

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

**September 12, 2008**

**PRESENT:** Cheri Avgeris, Carolyn Brafford, Tod Davies, Peggy Moore,  
Teri Thomas, Steve Avgeris, Andy Herskind, Carole Herskind,  
Jeff Burns (Cal Fire), Kathryn Brafford.

**ABSENT:** None

**GUESTS:** Melisa Hannson (US Cell)

The meeting was called to order at 6:05 pm at the Hilt Church.

**MINUTES**

It was M/S/P (Avgeris/Brafford) to approve the minutes of the August meeting with the following correction. 44-13 is back in Colestin not in Hilt.

**TREASURER'S REPORT**

Cheri reported that the General Fund checking has \$22,257.98, the Savings has \$1,666.73 and the State Treasury fund has \$17,052.98.

Our insurance representative is not here and Cheri will check to see if she can attend the October meeting.

**US CELLULAR**

Cheri introduced Melisa Hannson our business representative from US Cellular who has been working with Chief Avgeris on the digital vs. analog phone problem. The FCC has mandated that analog phones will no longer be in service sometime in 2009. Melisa said they don't know if it will be January 1<sup>st</sup> or December 31<sup>st</sup> but we need to prepare for how we will respond to phone contact for the Fire District when they are out on calls.

The bag digital phone that US Cell loaned Steve and which he has used for the past two weeks has 2/10<sup>th</sup> of a watt vs. the current analog phone, which has 3 watts. Given the difference, the digital phone is simply not able to

provide service in remote areas. The problem is not with US Cell but with the available equipment at this time. Melisa is able to provide CRFD with the nine phones that Hilt and Colestin will need for the rigs at one cent (.01) each. She suggested that we get 385 phones and Steve requested that they be hard mounted in the trucks. Melisa will provide Steve with a contact person who does the hard mounting for other businesses. She will try and get us a block of numbers like Cal Fire has which is basically the number of the vehicle itself. This may not be possible due to the fact that the number may already be in use but she will attempt to do this. The phones need to be hard mounted in the trucks since they could easily fall on the floor, get stuck behind seats, etc. since they are issued to the truck and not the individual fire fighter.

Carolyn asked that US Cell notify us when the analog is no longer available. Melisa said she would.

Melisa and Steve will be sure that the hard mounts are generic enough that if other phones become available in the future they can fit into the mount.

Teri and Peggy asked if other cell companies had been contacted to provide bids on the phones. Cheri contacted ATT, Verizon and Cingular and none of them were interested in making a presentation to the Board about their products and service.

Currently we pay \$50 a month for two lines and this deal is dependent on the analog system we now have. Melisa can get us a business rate for nine phones which has free incoming calls, free mobile to mobile, 1,000 minutes and no roaming charge on the business plan for \$190.00 a month.

It was M/S/P (Davies/Thomas) to approve the US Cellular plan with the conditions listed above as part of that plan.

The Board thanked Melisa for attending and for her thorough presentation.

### **CHIEF'S REPORT**

Steve reported that the fire station needs to be painted and we had hoped to find a local person who could do this. Teri remembered that when she spoke to some people in the past they suggested that it needs to be professionally

prepared in order for the paint not to peel. Tod agreed to call Brian Dwyer for suggestions of people who do this professionally.

Highway Products will build the hose beds on 44-13 but the truck needs to go in to them for this to occur. This will happen at the end of fire season.

Steve asked that the Board take some action to put an end to the incorrect spelling of Colestin, with an e. He has researched the origin of the error, which apparently happened in 1978 when someone in the planning department added an e on the end of Colestin. The only way this can get officially changed is through the US Postmaster.

Cheri will provide Peggy with a copy of the certification from the US Postmaster, which lists the name as Colestin. She will write a letter to the Ashland Postmaster, requesting that they make this correction.

Andy brought a copy of a book of maps, which are laminated, for the Hilt portion of the Fire District. The first copy was a gift from the Siskiyou County Board of Supervisors. The cost per book is \$60. Steve suggested these would be very helpful to have in each vehicle since they cannot be torn and are very clear for fire fighters attempting to locate an incident.

It was M/S/P (Brafford/Davies) to purchase 8 sets of maps. Hilt would pay for three and Colestin would pay for five.

## **GRANTS**

Tod mentioned that we might want to apply for the Special Districts grant that could pay for these since they involve safety issues. The Board agreed that we need to think of something we need that falls into the category of safety or security since the grants can be awarded for up to \$3,000. This will be on next month's agenda.

## **NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting is Friday, October 10<sup>th</sup> at 6 pm at the Hilt Church. It was M/S/P (Davies/Thomas) to adjourn at 7:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Peggy A. Moore