

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

**May 13, 2011**

**PRESENT:** Tod Davies, Pam Haunschild, Peggy Moore, Teri Thomas, Steve Avgeris,  
Chuck Biegert.

**ABSENT:** Cindy Warzyn

The meeting was called to order at 6:03 pm

**MINUTES**

It was M/S/P (Davies/Moore) to approve the minutes of the April meeting as distributed.

**TREASURER'S REPORT**

Teri passed out copies of the Profit and Loss Budget vs. Actual, the balance sheet, and the detail of the bank account. She mentioned that we are still in good shape with a month and a half to go before the new budget year.

We have \$7,781.54 in the checking account, \$49,745.52 in the state treasury account and \$510.00 in the Hilt reversible account, which Teri explained is money owed CRFD by Hilt.

The cost of the sign with shipping is \$1,500. Chuck has been in touch with the company regarding the shipping of the sign.

Teri reported that the benefit Karen Dwyer is doing for the Hilt Department for a new AED is sold out. This will pay for half of the new defibulator.

**BOARD MEMBER REPLACEMENT**

The Board welcomed Pam Haunschild as the three month replacement for Cheri Avgeris' position on the Board. As defined in Board Policy, the appointed replacement position is three months so that both the individual and the Board can see if the person wishes to serve out the full term of the vacancy. It was M/S/P (Davies//Thomas) to approve Pam Haunschild as the replacement. In August, the parties will assess the situation and a permanent replacement will be approved until the end of Cheri's term, which is May of 2013.

The Board thanked Pam for her willingness to serve.

**BUDGET**

Peggy reported that neither she nor Sharron has received any comments about the preliminary budget. Neither the Chief nor any other Board member has received comments. It was M/S/P

(Davies/Thomas) to approve the preliminary budget as passed. Peggy will connect with Sharron to sign the budget for submission to the state by June 30<sup>th</sup>.

## **CHIEF'S REPORT**

Steve reported that there was one traffic collision report since the last meeting.

Steve reported that he spoke with Michael Englestein about serving as the Purchasing Agent for the District. This was a suggestion made by the budget committee to assist the Chief. Previously Cheri had handled this role informally but it was felt by the Board that such a position would relieve the Chief and the Assistants from this task. Michael has had experience in this role professionally and is willing to take it on. He will work directly with Steve in this capacity and make recommendations to him on particular equipment and get the best pricing for the items.

Michael has already found the Bendix radios for \$790 a radio with \$25.00 batteries. Steve and Chuck both feel this is an excellent price. Steve mentioned that the new budget has money for seven radios. The Board discussed not waiting until July, when the new budget takes effect, to make the purchase since the radios will need to be programmed and volunteers will need some training on the new radios. Teri suggested that these could be purchased from money in the reserves and that money will then become available for reserves when the new budget takes effect.

Because this is a potential safety issue it was M/S/P (Thomas/Davies) to purchase the radios and needed batteries from the reserves.

Steve reported that Karen Dwyer submitted a list of necessary medical equipment for the two medical rigs. Some of it is outdated and needs to be replaced. Besides the AED, the cost to Colestin for completely outfitting with appropriate equipment is about \$2,000. We have over \$2,000 left in the medical equipment line in this year's budget. Tod suggested we spend the money for both Colestin and Hilt. Hilt will reimburse Colestin. It was M/S/P (Davies/Hunschild) to approve the list and authorize the Chief to spend the money.

Steve provided the Board with copies of a letter received from the FCC (Federal Communication Commission) about the narrow banding of our radios. As discussed at a previous meeting, the narrow band radios will work very poorly in our area. Most of Siskiyou County will basically lose the ability to communicate effectively through radios if the wide band is lost. When the mandate was enacted, it was based on the urban needs rather than the needs of rural communities. Steve suggested that it will probably take the loss of life for any movement on this to make changes, addressing the lack of communications that will occur with the movement to narrow band radios. We have until January of 2013 to comply and we have no idea of the costs. The Board suggested that perhaps some kind of communication with other districts in rural communities might occur and we should be aware if this happens.

Steve reported that ODF is talking about not declaring fire season until the end of June. If that becomes the case, Steve will move to issuing burning permits effective June 1<sup>st</sup> for the CRFD

service area. It is not something he wishes to do but allowing free burning in June could be dangerous for our community.

### **COLESTIN/HILT MERGER**

Keith Callison has been at Ione and not available to work on this project. Steve will continue to work with Keith and then take it to the Siskiyou County Fire Warden (Bernie Paul). It will be critical for the Supervisor in Siskiyou County responsible for our area (Marcia Armstrong) to be in support of the proposal in taking it to the Board of Supervisors. On the Oregon side, since our District is governed by an elected Board of Directors (us), all we need to do is approve it.

The Hilt Department is not a District but a Company and governed by the Board of Supervisors. It would seem to be a proposal that would benefit all of the residents of the Hilt area since it would allow them to fall under a Class 9 for insurance purposes. The issues of liability would disappear since they would be covered by our insurance or if necessary, purchase their own.

### **COMMUNITY PICNIC**

Even though Cindy is not present, Peggy brought up the Community Picnic. Initially the Board thought to have it in June in order to also honor Cheri Avgeris for her 28 years of service since a number of the people she worked with attend (notably Cal Fire and the first responders) but the Board felt we should stick with our regular time frame – after Labor Day in September. We will still use some of that time to honor Cheri and encourage those who worked with her to attend to express their appreciation for her years of dedicated service.

This will be on the June agenda and Cindy will once again coordinate it. Karen Dwyer has agreed to provide a medical information table and be on hand to take blood pressure, etc. but not to dispense medical advice.

### **GRANTS**

Tod noted that the grant world is a wilderness at the moment. Money is tight and she still hasn't heard from her contact about money that might become available for 2011-12.

Tod reaffirmed to the Board that she will be leaving the area by August 1<sup>st</sup>. Alex has accepted a position as a faculty member in Colorado. Tod will need to resign from the Board but has contacted Cindy as a grant replacement. Cindy has agreed and Tod will introduce her to the folks at the Jackson County Fuel Committee.

Tod asked that it be noted how much she has enjoyed being on the Board and what a wonderful Board it is to serve with.

Steve expressed his deep regret at losing Tod as a Board Member. This was shared by the rest of the Board. Tod has been at the forefront of getting us grant money, working with the grant community and advocating for safety and the welfare of our volunteer firefighters. She will be deeply missed.

They are keeping their home and intend to return in the summers.

**NEXT MEETING**

The meeting will be held on Friday, June 10<sup>th</sup> at 6 pm at the Hilt Church. Pam will be out of the country for the month of June but back in July.

It was M/S/P (Thomas/Davies) to adjourn at 7:10 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Peggy A. Moore