

**COLESTUN RURAL FIRE DISTRICT  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING  
February 9, 2018**

**PRESENT:** Peggy Moore, Teri Thomas, Cindy Warzyn, Steve Avgeris, Betsy Bradshaw, Lisa Buttrey, Karen Dwyer, Sharron Halvorson.

**ABSENT:** Pam Haunschild, Tod Davies

The meeting was called to order at 6:00. A quorum was established.

**MINUTES**

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

**TREASURER'S REPORT**

Teri distributed the budget report electronically and passed out hard copies. We have \$ 16,425.50 in the checking account and \$ 110,981.94 in the Treasury account.

Teri reported that we are in excellent financial shape. She reminded the Board that worker's comp is always payable at the end of the year and we are taking advantage of all the credits available. Cindy and Teri have both taken the various trainings which allow us to receive a deduction in our premiums.

The amount in the water storage tank has not been spent. A 10,000 gallon tank is still to be bought.

**BUDGET**

The Board welcomed the budget committee to the meeting. Steve presented his wish list which consists of two items. A slip in unit for the Chief's pick up which will allow him or anyone driving the vehicle to immediately work on fire suppression.

Currently, he gets to a fire and assesses. While a response unit is on its way, the driver of the pickup needs to wait before taking any action to suppress. With the slip in unit, the truck will have 150-180 gallons of water available for use. The slip in unit has other tools and capabilities which mean immediate action can be taken to begin suppression while the truck is coming.

The unit can be taken out and placed in another truck. Steve provided a detail list of the equipment and costs which comes to \$ 14,668.40.

There are a variety of ways this can be paid for including as part or the entire match grant, from reserves, from money available that has not been spent over the years. After a healthy discussion the board agreed to move forward with the purchase. It was M/S/P (Thomas/Warzyn) to authorize purchase of the slip in unit with a Honda engine. Due to the potentially difficult fire season this year, the Board agreed that we would pay it out of current year excess revenue and any overage would come out of reserves. As a current year purchase, the budget committee would not need to focus on this.

The second requested item for the coming year is to outfit two fire fighters, amounting to \$5,715. Steve has inventoried the outfits and equipment current fire fighters have and this figure represents the needed difference. The Budget committee will include this item in its tentative budget proposal to the Board in March.

Lisa asked that the Board clarify its interpretation of two seemingly different set of instructions for public sun shining of the budget.

After a thoughtful discussion, the Board agreed that the committee would move forward in developing a budget proposal for Board approval before public comment. That way, any interested member of the public would have a document to review before making any comments, which would be helpful.

For this year and in the future, the committee will attend the February meeting to discuss the Chief and Board priorities for the tentative budget. In March we will hold a budget committee presentation prior to the scheduled Board meeting which will be noticed and will provide an opportunity for initial public comment on the tentative budget to be presented to the Board subsequent to the budget committee meeting in March. This will allow the Board to be privy to any public comment.

After the Budget committee meeting, the Board will convene the regular Board meeting to review the tentative budget and pass one for additional public comment at the April meeting.

This process will meet the legal requirements while making it easy for any member of the public to participate in the process.

The Board thanked the Budget Committee for its continued service and looks forward to the presentation of the tentative budget in March.

### **CHIEF'S REPORT**

Steve reported that we received no calls since the last meeting. 44-40 was sold for \$ 2,000.

Steve shared the current information on a proposal from Cal Fire and District 5 for winter time. The proposal requests that two engines from District 5 would respond to a fire in Oregon (at a certain distance). Cal Fire would respond to a fire up to the 1st Oregon exit. They asked that CRFD agree to also send an engine.

Chief Avgeris informed the parties that we do not have the personnel to agree to this proposal. The idea of shared responsibilities between the two states is a great idea but for CRFD, given the limited resources, we cannot promise to participate in every call. There will be further discussion on this in the future.

### **GEAR**

Steve will be meeting individually with each firefighter who has not been participating but who has gear signed out. The Board suggested that fire fighters sign an agreement to keep the gear in good repair while it is in their possession.

## **THE FUTURE**

The Chief and the Board continue to be concerned with the future of CRFD in terms of personnel. We will need to continue to think about the idea of a paid fire fighter particularly during the regular work week when many fire fighters are out of district at work.

A possibility would be for a 6 month trial to review how this might work.

## **GRANTS**

There is no report or grant on the horizon. The Grant coordinator with ODF stationed in Salem has not yet been hired. Steve will continue to work with Lee to help move this along so we will have an identified person to work with.

There being no further business it was M/S/P (Warzyn/Thomas) to adjourn at 7:20 pm.

## **NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting will be on Friday, March 9<sup>th</sup> at the Hilt Church. It will be preceded by a meeting of the Budget Committee at 6 pm. The regular Board meeting will occur after that.

Respectfully submitted,

Peggy Moore