

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

February 8, 2008

PRESENT: Cheri Avgeris, Carolyn Brafford, Tod Davies, Peggy Moore, Teri Thomas, Steve Avgeris, Andy Herskind, Carole Herskind, Betsy Bradshaw, Sharron Halvorson, Karen Dwyer. Katherine Brafford.

ABSENT: None

The meeting was called to order at 6:15 PM.

MINUTES

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

TREASURER'S REPORT

Cheri reported that we have \$14,327.09 in the checking account. \$1,663.95 in the Savings account and \$27,952.90 in the Tax account.

Cheri provided the Board and the Budget Committee with copies of the current financials and a letter from Wilson-Heirgood (our insurance brokers) regarding a change in the Tort laws. The carriers are recommending that all Districts increase their liability exposure amount from the current 5 million dollar level to 10 million dollars as a result of the new law.

Cheri was unable to get a response from the company as to how much that will increase our premiums but our current insurance amount is about \$1,900. The Board discussed this and, based on that information, it appears we would need to increase the amount we spend by \$400 to \$500. It was M/S/P (Brafford/Davies) to ask Cheri to call the insurance company and get a quote on increasing the amount of exposure. The District will support purchasing the additional insurance as long as the cost is under \$1,000.

Given the number of people interested in suing for almost anything, additional coverage is a wise investment.

BUDGET COMMITTEE

Lisa was unable to join us but Sharron and Karen were present to discuss the needs this year so they can prepare a tentative budget to be presented at the March meeting. Steve shared a prioritized list with the Board and the Committee.

Steve reminded the Board that his first priority is always saving lives. The order is as follows:

- 1) The 10% match for the grant, which will leverage a small amount of money (\$5,300) for a grant amount in excess of \$50,000.
- 2) AED/Suction devices (\$4,000)
- 3) Generator (\$7,000) Steve has offered to pay half since the electrical for the District is hooked to his home. Peggy and Betsy are donating a used 7,500 Kohler generator (which needs some work) to the District but it is not powerful enough to handle all of the emergency needs in the event of a power outage.
- 4) Water Tender boxes (\$2,500)
- 5) 44-13 hose bed (\$4,000)
- 6) Paint the fire house (this is the fourth or fifth year it's been on the list)

These amounts are “rough”.

The committee asked questions about current expenditures and received clarification in categories where we are either over spent or under spent. Steve clarified that the Ski Road revenue should still be figured in the revenue projections.

CHIEF'S REPORT

Steve reported that we responded to two medical calls and one barn fire (a mutual aid, turned back).

Steve reported that on our about January 18th, the first serious snow this season, he called dispatch and told them we were out of service. The snow was not possible to pass in an emergency. We were out for 48 hours. Upper Colestin Road was closed for 72 hours and lower Colestin Road was closed for 18 hours. It took Steve and Terry 8 ½ hours to plow with a cat and a grader from the Fire station to the Oregon/California border.

Steve thanked Betsy for sending out the “red alert” cards. He received several calls about the cards, thanking us for sending them out.

Steve reported that at a meeting with other agencies to discuss problems districts experienced this past season at the end of winter will produce some changes in terms of responses by the county and communication surrounding the improper use of 911.

Steve told the Board that there are several residents with good snowmobiles who are willing to form an “emergency brigade” to assist the District when people are snowed in and cannot get plowed because of weather conditions not because they don't want to pay for snow removal and for other emergencies. The District, in the past, had a snow mobile which we sold since it was seldom used. The cost of insurance, gas, repair and the initial cost of a machine (around \$10,000) do not make it practical for the District to purchase one. These folks are experienced snow mobile handlers and are willing to help. Steve will work with them to get this set up for next winter.

PHONE TREE

Teri suggested that we resurrect the phone tree. Cheri stated it would be important to have one person in the middle of the valley (maybe Lisa or Carolyn), one person not on the main system for power (Nancy Cole has volunteered) and someone in the Hilt area to call Steve and Cheri for updates on conditions. They would then follow the phone tree to notify people. If we had people call three or four people it would not be burdensome and would be a way to let people know the facts about roads, etc.

Teri will work with Lisa to get this project started. Betsy suggested having email as a back up. While folks agreed that some people don't have email and some people don't read it regularly and if the power is out, some people won't have emails it is still a good communication tool. Betsy suggested including it under the phone numbers as a second, quick way to notify people.

Teri also suggested another "red card" prior to winter alerting people to a list of things to have on hand in case of winter emergencies (food, water, wood, etc). Betsy will prepare a card at the end of next fall.

GRANTS

Tod reported that Jim and Matt would be at the March meeting to discuss the grant. Peggy will put them first on the agenda. We have not heard from the Tide Foundation yet and will notify the Budget Committee as soon as we do as that might have an impact on the District's needs list.

FUNDRAISER

Tod and Karen reported on the Fundraiser. Everything is set. Karen took tickets by Konnie May's store and passed out packets to the Board to sell. There are 150 seats. We will also have a raffle and tickets are in the Board packets. Teri will get wine at a discount and we will sell wine prior to the 7 pm viewing. Tod and Alex provided the Board with beautiful posters which people are encouraged to post around town. Tod will check with the Coop to see if they'll donate non-alcoholic champagne as well.

SAFETY COMMITTEE

No report. Carolyn will convene the committee with Steve as soon as practical.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on Friday, March 14th at 6 pm at the Hilt Church.

It was M/S/P (Avgeris/Brafford) to adjourn the meeting at 7:40 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Peggy A. Moore