

**COLESTIN RURAL FIRE DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING  
November 13, 2009**

**PRESENT:** Cheri Avgeris, Tod Davies, Peggy Moore, Teri Thomas, Cindy Warzyn, Steve Avgeris, Andy Herskind, Betsy Bradshaw.

**ABSENT:** None

The meeting was called to order at 6:05 pm

**MINUTES**

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

**TREASURER'S REPORT**

Cheri reported that the General fund has \$30,648.85, the Savings account has \$1,667.70 and the Treasury account has \$2,238.26. There is \$54.17 remaining in the Chase account.

Cheri informed the Board that we have changed banks. Teri went to deposit the reimbursement from Cal Fire to our account at Chase Bank and they refused to deposit it since it was from California. She and Cheri called Peggy and they agreed to change banks. We are now at Premier West, which, apparently, is happy to have drafts from California and provides us with an interest bearing checking account and Hilt no longer has to pay a service charge on their account. They are easy to work with.

We received a notice from Jackson County that the billed amount for taxes for Colestin for this year is \$36,975.75 (up 3% from last year).

Cheri asked the Board whether we wanted to move our savings account into the State Treasury account since it pays 7 1.2% interest. Peggy explained that we have always only had a savings account for special projects, where we would put any money in excess of a reasonable reserve into for a particular purpose. In the past we had the fund for the Fire House (in the late 1980's early 1990's). Recently the account was for the water tender, which has been purchased and paid for.

It was M/S/P (Thomas/Davies) to put the savings into the State Treasury account where it will earn more interest. It is easy to deposit and withdraw into this account, should we need to do so.

Teri informed the Board that the tax preparation fee would be going up. The report to the Secretary of State is more extensive and the accounting is more extensive as well. This year Phyllis only charged us \$225.00 (\$25.00 more than last year). Teri does a great deal of the work on her own time for free, saving us this money as well. For our 2010 taxes, the going rate is about \$800 but we will probably pay \$500. Tod asked how much it would be if Teri didn't donate so much of her time. There was agreement on the Board

that Teri shouldn't be donating so much time since she already gives us a lot of extra time plus she's an engineer.

Peggy reinforced Tod's suggestion since by having people donate time, thus reducing our costs, we never have a real sense of the cost of running the District.

Cheri reported that thus far we have earned \$6,026.50 from rentals and we will probably earn about \$10,000 when all the bills are paid.

Teri discussed the Bond situation with the Board. We currently carry a bond for \$100,000 (for fraud, misuse of money, etc.) . This year, because of the \$35,000 grant for radios, our "revenue" was \$122,000 putting us over the bond ceiling. The next threshold for a bond is \$250,000, which would cost us over \$400.

Our insurance company, now understanding that the overage was because of a one time grant, is ok with our exceeding the \$100,000 limit this one time.

The larger concern is that state law requires that we spend less than \$150,000 in order not to have an external audit, which is between \$7 and 8,000. We need to be careful in accepting grants that might put us over.

It should be noted that our normal revenue each year is about \$50,000 and this past year was an anomaly.

Teri reported that she filed the return today with the Secretary of State (the deadline for filing is November 16<sup>th</sup>).

Cheri reported that she ordered more t-shirts and they are on sale at Stateline. She asked if we wanted to sell sweatshirts. The cost to us is \$21.55 and we'd need to sell them under \$30.00 to move them. The Board agreed the profit margin is too small and we don't want to get "stuck" with inventory so we won't.

## **BUDGET**

Peggy asked if the Board wanted to invite our regular budget committee to serve again this year. There was unanimous agreement that she should invite them. The cycle will begin in February.

## **CHIEF'S REPORT**

Steve reported that we had five calls (one fire, one medical, one structure, 2 wild land and one false alarm) since the last meeting.

He and Andy met with Cal Fire (Paul, Sweet, Burns, Callison) about the split for rental of B 44. Given the very significant budget shortfall in Siskiyou County they are not able to fund the Amador program this year. This would mean that the three substations, including the one at Hornbrook, would not be staffed this winter. This is not an

acceptable situation since that would mean CRFD would be totally responsible for structure fires and the closest Cal Fire support would come from Weed, 45 minutes away.

Chief Paul is planning on using the money they would have paid \$25 –30,000 from B 44 to subsidize the Hornbrook station.

Steve pointed out that CRFD paid about 5-6,000 for tires, etc. on the rig and that now, without income coming back, wear and tear on the unit if it goes to Southern California, etc. would be borne by the residents of Colectin Rural. The agreement is that Cal Fire will pay for tires and some of the wear and tear and they will insure B 44 (which we were doing). Given the critical need of the Amador program, we will need to live with this decision.

The individual who is contracting with CRFD for fire protection and has not paid, has been asking not to be dropped from coverage. The Board agreed that if he pays the back amount and one year ahead, we would continue to honor the contract. Steve is implementing Cindy's suggestion about streamlining the payment process.

Steve will begin training after the 1<sup>st</sup> and the first two sessions will be nuts and bolts then Cal Fire will provide training for the S 190 course and perhaps the S 130 courses. Volunteers going through these courses will receive state certification upon completion.

Steve announced that due to liability, engineers would be trained to drive day or night.

## **GRANTS**

The Board thanked Tod for her success in getting the grant, which could be up to \$60,000 if all residents in the targeted area did clearing. Tod will continue to work with them. She found another security grant that could be up to \$3,000 but requires a match. Since we got this grant last year and did the security on the fire station, the Board agreed with Tod not to pursue this grant.

## **NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting will be held on Friday, December 11<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 at the Hilt Church.

It was M/S/P (Davies/Warzyn) to adjourn at 7:30

Respectfully submitted,

Peggy A. Moore