

**COLESTIN RURAL FIRE DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
February 10, 2012**

PRESENT: Pam Haunschild, Alissa Lipking, Peggy Moore, Teri Thomas, Cindy Warzyn, Steve Avgeris, Keith Callison, Sharron Halvorson, Lisa Buttrey, David Lipking.

ABSENT: None

The meeting was called to order at 6:02 at the Hilt Church.

MINUTES

It was M/S/P (Thomas/Lipking) to approve the minutes of the January meeting as distributed.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Teri handout out copies of the financial statements and pointed out that we have \$23,799 in checking, \$43,237 in the state account. The checking account balance includes the \$20,000 grant we received. All expenses of the grant have been paid.

95% of the projected tax revenue has been collected. Teri pointed out that as of this time, 39% of the budget has been expended and we have gone through 58% of the year so we are well on track and should have some money available at the end of the budget year.

Sharron informed the Board that we will be down about \$1,000 in revenue for next year.

Teri brought up the fact that we did not budget for recertification for First Responder and received, from Karen Dwyer, the amount needed for six first responders to certify. The cost is about \$1,000. There is now a requirement by the state that first responders be finger printed (Live Scan), which is a \$75.00 cost per person. In addition, a background check will also be performed. The Board was not aware of this change. Keith Callison explained that this has been in the works for a while but has just now become law. Steve asked for the reason, since he will be getting calls from first responders about the change. Keith believes that because first responders and EMT's enter homes, there are opportunities for people to take things. It's a protection for the department as well as the individual. Cindy pointed out that fire fighters are also entering homes yet there is not a requirement for them.

We sincerely hope we don't lose any first responders because of this change in policy from the state.

It was M/S/P (Lipking/Warzyn) to approve the fees for recertification of the first responders.

BUDGET COMMITTEE

Sharron and Lisa asked for the Chief's wish list which Steve provided. First on the list are radios and batteries. Steve estimates that cost to be about \$5,055. Teri reminded us that we had that money designated by last years' grant so these can be purchased at any time. The other four items are not in order: (Infra red binoculars – bout \$500; replace 4412 – about \$20,000; Station 3 on the Ski Rd about \$25,000. And expand Station 1 \$25,000). These are all estimates and three of them fall in the capital category. The budget committee asked if the Board planned any other projects and if the Board was considering fundraisers.

The Board discussed the three larger projects. It does not seem feasible to have these as part of the budget process since we have the budget pretty much down to year to year costs with some contingency money. We could, of course, put some money away for a replacement engine for 4412 for the Ski Road but it would take years to accumulate enough money for this to be realistic. We might be better to roll any ending balance, as we do, into the reserves and use these for major purchases.

Steve is very anxious to get a station on the Ski Road since we now have five fire fighters and one first responder on the Ski Road. Having a real presence there might also help us to recruit more volunteers. Peggy pointed out that we can't do two capital projects and both the Chief and the Board are leaning towards the Ski Road structure. Necessary to accomplish this will be donated or land leased on a 99 year basis for one dollar a year, preferably towards the bottom of the road. Other issues are continued volunteers to handle the staffing and response, assistance for the lodge and property above the 5 mile marker since District 5 is no longer servicing that area. This might come in part from the lodge. And before we proceed at all would be a specific Board discussion about the pros and cons of expanding our presence on the Ski Road given that the expectations will increase once we do that.

Pam offered to head up this potential project. She will contact Ski Road residents and brainstorm some ideas for fundraising. Some could be a matching grant, fundraising from residents to make the match, other fundraising possibilities. Pam will come back at the April meeting where the primary agenda item will be this project.

Steve said he found the perfect engine to replace 4412 for \$15,000. Normally nothing under \$30,000 is available. He would like to be able to "jump on it" if a similar one becomes available again. He called on this engine and it was gone right away. The Board discussed the possibility of pre approving the purchase of an appropriate engine with a ceiling so Steve could simply move on it in the future. Teri said we have the money for \$15,000 in reserves. Peggy said she could provide a small loan and Pam said she might also. These options will be discussed as well at the April meeting.

Peggy asked the Budget Committee if a half an hour would be enough at the March meeting given that the Monument/Wilderness issue is on the agenda. Peggy suggested that since the budget process is so clear and it would not be necessary to go line by line, the committee could send the budget out ahead of the meeting for the Board to review and we could be prepared with questions and the committee could highlight any significant changes. This was agreed upon.

FUEL REDUCTION

Cindy asked Lisa the status of the fuel reduction project on the Upper Road. Lisa clarified that it is handled through ODF. The landowner directly pays the contract and ODF pays the landowner the reimbursement. Lisa said there are 3 landowners currently involved.

CONTRACTS

Teri brought up the issue of collecting payment from those outside the District who contract with us. Several have not paid for a couple of years. Alissa agreed to work on this and contact the people and follow through so that the payment occurs.

Steve pointed out it is the county's responsibility to deal with code compliance. We will need to discuss options with the county so that once a person has paid the first year, received their building permit, there is still a way to enforce continued payment for fire protection. Teri believes it's about an annual loss to us of \$1,800.

CHIEF'S REPORT

Steve reported that we received three calls since the last meeting. Two were Traffic collisions (one fairly serious on the Ski road) and one medical. 44-13 will be completed and back in the District by February 17th.

The first training is February 17th.

HILT JOINING COUNTY CSA 4 COMMITTEE

Peggy asked Keith to review the pros and cons which he did. Cindy asked to see the policies and procedures of the group. They are not done yet. The Board discussed the implications of moving in this direction. Steve suggested that this takes us away from a closer working relationship and does not accomplish what we want to do. Although there is no legal way to join the two departments because of the state line issue, we can continue to work together as we have with Steve and Keith serving as the representatives for the Board of Supervisors in California. The Board agreed to wait on joining. We will assess how the group works for the first year; have a chance to review the policies, etc. before committing, if we do.

FUTURE MEETINGS

Peggy has a conflict with the April meeting date (April 13th) and asked if it could be moved forward a week or back a week. Teri suggested April 20th which the Board agreed to. The primary agenda items at that meeting will be the adoption of the preliminary budget to sunshine to the District and a discussion of the Ski Road project.

The March meeting, on March 9th, will begin at 6:00 with regular business including the budget committee's presentation of the proposed budget. At 6:30 we will turn to a discussion with BLM and ODF representatives on the Monument/Wilderness Area issues. Peggy had a long phone conversation with Howard Hunter about the issues we will want to discuss. The discussion will

not center around any of the politics, the rightness or wrongness of the Monument but rather on a clarification of exactly how and what fire suppression tactics may be used in this area, who has the authority, etc. and how we can work together to serve what initially appear to be two disparate missions: CRFD – lives, property, land and the federal government – land, property, lives. Cindy read the document put out by BLM and sees, as Peggy does, several areas that suggest there is some room for interpretation.

The meeting will be an informational session with the hope of reaching some understanding and ways to address CRFD's concerns about the community.

GRANTS

Pam reported that Cindy introduced her to Mary Helen and that they expect the applications to be available in March for an April deadline. We won't know how much money is available and what the guidelines will be.

ADJOURN

It was M/S/P (Haunschild/Warzyn) to adjourn the meeting at 8:10

Respectfully submitted,

Peggy A. Moore