

**COLESTIN RURAL FIRE DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
DECEMBER 14, 2007**

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

ABSENT: None

MINUTES

It was M/S/P (Avgeris/Davies) to approve the minutes of the November meeting as distributed.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Cheri reported that we have \$10,693.21 in our checking account, \$1,663.60 in our savings account and \$32,207.09 in the "tax" account. Teri pointed out that we are already ahead of budgeted income for this year. About \$10,000 of the \$32,207 is carry over money and the rest is tax revenue that has come in to date. This is excellent news.

Cheri reported that the TIDE Foundation will be giving us a grant but wants a list of projects. We will be able to provide them with a prioritized list after January 1st. Cheri will bring the list to the Board meeting in January. There are four potential projects at this point.

CHIEF'S REPORT

Steve reported that we had two structure fires since the last meeting. One was a false alarm and the other, a doublewide mobile, burned to the ground. This was an automatic aid in the Klamath National Forest. We should be reimbursed for use of the water tender. The fire was started with ashes from a wood stove that had not been properly disposed of. Steve reported that this is a serious problem and we need to provide community education on this and some other reoccurring problems.

Carolyn suggested that we might do a video on stove fires or that one might be available from other agencies. The Board discussed this and due to the lack of high speed Internet in the Valley, most people would not be able to access it on the website. Peggy will ask Betsy to send postcards out on this. Steve will provide Peggy with a list of basic points to cover in the postcards.

At a future time, when Internet service improves in the Valley, having a short video is a good idea. Tod volunteered Alex to provide the video and he can send it to Betsy for linking on the website.

Dan Thorpe called Steve and informed him that CORP will no longer run the trains between Weed and Ashland as of January 2008. They will continue to run to other areas. Bernie Paul of CDF will be writing a letter to CORP with a copy to parent company Union Pacific informing them that they need to deal with the abandoned railroad ties.

Steve pointed out that a number of areas in the Valley have dead or dying trees, which can be a fire hazard. Tod volunteered to speak with one resident whose property has a number of unsafe dead trees next to the house. Carolyn suggested that we think about ways to inform the community of the potential danger some of the vegetation provides.

Steve said we need residents to clear brush 100 feet around all structures.

Steve reported that Bernie Paul has promised that 26-59 will come to Hilt by May 1st. CDF has two structure engines with 4-wheel drive. One will come here and one will go to Hammond Ranch.

Finally, Steve announced that Fire training would begin in February. He will be meeting with CDF personnel to do some changing to the training program. Steve is concerned about the lack of new people coming forward to train. Peggy suggested that the number of hours mandated by the state is precluding people from committing 140 plus hours of training and then hours to respond. Perhaps a statewide discussion with volunteer departments and representatives need to come up with a different plan. One possibility would be to have "levels" of responders. So many hours of training would certify people to do one level of fire fighting. More training would "up" the level of responsibility.

GRANT

Tod reported that community education is one area of interest for some of the grants. She will pursue this. Money for advertising information in local papers, direct mailing (with more "classy" brochures, etc would be a focus. There is an excellent chance we will get funded at some level.

RAILROAD

Tod has been diligently pursuing the Railroad tie problem. CORP representatives have been less than cooperative. Having CDF write a letter will help. She will be calling the representative in Roseburg back in two weeks.

FUNDRAISING

Tod reported that SOU has been wonderful to work with for the benefit showing of Alex's new film. The date is March 5th a Wednesday. There will be a 4 pm showing for students who will pay on a sliding scale and experience a Q and A with Alex after the showing. A no host bar between 6 and 6:30 will be help in the museum area. The public screening will be between 7:00 – 7:30.

She suggested we have a raffle for a sweatshirt and hat (CRFD) for a dollar a ticket. There may also be a Silent Auction. She and Karen and the students will be working on this.

Tod will be working with the publicity with JPR. She also mentioned the CERT Network, which is headed by Lucy Edwards and is a sort of coalition of volunteer fire districts. She will be meeting with Lucy Edwards as well.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be on Friday, January 11th at the Hilt Church at 6 pm

It was M/S/P (Brafford/Davies) to adjourn the meeting at 7:20 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Peggy A. Moore