

**COLESTIN RURAL FIRE DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
April 11, 2008**

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

ABSENT: None

The meeting was called to order at 6:05 pm

MINUTES

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

TREASURER'S REPORT

Cheri reported that we have \$13,928.23 in the Checking account, \$1,664.00 in the Savings account and \$29,608.30 in the State Treasury account. All significant bills have been paid.

Members of the Board commented how much they appreciate the monthly handouts that Cheri puts together showing year to date spending and percentages. This really helps us to track the budget more effectively.

PAID STAFF VS VOLUNTEERS TO CLEAN THE TRUCKS AND FIRE HOUSE

Lisa Buttrey and Sharron Halvorson have volunteered to keep the trucks clean and the firehouse picked up as volunteers. Chief Avgeris had expressed concern initially since Sharron and Lisa are key volunteers and already put in hours volunteering, driving, responding to calls, working on the budget and other projects. However, we have not been able to rely on the paid staff. The Board agreed to keep some money in the budget for routine engine maintenance to take the load off the Chief and to gratefully accept Lisa and Sharron's kind offer to keep the trucks clean. Tod said she'd check around the area to see if we could find someone to do the job for pay. We pay \$12.00 an hour.

BUDGET

The Board reviewed the proposed budget and discussed the need to increase office expense due to the printing and paper costs. All training materials come through this budget and cartridges continue to be expensive. With that adjustment it was M/S/P (Davies/Avgeris) to adopt the budget. This is the formal preliminary budget which will be posted on the website and at the top road and by the firehouse as a public notice.

In May the Board will hear any public comments and vote on a final budget, which will be sent to Salem by June 1st.

CHIEF'S REPORT

Steve reported that the fuel gage is installed on the truck and he will sell diesel, as needed, to the district. Cheri has developed a logbook, which will provide a paper trail on the amount used, and the dates. This will allow us to track real expenses of fuel since the Avgerises have been donating much of the fuel in the past.

We received two calls since the last meeting. One was a vehicle fire and the other an escaped controlled burn.

Steve reported that Engine 44 in Hilt is still out of service. Steve has put it back in service only for emergencies in the Valley since it has mechanical problems and cannot go on the freeway.

We have a new contract on Hwy 99 at \$200 a year. Chief Avgeris has informed the owners that once the structure is completed they will be assessed the regular rate. Both parties have signed a written contract detailing this information.

The suburban (medical vehicle) needs work. Steve has been able to get a good price for fixing it (\$3-4,000). The mechanic is in Grants Pass. It was M/S/P (Thomas/Davies) to complete this work with the remaining \$4,984.54 that we have in the budget and which is not encumbered. This amount is in addition to our \$10,000 reserve fund.

Chief Avgeris received a letter, which he shared with the Board, from US Cell. Effective Nov 1, 2008, all cell phones will switch from analog to digital. Digital phones do not work well in many areas of the Valley. Steve talked to one of the US Cell attorneys and they claim it's the FCC requiring the change. In fact, it is the cell companies requesting from the FCC, the change. It will provide a huge increase in revenue for them. Digital phone are ½ watt, which cuts down from our current wattage (3) with the analog phones.

Steve will meet with US Cell representatives to discuss options. Peggy suggested that he meet with the owner or manager of the branch office.

GENERATOR

The Board continued the discussion of the generator. Initially, Chief Avgeris suggested that he pay half the cost of the generator and its operating costs and the District pay the other. Members of the Board are concerned with the idea of ownership and the fact that were it not for unreliable power, the Avgerises would not need the generator since it is being purchased to back up outages so that the base station and other emergency needs can be met.

It was M/S/P (Brafford/Davis) to purchase an appropriate generator with District funds and place it at the location of the dispatch for the District. Currently it is at the Avgeris residence. In the future, if there is a new Chief or if someone else becomes the dispatch for the District, it would be moved there.

OVER SPENDING CATAGORIES

In the past, when the Chief has a mechanical emergency that needs to be attended to prior to a Board meeting, and the budget category does not contain enough money to cover it, he calls Board members and gets permission to overspend.

We have never had a formal spending authority level and prudent budget practice suggests that we should. The Board discussed various amounts and came up with \$750.00.

It was M/S/P (Thomas/Brafford) that if an individual budget category is going to spend over \$750.00, the Chief or the Treasurer will poll each Board member and receive permission from a majority to spend the money. At the next Board meeting, there will be a formal motion to that effect.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on May 9th (Friday) at the Hilt Church at 6 p.m.

It was M/S/P (Davies/Avgeris) to adjourn the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Peggy A. Moore