

**COLESTIN RURAL FIRE DISTRICT  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING  
JANUARY 18, 2008**

**PRESENT:** Cheri Avgeris, Carolyn Brafford, Tod Davies, Peggy Moore, Teri Thomas, Steve Avgeris, Andy Herskind, Carole Herskind, Betsy Bradshaw, Lisa Buttrey, Katherine Brafford,

**ABSENT:** None

**AGENDA ADDITONS**

Peggy added three items to the agenda: Lisa Buttrey's request that we discuss the West wide energy corridor, the long range planning goals and the Board handbook.

**MINUTES**

It was M/S/P (Davies/Brafford) to approve the December minutes as distributed.

**AGENDA ADDITIONS**

Lisa agreed that we could take her item at the end of the scheduled agenda items.

Peggy asked if the Board members received a Special District Elected Official's Guide. Cheri reported that everyone who was just elected did. Peggy pointed out there are some very good points made about ethics and conflict of interest which, in a small District, is important for Board members to be aware of.

Peggy suggested that the Board be prepared to discuss some of the long-range needs when Tod presents her update on grants.

**TREASURER'S REPORT**

Cheri reported that the tax account has \$37,811.60, the savings has \$1,663.95 and the general fund account has \$5,800.34. In the packet of financial material Cheri handed out she called the Board's attention to the letter from our carrier (Wilson/Heirgood) about the OSHA increases and asked that anyone having questions should let Cheri know and she'll forward them to our representative.

The Board received copies of the four projects submitted to the TIDE Foundation for possible funding. They are (not in priority order) Painting & Reconditioning of the interior of the rescue vehicle (\$4,350), A.E.D & Suction Pump (\$3,150), Hose Bed for 4413 (\$7,130) and portable water tanks & floto pump (\$4,696). We are unsure of the amount of the funding from the TIDE Foundation or when a decision will be made.

## **BUDGET**

Peggy announced that the preliminary budget discussions would need to begin next month. She reported that all three members of the budget committee (Sharron Halverson, Lisa Buttrey and Karen Dwyer) have agreed to serve again. Sharron will chair the group. The Board expressed both its delight and appreciation for their commitment and hard work. This committee has done an excellent job in the past few years on the budget. Peggy will notify Sharron of the schedule.

February will be the preliminary discussion of the needs for 2008-09, the committee will present the preliminary budget draft in March, the Board will adopt a preliminary budget to be sun shined for public comment in April and adopt a final budget in May to be submitted to the state in June.

## **CHIEF'S REPORT**

Steve reported that we received one call since the December meeting.

He provided the Board with a very useful annual alarm summary, which outlines the type of incident and the number each month of the calendar year. CRFD had 44 alarms during 2007. 27 were fires, 10 were "good intent", and 3 were medical, 3 public service and one rescue. He also provided a "type of situation summary" with both the number of calls (44) and the percentage. The two highest categories (accounting for 10 each) were dispatched & cancelled on route and forest or woods fire.

Steve said that all agencies are reporting an excess of dispatched and cancelled calls. With the advent of cell phones, people use 911 far more than in the past and often report incidents that are not emergencies and not in the purview of fire districts. Sadly, there is little that can be done since it's better to have a call on a possible emergency than no call and the emergency escalate.

Steve reported that all volunteer districts are having a serious problem recruiting volunteers. CRFD has an additional problem since the number of younger people in the community is few given the economics and lack of work available. Many potential volunteers cite the number of hours required for training as reasons for not volunteering. More would volunteer if the required hours for training were fewer. Either state or federal law requires the number of hours and we are powerless to change that.

Peggy suggested that since this appears to be a national problem, districts should discuss alternative solutions. Perhaps there could be levels of certification so that x hours of training would allow a person to respond to an emergency but be limited to only certain areas of response.

Steve pointed out that the unions put pressure on the bodies that make the law, wanting volunteers to have the same level of training as paid departments. Again, if this reaches crisis proportions the decision will be having no one respond, going to paid departments

(thus raising taxes) or finding a solution that will address the problem without undue excessive hours of training.

Lisa suggested that perhaps people in the community be reminded that if we don't have a fire department that meets certain standards we, as home owners, would lose our insurance rating, costing quite a bit of additional money. Tod suggested the carrot approach. Perhaps we could pay people for calls they respond to. Steve stated that District 5 did that, before they were a paid department, and there were lots of problems. This issue will continue to be addressed.

Steve reported that since we don't have more volunteers than we do, his focus this year will be on prevention. Tod and Alex suggested that they would do a skit with the Hornbrook school kids on safety. The Board thought it was a great idea.

Lisa suggested that perhaps we could send postcards out seasonally, four times a year, addressing particular safety concerns at that time, i.e. clean your stoves, trim branches, etc. Betsy reported that she sends out cards at least twice a year now but would be happy to increase the times they are sent.

Steve reported that many people are not keeping their roads and driveways clear in the event that they have an emergency. Trucks will be unable to access a number of residences in the Valley due to lack of clearance.

Betsy will send postcards out on woodstoves and ashes and include the access issue. They will go out next week and Lisa will put that information in the Buzz as well.

Peggy will get Lisa a list of any tree services that might provide a discount for clearing around drop lines which are not the responsibility of the power company, but rather the responsibility of the individual owner.

## **REGIONAL RADIO GRANT**

Steve reported that this project is still "alive." He received information from the Chief in the Applegate District very recently that they are proceeding with the grant application from FEMA again. If successful, this would require that Districts provide a 10% match. For CRFD that would mean \$5,340 but we would realize \$53,400 in equipment. This would give us frequencies in Oregon. Currently, from the last grant, we have California frequencies but not all of Oregon. This amount was not budgeted.

Teri pointed out that we are doing very well financially and are cautious with our resources. In addition, the purchase of the water tender has provided an additional source of revenue for the District. Peggy told Steve that budgets are living documents and we have reserves for emergencies or unexpected events, such as this, and we would be fiscally foolish not to take advantage of such an opportunity.

## **GRANTS**

Tod reported that she has, again, been in touch with CORP about the railroad ties. Their lawyers are working on the issue and she expects a call again next week.

She met with the folks on the fuel reduction grant. We are second on the list and probably won't get it but the grant will still go forward, to keep us on the list.

She reported that in March Jim Woolf and Matt Krungivich would like to meet with the Board to discuss the countywide grant. Tod wasn't provided much information on this but they will be funding us in some way.

The grant Tod found on the Internet focuses on education and small business. She's going to apply for it since the Valley has a number of people who are involved in cottage industries. The suggestion was made to perhaps do an educational DVD that would target safety to small businesses, especially in rural areas.

## **BENEFIT**

The date has been set for the benefit showing of Alex's new film. It will be March 5<sup>th</sup> at SOU. There will be a student showing in the late afternoon with a Q and A with Alex and then a "break" during which Tod and Karen suggest we hold a raffle. Several people are donating items or "services" and we'll raffle off tee shirts, etc. as well.

There will be 110 tickets sold for a 7:00 showing and the tickets will go for \$10 each. Tod will bring tickets to the next Board meeting.

## **GENERATOR**

Steve stated that this recent snowstorm has reaffirmed the need for the District to have a back up generator system. Lack of power caused the phones to be inoperable. Peggy offered a used 7,500 Kohler, which needs work. She and Betsy would donate it to the District. Steve will look at it. That could be used in the firehouse. We will need to purchase one for the office area, which handles the dispatch. This will need to go into the budget for this coming year.

## **SAFETY COMMITTEE**

Peggy suggested that we formalize a safety committee. Currently the Board basically performs that function but it would be clearer to have a committee that would then report to the Board. The committee will meet quarterly. Carolyn, Teri and Tod agreed to serve. Peggy asked Carolyn to chair the group. Steve will meet with them as a resource person.

## **WEST WIDE ENERGY CORRIDOR DEIS**

Lisa provided the Board with background information, maps and suggested talking points about this project. It was passed in 2005 and the plan was released in mid-November of

2007. The plan is to have a 2/3rds of a mile pipeline/power-line corridor in the Valley. A number of these are proposed throughout the west to handle the propane, gas, etc that is needed to keep up with fuel needs in the country.

The comment period ends February 14<sup>th</sup>. The Board, after discussion, believes this area is not the best to locate this project. Not only are there environmental and geological concerns but also the financial costs of going through the Siskiyou Mountains would be astronomical. Areas of eastern Oregon, which are flat and uninhabited, would be a far better place to locate the project.

It was M/S/P (Brafford/Avgeris) to write a letter outlining the concerns of the Fire District for this project as it is currently proposed. Peggy will write a letter. Lisa pointed out that individuals are also encouraged to write letters of concern.

### **NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting will be held at the Hilt Church at 6 pm on Friday, February 8<sup>th</sup>.

### **ADJOURN**

It was M/S/P (Brafford/Avgeris) to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 7:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Peggy A. Moore