

**COLESTIN RURAL FIRE DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
May 8, 2009**

PRESENT: Cheri Avgeris, Carolyn Brafford, Peggy Moore, Teri Thomas, Steve Avgeris, Betsy Bradshaw.

ABSENT: Tod Davies

The meeting was called to order at 6:10 pm at the Hilt Church

MINUTES

It was M/S/P (Avgeris/Thomas) to approve the minutes as corrected. The corrected minutes were sent out prior to the meeting.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Cheri reported that the treasury account has \$33,406.37 (and the third installment of tax revenue is due this month so more money should be coming in), \$1,667.63 in the savings account and \$10,745.72 in the checking account. Cheri mentioned that we received \$1,042.00 from the grant that Tod wrote.

BUDGET

None of the Board members or the Chief received any feedback or comments on the published budget. Therefore, it was M/S/P (Brafford/Avgeris) to approve the budget as sun shined at the March meeting. Peggy will sign the document and sent it to the State. The Board thanks the budget committee, Sharron Halvorson, Lisa Buttrey and Karen Dwyer, once again, for their excellent and timely work on the budget.

CHIEF'S REPORT

Steve reported that we had four calls since the last meeting. One medical, one wild land, one structure and one false alarm. He reported that Battalion Chief Jeff Burns will be leaving his post as Chief and reassigned to a different billet. A new person will be appointed.

US Cell had difficulty during the winter of 2008 and has removed their equipment. The signal was not available due to the severe weather nor were they able to get to the equipment over the Siskiyou. The location at the station, without an auxiliary generator, also created problems with other users. Thus, they will not be renewing the contract with us, which ends in October of this year. The loss of revenue to CRFD is \$7,200 a year. \$1,200 of this is in offset payments for electricity and \$6,000 is rental income.

We will hope to make up the shortfall through additional, non-budgeted revenue through rental income with the equipment.

Steve reported that both 44-10 and 44-12 have incurred unexpected vehicle expenses. Once completed, they will be in excellent mechanical shape but the two vehicles are old and have, due to limited budget resources, been running without preventative maintenance.

Steve reported that he has received no further responses on hose bed bids. Since we are getting close to fire season, we will wait on this until after this fire season is over. Steve will explore possible sources in Siskiyou County as well.

Steve met with the railroad people. The problem with the ties is throughout their system, from Weed to Eugene. Steve suggested they contact Bio Mass in White City since they have equipment that burns at much higher temperatures and they might be able to burn the ties with creosote safely. The railroad representative told Steve they must pay \$26 a tie to recycle them. The Bio Mass option might be a much better deal for them.

Steve reported that we wouldn't meet our minimum hours for training requirements for the state of Oregon. The lack of regular attendance was one of the reasons that prompted Steve to propose pay per call. Some members of the Board believe we need to revisit this issue. Steve is planning to send a questionnaire out to all volunteers in November, asking for information from them about training, dates, times, etc. Peggy suggested it be carefully constructed in a multiple-choice format so that some sense of agreement on particular issues can be ascertained. There will also be places for comments.

Carolyn mentioned her concern that she wasn't sure her attendance at training was needed and that others may feel the same. She stated that she believes we need to make more effort to communicate clearly with all volunteers and to let them know they are appreciated. Steve pointed out that anyone was welcome to attend. The dates are announced and posted on the website and individual invitations are not issued. The community is invited and welcome if they want to be engaged in firefighting. Volunteers performing non-firefighting duties, that require no training, are not required to attend training (for example, persons directing traffic or bringing food to the fire lines). Carolyn mentioned attending helped her if she was dispatching. Cheri reminded the Board that the dispatching duties have been, for several years now, assumed by Yreka emergency services. Dispatching is NOT done in the District.

Carolyn mentioned that since our volunteer base is aging, its important to be sure volunteers know their efforts are appreciated.

Steve reported that he notified the county road department that the water hole at Four Corners had muddy water and that was getting into the water tender, causing problems. The county sent a crew to clean out the water source and an individual stopped and told them they were destroying the fairies that lived in the water. They ceased work until their supervisor drove up from White City and contacted Steve who informed them that this

was a request/order from the Fire Department and a private citizen had no authority to interfere in the work.

Steve informed the Board of the incident in the event that this should come up in another context. Peggy said the citizen should probably be cited for something since this is a waste of county resources (people stopping work).

GOOD OF THE ORDER – KIOSKS

Peggy brought up the idea of building kiosks in two or three areas of the District. Betsy came up with the idea since the fire cards that were sent to residents, were posted and ripped off the post. The budget had been posted at the top road by Sharron about five times and ripped down five times.

Having a place for the District to post important fire safety information and notices would be important. Some kind of Plexiglas could be used and locked so that information wouldn't be destroyed or disappear. Betsy mentioned that perhaps a grant could be written as this would come under community education. Betsy offered to maintain the kiosks if they are built.

It was M/S/P (Avgeris/Thomas) to authorize putting up at least two kiosks, one at either end of the District.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be Friday, June 19th at 6:00 pm at the Hilt Church. (Note this is the third, not the second Friday). This meeting will include a closed/executive session with only the elected Board and the Chief present. The topic of the closed session is personnel.

It was M/S/P (Avgeris/Thomas) to adjourn the meeting at 7:15 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Peggy A. Moore