

Respectfully submitted,

Peggy A. Moore