

**COLESTIN RURAL FIRE DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING**

March 1, 2006

PRESENT: Cheri Avgeris, Carolyn Brafford, Peggy Moore, Teri Thomas, Mary Jo Trainor, Steve Avgeris, Andy Herskind, Lisa Buttrey, Sharron Halverson, John Ames, Jim Sweet (CDF)

ABSENT: None

The meeting was called to order at 6 pm.

MINUTES

It was M/S/P (Avgeris/Thomas) to approve the February minutes with the following corrections. The amount listed under the water tender should be \$16,062.67 and Judd Parsons name as a donor (\$2,000) should be correctly spelled.

ROAD SIGNAGE

John Ames presented a very detailed, revised plan to the Board for correcting the out of sequence numbers in the Valley. He also drafted a letter to the County, requesting that they begin assigning in sequence numbers when people sell or buy property in the District. This project represents a tremendous amount of work, which Mr. Ames has generously donated to the Fire District.

The Board discussed the proposal including the suggestion that residents who have numbers that are way out of sync be invited to change the numbers (not the name of the road) so that it will make it easier for emergency vehicles to locate addresses.

Lisa Buttrey has completed the run books, which will be in every vehicle, making it much easier for district personnel to locate the property.

It was M/S/P (Brafford/Trainor) to send the letter to the county with the appropriate supporting documents which John has provided. It needs to be made clear that any requests to existing property owners will indicate that the change requested is voluntary on their part.

John will send the letter to Peggy and she will sign it and send it off and then notify John so he can make an appointment to meet with appropriate county staff members to implement the plan.

The Board thanked John for his efforts on all of our behalf.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Cheri reported that we have \$15,379.04 in the Checking account, \$10,382.26 in the State Treasurer's fund and \$34,662.60 in the Water Tender account (much of this will be expended in the next month).

Teri reported that we have \$8,848 in unspent revenues with four months in the budget year left. We did have an additional \$8,000 but this went to the water tender account at the January Board meeting.

Sharron Halverson called the county because it appears that we have \$4,000 of additional money (included in the above amount) that was not budgeted in the revenue projections. This is due, in large part, to people settling back taxes.

Steve mentioned that it appears we may have money left over from the water tender account. If so, that amount will need to come back to the Board for consideration of whether it should go to purchasing tires and wheels for the new vehicle or go to pay off part of the loan.

BUDGET

Lisa Buttrey and Sharron Halverson were present to discuss the proposed budget. Sharron covered the highlights, informing the Board that due to the impending loss of revenue from the Ski Road annexation to District 5, the committee is recommending a budget for 2006-07 based on the current amounts in the 2005-06 budget. Of course successful grants would mean that necessary categories could be augmented. Sharron cautioned that this is a very bare bones budget.

Since the budget is very straightforward, it was M/S/P (Avgris/Brafford) to approve the tentative budget and to request that the Budget committee sunshine it as required. The Board can then pass a final budget at the April meeting.

The Board thanked the budget committee for the excellent work, as usual.

CHIEF'S REPORT

Lisa mentioned that she and Steve had discussed what appears to be a possible "glitch" in the county tax bills. They believe that at least 10-15 people may not have been billed for taxes for the fire district. Lisa will check on this.

Steve reported that he has been served with a petition signed by all by three people on the Ski Road below the one-mile marker. This is a formal request for them to annex to District 5. The County has "handed this off" to both Fire Chiefs. Steve had a lengthy conversation with Dan Marshall since the three people who refuse to sign the annexation will create a serious checkerboard effect. Both Chiefs were adamant at the beginning of this discussion that a checkerboard would NOT be acceptable. However, according to the regulations (the specifics of which Carolyn Brafford will research and report back), we cannot refuse the petition without potential legal ramifications.

The Board and the Chief are very concerned about the potential exposure for CRFD. Given the emergency response process, District 5 could be called out on these three properties if there were a fire or we could be called out on other properties under District 5's jurisdiction, once the annexation occurs. Steve is going to talk to Dan Marshall about setting up a mutual aid rather than an automatic aid for the Ski Road.

It appears that the annexation could occur as early as June 1st. The estimated loss of revenue to CRFD could be \$6 -7,000. This represents over 25% of the budget.

Steve reported that CRFD responded to two calls since the last meeting. Both on I-5.

The water tender will be two weeks behind its scheduled completion date due to some bodywork that was contracted out. The completion date should be April 1st. Steve may drive up to pick it up since it will be an opportunity to test the rig prior to having it hauled down.

GRANTS

Tod Davies and Karen Dwyer will be submitting a \$25,000 grant, which could be used to purchase the light bar, wheels and tires and other equipment for the water tender. It will require a match, which we would already have met.

POTENTIAL INCREASE TO THE TAX BASE

The Board discussed the possibility of a tax increase for the District to compensate for the loss of over 25% of our revenue. The budget committee members joined in on the discussion. Lisa pointed out that we have not had an increase since we went to a tax base. At .40 per 1,000 - a home valued at \$100,000 would increase the amount the property owner would pay \$40.00 a year.

Most of the group believes we would be successful going to the community but it would take a lot of phone calls and one on one conversation. Peggy suggested there are a number of factors, which would make this reasonable - the new water tender, the loss of revenue due to factors beyond our control, the fact that we have not gone for an increase in the past.

Peggy will call Kathy Beckett to find out details to get on the ballot for one of the special elections - a March or May filing.

Steve suggested it would be better if we had the exact amount of revenue loss, which might not be available until November.

The item will appear on the next agenda.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be on Wednesday, April 5th at 6 pm at the Hilt Church.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Peggy A. Moore