

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

March 14, 2008

PRESENT: Cheri Avgeris, Tod Davies, Peggy Moore, Teri Thomas, Steve Avgeris, Andy Herskind, Carole Herskind, Lisa Buttrey, Karen Dwyer, Sharron Halvorson.

ABSENT: Carolyn Brafford.

GUESTS: Matt Krunglevick, Neil Benson

MINUTES

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

GRANTS

Tod and Steve introduced Matt Kruglevick and Neil Benson who discussed the two major grants they have applied for on behalf of fire districts in Jackson County. One is a Community Assistance Grant and the other is the Western States Fire Managers Grant. Historically, the federal government takes one application per county. Ours was second last year.

Our prevention grant is between \$70-90,000. Typically they put in for the maximum allowed which is between 2 and 3,000. The grants are to be used by community members for fuel reduction. Landowners are reimbursed at \$400 an acre. The process is that the agency representatives come out and assess and evaluate the area, the property owner gets the work done (themselves or by hiring it out) and the agency representatives return to evaluate the work and a check is issued. Matt suggested that the criteria people should use if they contract the work out are that the contractors are licensed and bonded.

Neil pointed out that the Rogue Valley Fire Prevention Co-op (www.rvfpc.com) has a grant listed funded by State Farm Insurance for school kits to educate children about fire safety. Brian Ballou is in charge of this site and it has lots of excellent information about prevention.

Finally, Neil informed the Board that a list of people who might need assistance in the event of an evacuation mandate is kept through the county's Health and Human Services Department.

The Board thanked Tod for working with Neil and Matt and bringing them to the Board this evening.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Cheri reported that we have \$13,697.79 in our checking account, \$1,664.64 in our Savings account and \$29,529.95 in the County account. The benefit raised \$2,207 and the Board thanked Tod, Alex, Sharron, and Karen for all their work. Peggy will send a letter to the SOU President thanking her for their donation of space and staff.

Cheri reported that the maintenance and supply account is way up because two radios were damaged and the insurance claim has not yet been funded by the insurance company (but it will be).

She also reported that she looked into the cost of raising our liability insurance (which was suggested by the insurance carrier) to a 5 million dollar liability would cost \$2,100 in addition to the \$200 we currently pay. Since the case that caused the problems occurred in a large metropolitan area and involved a large ambulance company and the chances of that happening in a small volunteer department is next to nothing the Board decided it was not financially responsible for us to increase our coverage in this area. It was M/S/P (Davis/Avgeris) to not spend the additional \$2,100 for coverage in this area.

Cheri suggested that the driving policies for engineers be provided to each appropriate volunteer in writing and the volunteers will sign off that they have read and understand them.

Teri stated that she would provide an interim reserve expense account to the Board so we can more easily track reserves.

There was some discussion about a policy for dealing with situations where any budget category is being overspent. This will be on the next agenda for discussion and action by the Board. The Board concurred that any significant over run to any budget account which is approved by the Board will be forwarded to the budget committee so that they can keep a running total for subsequent budget preparation.

BUDGET

The Board discussed the preliminary budget document presented by the budget committee.

The Board agreed that we need to have Chief Avgeris bill the District for fuel used. He has donated much of this in the past and we need an accurate accounting of the cost of fuel. He will find a way to report it so we can track it.

Lisa volunteered to check the odometers in the trucks and report the mileage quarterly if we decide to track the fuel by mileage.

The committee will make the suggested changes to the budget and present it for tentative adoption at the April meeting. It will then be sun shined to the public for 30 days before being adopted as the final budget in May.

CHIEF'S REPORT

Steve reported that we received 2 medical calls and one fire call since the last meeting.

The first training will be April 5th at 6pm at the Hilt Church. He also reported that we are having only a 5-6% response on calls, which is cause for serious alarm.

The radio grant was denied. This was a countywide grant and the Chief in the Applegate who is spearheading this effort has told Steve they will re-submit it through FEMA.

Steve reported that there is a hole in the water tank on one of the engines, which will cost an estimated \$533 to fix. The Board authorized the expense.

Engine 44 is out of service and going to CDF in Ft. Jones for repair.

Due to the time, Steve moved other less important items to the next agenda.

NEXT MEETING

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

It was M/S/.P (Davies/Thomas) to adjourn the meeting at 8:10 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Peggy Moore