

**COLESTIN RURAL FIRE DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
March 8, 2013**

PRESENT: Alissa Lipking, Peggy Moore, Cindy Warzyn, Steve Avgeris, Sharron Halvorson.

ABSENT: Pam Haunschild (excused)

The meeting was called to order at 6:05 pm at the Hilt Church.

MINUTES

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

TREASURER'S REPORT

We have \$18,152.12 in the Savings account and \$49,659.95 in the Treasury account. Teri reminded the Board that we are at 51% of budgeted expenses and we are 2/3 of the way through the fiscal year.

Teri told the Board that she continues to appreciate Lisa's help with the treasurer's job.

PURCHASE OF WINDBREAKERS FOR EMR'S

Michael has found very nice wind breakers with the logo and EMR on the back for \$80.00 each. To purchase enough for the current EMR's it would cost \$400. The Board decided to purchase them from this year's budget since we have money in protective clothing and do not anticipate purchasing additional clothing this year and not doing this now would mean the EMR's would have to wait until July to purchase the jackets.

BUDGET

Sharron reviewed the preliminary budget with the Board. Many of the line items are the same as the current year. Changes appear in the protective clothing line (\$1,200 proposed from \$3,200 in the current year); the \$2,000 in volunteer reimbursement will remain. Fire Fighting services was reduced to 0 from \$700, Fire fighting supplies was increased to \$ 4,581 from \$1,000. Fundraising expenses were reduced from \$ 1,200 to \$800, office expense was reduced from \$400 to \$300. Telephone went from \$ 2,500 to \$2,000 (which includes the fax line); vehicle repair and maintenance went from \$3,800 to \$ 4,000.

After discussion the Board agreed with the Budget committee and tweaked only the volunteer reimbursement and the protective clothing from the document presented by the committee.

The Budget Committee will present the formal tentative budget at the April meeting and it will be sun shined for 30 days. It will be adopted at the May meeting for submission to the state in June.

The Board expressed its continued appreciation to the Budget Committee (Sharron, Lisa and Karen) for all their work on behalf of the District and the Community.

RESPONSES FROM THE FIRE FIGHTERS

Peggy thanked Karen, Lisa and Alissa for meeting or phoning the volunteers about their thoughts on the lack of response to calls. The summary of these discussions (which are anonymous) was provided to the Board via email prior to the meeting.

A lengthy discussion ensued around the common threads that emerged in the conversations. Special concerns were the reluctance to respond to I-5 incidents. Steve spoke to several of the fire chiefs in other districts (both paid and unpaid) and was reminded that in Oregon, call choosing is not allowed. If people do not respond to incidents the District could be liable. In addition, Steve reminded the Board that the only reason Cal Fire comes into Oregon is because we mutual aid on I – 5 in California. If we abandon that agreement, which is a legal agreement, CAL FIRE would not be able to respond to our fires in Oregon.

Steve has presented that in training but perhaps it needs to be presented in a more forceful way.

Cindy suggested we send a letter to District residents about who we are and what we do. We should include our budget amount, a discussion of automatic aid; outline the District boundaries (which, with the automatic aid agreement) include the border to Bailey Hill.

Peggy will make a short presentation at the first training on the 22nd. Any Board member would be welcome to attend the meeting and participate. The report should include information on the above points, stressing the reasons for I-5 responses and discussing ways we might address some of the concerns. The Board agreed that almost all of the current residents have never experienced a large fire in the Colestin since there has not been one since the 1981 fire. We should also stress that for the past few years we have received between 30 and 32 calls a year. This is less than 3 a month, including the I-5 calls.

Peggy will email the areas of the remarks to the Board and Steve prior to the meeting on the 22nd and would appreciate comments from the Board and Steve.

FIRE HOUSE – SKI ROAD

Peggy forwarded Tim Stewart's response to the surveying issues to the Board. The next step is to get a signed agreement from the Stewarts and the other owners as to leasing the property to the District. Once we have that, we can discuss the options for power that Tim researched and decide what direction we need to take.

CHIEF'S REPORT

Steve reported that there have been no calls since the last meeting. 44-12 has the primer on and is ready to paint. Everything will be operational since the engine has been taken out and fixed where needed. Cal Fire has promised it will be back in service by fire season.

RADIO PROPOSAL

John Ames shared a proposal with Peggy who forwarded it to the Board. The basic issues are that there is some static in some of the radios, those that are in use in town due to the conflicting signals in a more populated area. Were we to move forward with this proposal only half of our radios could be used due to the age and ability of the other half, which would not accept the "fix." Given that the problems are not universal and are not present in radios in the Valley, the Board agreed not to move forward with this proposal. Both the Chief and the Board do not feel it's necessary at this time.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be on April 12th at 6:00 at the Hilt Church.

It was M/S/P (Warzyn/Lipking) to adjourn the meeting at 7:55 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Peggy Moore