

**COLESTIN RURAL FIRE DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
April 10, 2009**

PRESENT: Cheri Avgeris, Carolyn Brafford, Tod Davies, Peggy Moore, Teri Thomas, Lisa Buttrey, Andy Herskind, Betsy Bradshaw.

ABSENT: None

The meeting was called to order at 6:05 pm.

MINUTES

Teri stated that one correction should be made to the discussion about paid volunteers. She suggested we change the discussion about receipts turned in for work done to review further the action the District would take with respect to someone who didn't turn in a receipt for work done. Peggy stated she would make that correction and send the minutes out with that noted. It was M/S/P (Avgeris/Davies) to approve the minutes as corrected.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Cheri handed out the financial reports. The checking account has \$11,702.54, the Savings account has \$1,667.63 and the Treasury account has \$32,877.26. In addition to the "running" budget, Cheri handed out a three-year comparison, which does not reflect what has been spent on equipment. Teri commented that we are in good shape financially with both healthy reserves and, with 75% of the fiscal year completed, we have more than 25% left in many accounts to see us through the rest of the year.

Lisa suggested that with the surplus money, the Board could either augment the reserves or spend it in other areas, like equipment.

Teri mentioned that we had increased our bond so some of the rental money that is currently showing in the Hilt Volunteer Fire Company could be moved to the Colestin budget. Cheri will check with our insurance agent, Wilson-Heirgood to be sure what our current bond is. If we need to increase it, we can take that action at the May meeting. At a certain point, increasing the bond is expensive but we need to be able to do so if necessary.

BUDGET

Lisa will post the budget (which has been on the website for the past three weeks) at the top road and at the fire station. We no longer post it at Stateline since that is in California. Cheri asked that either Sharron or Lisa be sure that originals go to both the County Recorder and the Assessors office in Medford.

Since the budget has not been physically posted, the Board agreed to defer the passage of the final budget until the May meeting which will still give Sharron time to send the required documents to appropriate sources by the mid May deadline.

BOARD POSITIONS

In the past, the Board positions had been numbered from one to five. This is required of the Elections Department so that when particular seats are up for election, the position that is up for election is indicated on the ballot. This is necessary whether there are contested elections or not. Since we have not had contested elections in the past, it has not been an issue but legally we need to indicate position numbers.

It was M/S/P (Thomas/Davies) that positions be numbered as follows: Position #1. Cheri Avgeris, Position #2 Peggy Moore, Position #3 Teri Thomas, Position #4 Carolyn Brafford and Position #5 Tod Davies. The numbering system was decided based on longevity on the Board. Peggy will forward an official statement to the Chief who will then pass it on to the Elections Department.

OFFICERS

The Board should normally elect officers at a set time each year. We haven't elected officers this past year so we should do so and then put it on a cycle, either at the July meeting (the beginning of our fiscal year) or at the January meeting (the beginning of the calendar year). The following individuals were nominated and elected.

Board Chair - Peggy Moore (M/S/P Davies/Avgeris), Vice Chair – Tod Davies (M/S/P (Avgeris/Thomas), Secretary – Peggy Moore (M/S/P Davies/Avgeris), Treasurer – Cheri Avgeris (M/S/P Thomas/Davies)

CHIEF'S REPORT

Steve reported that there was one non-injury accident on the Ski Road since the last meeting. The new radios were delivered and the mobiles were installed in 44-13, 44-30 (the water tender), 44-40 (rescue unit), 44-12 (on the Ski road) and B-44 in Hilt.

Steve shared the three bids he received for the hose bed with the Board. . This has been an ongoing issue for months. Since the bed is expensive, Steve got two written bids and a third bid from a company that, after giving him an oral bid, announced it was closing and going out of business. The bid from Outback welding was between \$8,700 and \$9,600 (they are going out of business), SS was \$9,600 and Two Dogs was \$9,867. The Board discussed various options. Steve and Terry Lehman have spent a number of hours designing a bed (using aluminum which is very durable but very expensive) that takes into consideration the average age of our firefighters (53 plus), the difficulty of more traditional hose beds (difficult to manipulate at night, heavy, etc) and durability of the product. Steve asked if the Board wanted to compromise the design. If so, we could

probably save two or three thousand but the safety of firefighters would also be compromised. Steve went into detail about some of the features of the design.

After much discussion Peggy suggested we review the “wish list”, most of which we have already met and other items are budgeted for next year. If the Chief believes the hose bed is more important than something else on the list that has not already been purchased, he should get the hose bed done and remove an item of equal value from the wish list until the end of this fiscal year. At that time the Board can review what money is left unspent in this budget and allocate that to the item removed from the list or use reserves to fund the item. Given the safety concern for our firefighters (a major board priority) and the Board’s interest in planning for the future (hence purchasing equipment and materials that have a solid life span) it was M/S/P (Brafford/Thomas) to take the cost of the hose bed, as designed, out of the rental money. Steve and Terry will review the plans and see if any areas can be “trimmed” while maintaining the ease and safety of the hose bed.

Steve reported that the four SCBAs we received had some problems. He immediately notified the company and they sent four certified SCBAs that work fine. Steve commented they were very professional, apologized for the problems, shipped the replacements at their expense and even offered to air freight them out.

Steve informed the Board that he is pulling out of the ODF fuel reduction grant process. He was asked to provide them with a list of the priority areas, which he did. They ignored the list and simply approved grants as they came in, without regard to the area. The point of Steve providing them with the area and focusing area by area rather than individual by individual is that the “burbs” is more densely populated and hence should be addressed first. If only some people take advantage of the grant there is still a great threat of fire spreading to areas that have not been addressed.

Teri mentioned (and Lisa agreed) that some people are put off by the fact that they immediately inform people that they will receive a 1099 form if they participate (thus they will pay taxes) and sometimes people don’t want to participate because of that. Several people suggested that if there was a way the Fire District could apply for the grant or a private grant and run the project, the goals of area by area could be met and people would not have any tax obligation. We will explore that.

Tod said she’d call Derek and discuss our concerns with him. The best and only effective approach is area by area. Tod noted that some folks in her area already care for their property and there is no need for them to participate.

Steve reminded the Board that for years, CRFD was responsible for maintaining a base station to monitor 911 calls. For the past few years all 911 dispatch is handled through Yreka. CRFD no longer maintains a base station.

Finally, Steve informed the Board that he has a possible candidate for assisting the Chief. He will bring the name to the Board soon. He pointed out this is not an Assistant Chief

but rather a person to assist him with paperwork and mechanical/in field help. This person would NOT take over in Steve's absence. That job would go to a Battalion Chief with CDF through the mutual aid process. The Board suggested that Steve present the information to the volunteers in that manner and perhaps come up with another name for the job.

RAILROAD

We still wait for the railroad to move forward with the project. Tod is working with them.

GRANTS

Cheri shared with the Board that the security grant that Tod applied for was funded. It will pay half for the work on the firehouse.

BOARD REQUEST

Board member Carolyn Brafford requested that we have a closed session, at the May meeting, to discuss Board relationships. Tod mentioned she would miss the May meeting so the Board agreed to have this closed session at the June meeting. A closed session may be called by the Board and attended only by the Board and any appropriate party designated by the Board (usually the Chief) to discuss personnel issues, lawsuits or matters that are confidential. In any instance where action is taken as a result of a closed session issue, that action must be reported out and taken in open session.

Peggy mentioned that she couldn't attend the regularly scheduled June meeting (June 12th) and asked that the meeting be changed to either June 5th or June 19th. Carolyn Brafford had left the meeting shortly before 7 to honor a previous commitment but all of the other four Board members agreed to move the June meeting to June 19th.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on Friday, May 8th at 6 pm at the Hilt Church.

M/S/P (Avgeris/Moore) to adjourn the meeting at 7:35 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Peggy A. Moore