

**COLESTIN RURAL FIRE DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
January 9, 2009**

PRESENT: Cheri Avgeris, Tod Davies, Peggy Moore, Teri Thomas, Steve Avgeris,
Andy Herskind, Jeff Burns (Cal Fire)

ABSENT: Carolyn Brafford

The meeting was called to order at 6:15 pm at the Hilt Church

MINUTES

It was M/S/P Avgeris/Davies) to approve the minutes of the December meeting as distributed.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Cheri reported that the Treasury account has \$45,748.26, the Checking has \$6,965.86 and the Savings account has \$1,667.46. Cheri reported that the property taxes are coming in ahead of last year and Teri reported that we are only a few dollars short of what we budgeted as income in the tax category. We still have two tax periods to go for those who pay in installments.

Cheri called on the issue she mentioned last month about the state having the authority to "borrow" from tax accounts invested through the state. Our money cannot be touched. Peggy suggested it is probably restricted because we are an emergency response agency. Teri stated that its best to leave the money where it is since the interest paid through the state is higher.

Peggy reminded the Board that we need to put together the Budget committee since, working the timeline backwards, the Budget Committee or its representative needs to attend the February meeting. The timeline is to outline the areas of need in February, have a tentative discussion with the Board and the budget committee in March, have a tentative budget approved in April and sun shined and have the final budget approved in May for submission to the state in June.

Peggy will ask Sharron to Chair the committee again and ask Lisa and Sharron if they would be willing to serve again.

CHIEF'S REPORT

Steve reported that we had one medical call, one vehicle call (called back), one mutual aid structure call to the church - Hornbrook and one other that was checked out and not a fire or medical.

Cheri reported that she and Karen Dwyer went through all the medical kits (after discovering some were water damaged due to leaks) and refurbished all but two. These will be done and once completed, all medical kits will be waterproof and fully “furnished.”

Steve asked Jeff Burns to comment on the Hilt insurance situation. Jeff received a letter from the Hilt Hose Company, outlining their concerns about the increased insurance responsibility with the addition of Brush 44. Basically, Hilt would be responsible for \$2,470 per year for both vehicles. Hilt’s annual budget is \$3,500 since they receive no tax money. The letter requests that Chief Fire Warden Bernie Paul take the request forward to the Siskiyou County officials and see if the County will allow them to pay for the second engine’s insurance through the “rental” to Cal Fire of Brush 44.

Jeff also reported on the license plate issue for Brush 44. When a vehicle is “done” in California, they take the license plates. When 44 was ready for service, they did not order new plates, thinking they would simply use the plates from the surrendered engine. The plates have been ordered and should be here in two weeks.

Steve reported that 44-13 and Brush 44 will have two sets (each) of SBCA’s and four spare bottles. If these work, he will order two more sets for the other structure engine.

Steve reported that several volunteers have requested that training be pushed back to March. Steve will provide the Board with a list of training dates at the February meeting. He mentioned that Cal Fire would be doing much of the training.

44-13 will be out of service for at least a week to get the hose bed built. The doors on this engine don’t seal well, causing leaks and ultimately damage to material and equipment. These will get fixed when the engine is in Medford getting the hose bed built. Although this is not a budgeted item, the Board agreed that there is enough money generated from rental of our equipment (that was also not budgeted as income) that we should be able to cover this project.

Steve called the Board’s attention to recent ads being played on TV regarding the need for volunteers in the fire service. He has mentioned to the Fire fighters association that just because most of Oregon’s firefighters are paid and not volunteers, there are still a number of departments that rely entirely on volunteers. Apparently with state budget cuts, agencies are now realizing they need volunteers and are advertising that fact.

Tod brought up the issue of paid volunteers. In a brief discussion, the Board agreed that this is something we need to examine as a long-range goal. Teri suggested we do a cost analysis (after tax season) to determine what it would cost to have paid firefighters as opposed to volunteers. Peggy stated that, as everyone knows, we would need to go for a tax increase to do so. However, having comparison data might encourage more people to volunteer.

Steve stated that District 5 pays per incident to responders. Tod said she checked into a grant that would allow Districts to use grant money for the first year, partial grant money a second year, etc. Peggy stated that while these “seed money” grants are great to start out, ultimately, in a very few years, the general fund must pick up all the costs and a secure plan must be in place. Peggy suggested that we have a small committee of people, some Board members, some community volunteers, to be available to discuss the value and benefits of community volunteering. She said we need to do an analysis of the newer folks moving in who might be younger and more willing to train.

The Board agreed to have this as an agenda item in March for brainstorming.

RAILROAD

Tod reported that she’s not heard back from Peter Buckley (who has just been appointed as the Chair of the Budget committee for the state) but since its winter, the urgency has been reduced.

GRANTS

Tod will invite the spokesperson for the property owner clean up grant to a meeting in the next couple of months.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting is Friday, February 13th at 6 pm at the Hilt Church.

The meeting was adjourned at 7 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Peggy A. Moore