

**COLESTIN RURAL FIRE DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
January 14, 2011**

PRESENT: Tod Davies, Peggy Moore, Teri Thomas, Cindy Warzyn, Steve Avgeris, Chuck Biegert.

ABSENT: Cheri Avgeris

The meeting was called to order at 6:02 pm.

Peggy asked that two items be placed on the agenda: Board retirement and Budget dates and committee.

RETIREMENT

Peggy passed out copies of a letter from Cheri Avgeris, notifying the Board of her intent to retire from the Board. The Board discussed the huge ramifications of Cheri's retirement from the Board and it was M/S/P (Warzyn/Davies) to accept Cheri's notice of retirement and thus resignation from the Board, effective January 15th (as stated in her letter) with deep regret and sincere appreciation for the TWENTY EIGHT years of service she has given to the CRFD Board and the Colestin community.

BOARD POSITIONS

Steve reported that he received a letter from the Elections Department regarding the elections for 2011. The department has several of the positions confused and Steve will contact the elections department on Tuesday to correct the record.

CRFD has three four-year positions. Those held currently by Cheri Avgeris, Peggy Moore and Teri Thomas) and two two-year positions, currently held by Cindy Warzyn and Tod Davies.

On May 17th three positions are up for election. Those held by Tod Davies (2 year term), Teri Thomas (4 year term) and Cindy Warzyn (2 year term). The positions held by Cheri Avgeris and Peggy Moore (4 year terms) are up in May of 2013.

It was M/S/P (Thomas/Warzyn) to seek a candidate for a temporary three month assignment to Cheri Avgeris' position. At the end of that period, the Board will discuss next steps.

Several individuals were mentioned as possible candidates for the three month temporary position and Peggy will contact the Board's choice for this slot.

The Board asked Teri Thomas if she'd be willing to serve as Treasurer. She accepted. Cindy Warzyn and Tod Davies both offered to assist Teri with some of the tasks. The records for the fire District are housed in the CRFD office at 1700 Colestin Road and at the Hilt Church. Teri created, during Cheri's recent illness, a mobile box which the Treasurer can use.

RETIREMENT PARTY

Members of the Board discussed ways that the District and the many people Cheri worked with over the 28 years she has served can gather to show their appreciation and affection for Cheri.

The Board concluded that rather than our annual fall (September) Community Picnic, we hold the Picnic/Retirement Party for Cheri in May or early June at the Hilt Church. This will allow a space large enough to hold the Firefighters, First Responders, Board, Budget Committee, Cal Fire, ODF and community members (which we expect to be at 100) who might attend a retirement party for Cheri.

Further discussion as to date, invitations, and menu will be discussed.

The Board and Assistant Chiefs will hold a dinner at Omar's, honoring Cheri in February.

MINUTES

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

TREASURER'S REPORT

The CRFD computer was not cooperating today when Cheri attempted to print out the budget sheets. Steve reported that the regular checking account has \$23,061.22 (which includes the \$20,000 check for the grant we have been expecting); the State Treasury account has \$30,516. And the rental account contains \$7,769.84.

CHIEF'S REPORT

Steve reported that CRFD experienced 21 calls in 2010. This is the best year to date on the number of calls (medical and fire/auto). Normally, we experience 50-60 calls. Peggy asked what he attributes the reduction in calls to. Steve believes it is the cards Betsy sends out to the community coupled with more fire awareness, nationally, about fires.

Cascade Fire has a new person dealing with our account and Steve is working with him. Assistant Chief Lipking picked up most of the order and it is ready for distribution. Seven people will be getting new turnouts. These folks will meet at Steve's with the Cascade Fire representative for personal measuring to be sure the sizes are correct. Steve will notify the seven fire fighters who will be receiving new turnouts.

Steve received a letter from the ISO, indicating that they will be in the District to assess CRFD's classification. Currently we are a Class 9. It appears that the ISO thinks we might fall into a Class 8B category. Steve has some concerns about our ability to meet a couple of the requirements of a class 8B (we are fine on equipment, response time, etc). Peggy asked what the difference for an average home might be in terms of premiums between a Class 9 and a Class 8B. Steve reported between \$150 and \$200 a year.

The Board discussed that while this is certainly worth pursuing, it is not worth “going out on a limb” for in terms of stretching to meet the criteria. Steve reported that our biggest concern is the number of people required to respond to a call to a fire. As volunteers, it is difficult to ensure that the required number can in fact respond. It is twice as many as a Class 9.

Steve also reported that at any time, we can request a reclassification and ISO will come out and conduct an analysis so we are not losing an opportunity by not attempting to fit into the Class 8 B classification at this time.

Steve reported that training will begin in March. Firefighters will be outside by April 1st for training. Most of the training this year will be outside, not in the classroom although there will be some classroom work.

Peggy requested that the First Responders have some internal refresher training made available to them since without using the material learned in the course, it can be forgotten. Many of the first responders are “first timers” and need the practice.

GRANTS

Tod reported that money is available both for fuel reduction (on the upper road, private land only) and for the department in general for equipment. She asked for some items we need: Steve and Chuck suggested, not in order, a generator for the fire house, structural improvements in the main fire house, kiosks, and portable radios (6). Tod will carry on with this information.

OFFICER ELECTIONS

Peggy reported that we need to have elections for officers for 2011. The positions are Board Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary and Treasurer. These will be held at the February meeting.

BUDGET SCHEDULE

Peggy passed out a tentative schedule for dates to meet budget requirements. The Board agreed that the dates looked good and asked Peggy to invite the budget committee members to serve again (Sharron Halvorson, Lisa Buttrey, and Karen Dwyer).

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be Friday, February 11th at 6 pm at the Hilt Church.

It was M/S/P (Davies/Thomas) to adjourn the meeting at 7:40 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Peggy A. Moore