

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

**APRIL 8, 2016**

Meeting was called to order at 6:00 P.M.

Present were: Cindy Warzyn, Alissa Lipking, Teri Thomas, and Steve Avgeris.

**Treasurer's report**

Account balances are 11,501.29 in checking and 80,889.73 in the State Treasury. Teri noted that we have approximately 15,000 more in cash than at this time last year.

She printed an additional balance sheet which showed the accumulation of funds since 2006. Thanks to the grant money th[is] dept has been our reserve fund [and] has been slowly climbing over the years but it has taken a long time to do so. Our reserve fund which is not a part of our annual budget is at 58,226.44.

Board discussion followed and Teri cautioned that while the reserve fund might seem like a lot of money it is in line with our yearly budget and overhead and could be quickly depleted in an emergency.

There was also general discussion about the fact that we are required to follow a fiscal calendar because we are a municipality, while it would be much easier to budget if we were allowed to follow a calendar year because fire season generally begins at the tail end of the fiscal year. Steve pointed out that he needs to get the engines ready for fire season and cannot wait until July 1 to begin this process. Engine 4413 needs transmission work before fire season and Teri Thomas made a motion to authorize the transmission repair now. This was seconded by Alissa Lipking and the board unanimously approved the repair.

**Budget Committee**

Betsy Bradshaw provided us with a detailed spreadsheet of past media expenses for the district. The board feels that the media cards sent to our residents are an important and effective tool for fire prevention. Teri commented that it is hard to overdo communication with the district residents. Alissa made a motion to add an additional \$100.00 to the media expense line in the budget and subtract \$100.00 from Community Outreach. Teri seconded the motion and all were in favor. Cindy said she would call Sharron Halvorson, the Budget Committee chairperson and notify her of the change.

**Chief's report**

There were 4 calls this month:

A fire alarm which turned out to be a false alarm, a traffic incident on Colestin Road, a big rig fire at the Ag Station on the freeway and a structure fire in Hornbrook.

Jeremy Hanson from Les Schwab Tire Center installed tires on 4412 and it is now in service. Jeremy suggests that our tires be inspected every 3 years rather than every 5 years as required because our engines are taken off road and are more likely to suffer sidewall damage. He will inspect all tires in 36 months. He suggested that we scrap our used tires. His reasoning was that while the tires may look like they are in good condition that might not actually be the case and could possibly cause an accident .

Steve met with ODF Southwest unit boss Lee Winslow and Supervisor Taylor. During the meeting there was a fire alarm call and they accompanied Steve on the call. Afterward they all spent some time driving in [the] Colestin familiarizing themselves with our area and roads. They would like to do a community assessment with us and identify high and low risk structures. Steve was in favor of this idea.

### **Training**

The first aid and CPR class is scheduled for April 30 at 9am here in Hilt. Because we will be sending 20-25 participants the instructor, Dave, will reduce the cost to \$20 each instead of 30\$. Everyone will be certified but cards will not be issued unless an additional \$28 per card is paid. Steve commented that we could get cards for 4 of our EMR and First Responder personnel and not exceed the 500.00 which is budgeted for training. The cards would be used for identification at an incident and used if there were any legal or liability issues concerning our personnel.

Steve reports that he expects 5-7 new volunteers this year. He said that Cal Fire is now sending new recruits to fires before they are fully trained to gain experience and knowledge about what happens on a fire scene. The recruits are not allowed to participate in any way but are strictly observers. Apparently this is a successful strategy and one that we might consider implementing. Our volunteers would not need to be fully outfitted except for hard hats.

An additional discussion centered around new volunteers and protective clothing. Some volunteers may need boots, which we have paid for in the past. Alissa offered to talk to Blackbird about price information and a possible discount on the boots we would be paying for.

### **Next meeting**

The next meeting will be at 6 PM on Tuesday, May 10 at the Hilt Church.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:01 P.M.

[Respectfully submitted,

Cynthia Warzyn]