

**COLESTIN RURAL FIRE DISTRICT  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING  
January 4, 2006**

**PRESENT:** Cheri Avgeris, Carolyn Brafford, Peggy Moore, Teri Thomas, Steve Avgeris, Andy Herskind.

**ABSENT:** Mary Jo Trainor

**VISITING:** Jim Sweet (Batallian Chief CDF)

Steve introduced Jim Sweet to the Board and thanked him for attending the meeting.

**MINUTES**

It as M/S/P (Thomas/Avgeris) to approve the minutes of the November meeting.

**TREASURER'S REPORT**

Cheri reported that the checking account has \$9,864.57, the tax fund has \$25,526.11, the savings account for the water tender has \$30,571.98 and the reserves are \$18,961.97.

Cheri passed out budget detail and Teri provided some information on the reserves. After discussion it was M/S/P (Thomas/Brafford) to keep the reserves at a minimum of \$10,000.

It was M/S/P (Thomas/Avgeris) to allow the \$9,000 above the minimum amount to be used for a water tender.

Cheri reported that Alex Cox generously donated a laptop to CRFD for John Ames to use for programming. Peggy will send him a thank you note.

**BUDGET COMMITTEE**

Peggy suggested that we need to work "backwards" from the date the budget is due to the state. We need to send it the first of June so it must be finally adopted in May with a sunshine date to the community in April. That would mean that the Board at its March meeting should adopt the tentative budget.

Teri will invite Sharron Halverson, Lisa Buttrey and Karen Dwyer to serve as the budget committee and ask that they attend the February meeting to get a sense of the District's needs this year to prepare a draft document for the March meeting.

**CHIEF'S REPORT**

Steve reported that the GPS and binoculars have arrived for all the vehicles.

We received 7 calls in November and December. One was a serious structure fire. What became clear as a result of that fire was that we need a much stronger education program in the valley.

The Meads at Stateline service donated all the food and drinks for the firefighters on the December 20<sup>th</sup> structure fire. Cheri will send them a letter for tax purposes and Peggy will send them a card thanking them for their great generosity. There were a lot of people on that fire to feed. Fire District 5 personnel informed Steve that in 2005 they had the same number of structure fires as we did. They serve 40,000 people we serve 300.

Jim Sweet will provide CRFD brochures discussing home fire safety, which we will mail to residents. Reminders about unplugging toasters, not leaving dryers on when you leave the house, turning off lights when you leave a room are all tips that can prevent fires.

Peggy reported that Betsy has updated the website with much more user friendly information about cleaning stoves, fires, etc. Carolyn remarked that it was very helpful as she had reviewed the site. But we need more messages to the community about fires.

Carolyn suggested we need a protocol for responses.

Steve said the lighting at the fire was bad. Other agencies did not have light stands (difficult to carry on rigs). CRFD had one but needs a second which Steve will purchase

Steve passed out a lengthy report that the Siskiyou County Board of Supervisors paid Ronny Coleman to develop. Steve said it is an amazing document and wants people to read the entire document, as it will help us understand the entire fire program in the area. It supports the Amador plan, which is critical if volunteer departments are to survive. Board members should return the document once read so that it can be passed out to others.

Tom Bagwell from Yreka Fire will train our volunteers on the new system. Steve will use that as the kick off for training this year. It should occur in a couple of weeks. Steve will give Betsy a week's notice so post cards can be sent, advising people of training. At that meeting equipment will be collected and new equipment reissued and inventoried.

Steve reported that off roads in the Valley continue to be a problem for getting fire trucks and support vehicles to the fire. This was evident at the structure fire. Brushing roads needs to consider the height of the fire vehicles. Not having trees limbed properly could ruin the light bar, which is several thousand dollars.

Steve reported that the \$30,000 wouldn't buy a water tender. The amount available is now up to \$39,000 and hopefully that might purchase one. If not, Steve will work with a private donor to see if more money can be found. California uses 3 axle water tenders and Oregon uses 2 axle rigs. Given both the road issues in the valley and available, qualified drivers Steve will go with the 2 axle vehicle. It won't carry as much water but it will be able to get to the fire. The Board supported this decision.

Steve asked the Board to prioritize getting a portable, inexpensive shelter to house the rescue unit and the chief's pick up. In the winter, it takes too long to get the ice, snow, etc. off the vehicles in order for them to respond quickly. The cost would be about \$1,900. The Board told Steve to inform the budget committee of this at the February meeting when priorities are being developed.

Cheri passed out the run books which were finally able to be done because of the road signage. Other agencies have received copies and are delighted because they will now be able to effectively respond to emergencies.

### **NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting will be on Wednesday, February 1<sup>st</sup>

The meeting was adjourned at 7:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Peggy Moore