

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

March 21, 2003

PRESENT: Cheri Avgeris, Peggy Moore, Peg Stewart, Teri Thomas, Mary Jo Trainor, Steve Avgeris, Andy Herskind, Tim Stewart.

ABSENT: None.

The meeting was called to order at 6:10 p.m. at the Hilt Church.

MINUTES:

It was M/S/P (Avgeris/Stewart) to approve the minutes of the February meeting.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Cheri reported that the general fund has a balance of \$18,413.01 and the tax fund has \$3,396.18. Additional checks totaling \$155 were received from the sale of shirts at Stateline. The new heating system for Station One cost \$868. Christopher and Carl from National Heating donated their labor (697.00). Peggy will send a thank you letter. This new system will save the district a great deal of money in heating costs.

Cheri reported that the District received a letter from the IRS for a late filing fee in the amount of \$1,400. Steve sent a letter to the IRS explaining the situation and asking for reconsideration due to circumstances that were unavoidable this past year.

BUDGET:

The Board has requested that Peggy contact Sharron Halvorson to ask if she will chair the budget committee again this year. She will ask Sharron to contact both Matt Damon and Lisa Buttrey to see if they will serve again as well. Lisa will be working with Cheri on another FEMA grant but that should be completed by the time the budget committee commences its work.

The timeline for the process is: the committee should attend the April 18th meeting, present a tentative budget for the board at its May meeting (which will need to be sunshined for 30 days) and the final budget will be adopted at the June meeting. The tentative budget will be posted at stateline, at the Mt. Ashland post office box area, at the Hilt Church and on the CRFD website after the May meeting.

Teri will work with Cheri to prepare the necessary materials for the budget committee at the April meeting.

BOARD ELECTIONS

Peg Stewart, Teri Thomas and Mary Jo Trainor all filed for their seats on the board. The election is in May.

ODF REPORT

Peggy has been working with Dan Thorpe on the letter CRFD has requested from BLM. A draft, with some changes, has been sent to BLM. Dan is confident we will have a copy by the April board meeting.

Dan also asked that Peggy communicate the possibility of the cost share for fuel breaks around homes in the Valley. Cheri stated that it was \$300. BLM is interested in some fuel control on their land as well.

CHIEF'S REPORT

Steve reported that CRFD responded to two medical calls since the last Board meeting. Training will begin tomorrow night, March 22nd.

CRFD has requested and received \$45,000 of the FEMA grant for the structure engine. The cabin chassis was \$32,000 (including delivery). The vehicle is at the Deadwood Camp and Bernie Paul will be supervising the construction of the rest of the truck. CDF has been paid \$13,500 to begin purchasing the pump and other parts.

Steve asked the Board to agree on a color scheme for the CRFD engines: red with a white stripe for structure engines, yellow for wild land vehicles. It was M/S/P (Thomas/Avgeris) to adhere to that scheme. It was noted that the match for this FEMA grant is \$6,500 and we have paid \$620. out of District funds to date.

Steve stated that 44-14 (which will need about \$1,500 to fix) would go where 44-12 is now - on the Ski Road where it can be housed year round. The money from 44-12 will pay for the repairs. The District has received only one sealed bid to date for 44-12.

Steve brought up the possibility of another FEMA grant for this year. Since 9-11 there has been a great deal of money available in grants to fire departments. Hilt will be applying for a new rescue unit. Steve suggested three possibilities for CRFD: 1) a water tender (about \$30,000) 2) a cat and low bed (about \$50,000) or 3) a brand new wild land engine (about \$50,000).

The Board and the three chiefs discussed the pros and cons of each item at length. Basically, a water tender would round out the equipment but the number of qualified drivers plus the lack of housing make this choice more expensive and more problematic.

The cat and low bed would be an excellent choice given the terrain in the district and the number of roads that are cluttered by brush and trees but might not receive high scores in

the ratings since most fire departments would never apply for such an item. The new engine, while important, might face stiffer competition since we just received an engine and we have access to the Hilt engine as well.

The Board noted that there would be a 10% match from the District required should we get the grant and, after much discussion, it was M/S/P (Trainor/Avgeris) to apply for the cat and the low bed.

NEXT MEETING: The next meeting will be on April 18th at 6:00 at the Hilt Church.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Peggy A. Moore