

**COLESTIN RURAL FIRE DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
September 8, 2006**

PRESENT: Cheri Avgeris, Carolyn Brafford, Peggy Moore, Teri Thomas, Steve Avgeris
Andy Herskind, Carole Herskind.

ABSENT: Mary Jo Trainor

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

MINUTES

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

TREASURER'S REPORT

Cheri distributed the financial statement. The general fund has \$5,654.20, the savings account has \$1,657.85 and the county account has \$14,382.42.

Cheri investigated the cost of worker's compensation if we hired an individual to keep the trucks clean and the fire station in order. It would be \$15.01 a year.

CHIEF'S REPORT

Steve reviewed the call sheet since the last meeting. There were nine calls. Two medicals, two vehicle, three wild land (2 cancelled on route), one possible power line down (dead telephone lines) and one structure fire (Callahan's).

We are no longer in extreme fire danger; the level has been increased to critical. This means that if a wild land fire should occur there is a strong possibility it would go to at least 100 acres. We are in "red flag" conditions.

Steve received a letter from CDF Chief Stovall, thanking CRFD and all the volunteers for their help with the Hoy fire about a month ago. Steve will pass along the thanks to the volunteers.

Steve reported that the power take off on the water tender needs to be replaced. This will be done on Saturday as the new part has arrived. The vehicle can't be used until that is done because it drives the pump). Peggy asked about the liability of this repair since the vehicle is new. It is under warranty and Steve is required to send the old part back to the company. We aren't responsible for the part but will have to pay the labor.

Steve reported that he would be monitoring the active volunteers more carefully this year. The ISO (the insurance company) is concerned about the number of active volunteers showing on the roster and the number who respond to calls. Steve has a plan to move those volunteers who are "call choosing" to back up volunteers rather than active. He did report, however, that we have a larger core group of volunteers, which is good.

Carolyn suggested we find a way to analyze volunteers, finding out what particular strengths they have that could be used not only in fighting fires but in other necessary tasks as well. This should be an item on a future agenda.

Steve asked the Board about the portable building he requested for parking emergency vehicles in winter. Currently they are parked in the open and require much effort to ready them when an emergency call comes in and they must work through snow. Cheri believes they would cost about \$2,000. She reminded the Board that they have about \$3,000 coming in from the CRFD coverage during the Hoy fire, which has not been budgeted.

Teri also reminded the Board that the money from US Cell was not budgeted. The Board agreed that we should purchase the portable structure to house the emergency vehicles (2 vehicles) before winter.

US CELLULAR

Steve reported that the US Cell lease began two weeks ago. We will be receiving a monthly check of \$500 and \$100 for monthly electricity. They predict that service will be activated by the second week of October. That will give cell phone users in the valley much, much better coverage improving not only their personal calling options but providing emergency phone coverage as well.

The actual construction (the French drain around the fire house) will begin September 11th.

EMPLOYMENT - FIRE STATION

The Board again discussed the pros and cons of employing an individual to wash the trucks, keep the fire station clean, keep the items orderly in it. We have attempted to find volunteers to do this to no avail. Given the rules about insurance for those who volunteer as fire fighters, we cannot use them nor would we want to "burn them out" from their major responsibility - responding to emergency situations.

The Board agreed to pay \$12.50 an hour for five hours a week (flexible) throughout the year. This would be \$3,000 a year with an additional 10% (\$300) for payroll taxes.

Peggy will ask Betsy to put it on the web site and Lisa to put it in the Buzz. Notices will also be posted at the mailbox area.

Duties will include washing trucks, cleaning the stations, and organizing the station. The individual must be able to work on a ladder, and lift up to 50 lbs. The schedule is flexible. Deadline for reviewing applications is September 29th and individuals should contact Steve.

There was discussion about how the community might view the fact that everyone in CRFD is a volunteer and now we are paying a person to perform this work. Peggy responded that we have asked people to volunteer and received no interest. Steve cannot continue to do this in addition to everything else he does and these tasks must be done. If individuals complain, Peggy suggests that they volunteer to do this.

It was M/S/P (Avgeris/Brafford) to hire a person with the above duties and at the proposed salary.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be October 13th at 6:00 at the Hilt Church.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:10.

Respectfully submitted,

Peggy A. Moore