

**COLESTIN RURAL FIRE DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
September 3, 2010**

PRESENT: Cheri Avgeris, Tod Davies, Peggy Moore, Teri Thomas, Cindy Warzyn, Steve Avgeris, Betsy Bradshaw.

ABSENT: None

MINUTES

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

TREASURER'S REPORT

Cheri passed out the financial documents. She reported that we have \$5,401.86 in the regular account and \$30, 376.57 in the state treasury. There are no unusual bills due.

CHIEF'S REPORT

Steve reported that there were two incidents since the last Board meeting. One was a wild land fire and the other a vehicle fire. The wild land fire was a 2.5 acre fire on Bailey Hill. Several board members noted the number of fires in the Hornbrook area. Steve commented that if that were in our District he would be very concerned.

Steve reported that the hazard trees in the "burbs" are gone. Tod commented she noticed and was appreciative.

Steve reported that one engine failed last night due to a faulty battery. The battery was only two years old so that should not have happened. It was the engine we received from Cal Fire and they are required to take the lowest bidder on equipment so that might have been the problem. Steve will be replacing the battery.

The radio in Steve's pick up is not working. This is the fourth time the radio has been problematic. Steve and the folks at Cal Fire all believe it has been faulty from the beginning and they are going to try and get an adjustment from the manufacturer. In the meantime, Steve will need to get another radio that works. These could cost \$900.

PICNIC

Cindy and Cheri looked through old receipts and the plates and cutlery stored at the Church. We don't have the actual receipt from last year so we don't have the quantities we purchased. This year we will keep a record of quantities so that we will know more accurately for next year.

There were over 100 people last year so we can expect about the same number this year. The Board agreed that we would serve hamburgers (100) veggie burgers (get either 20 or 40), hot

dogs (maybe 50), one carrot cake and one chocolate cake, small bags of chips, tortilla chips for Sharron's salsa, corn, pasta salad and three watermelons. Beverages should be mostly water but some soda like Pepsi and coke and maybe 7-up.

Cindy asked the board to arrive at 10:30 to set up. Cheri will cut up the tomatoes and onions at the church. Alissa will store the cakes and have ice ready to bring down. Cindy also asked the Board to bring coolers, large bowls and cutting boards and knives and serving spoons.

There will be three b b ques, including one for only veggie burgers.

Cindy will keep track of the amount of different items and will do the shopping at Costco.

Betsy has sent out cards to the community and Sharron will have the two banners changed for the correct date and time. (This will be at no charge as that was the agreement with the sign company).

KIOSK

Betsy sketched a rough design for Steve Meads who will develop a plan for it. Peggy told Steve there were others interested in bidding on it as well. Once the design is available Steve will give us a bid as will Alex and Phillip.

GRANTS

Tod reminded the Board that the money from the \$20,000 VFA grant must be spent by December 31st and all reimbursement claims submitted by January 14th. The Board agreed that claims should be submitted well in advance of the deadline.

REIMBURSEMENT / STIPENDS

Teri researched the costs for providing up to \$360 a year to firefighters. The IRS allows a volunteer fire district to provide \$360 a year which neither the individual nor the district needs to report to the IRS. Based on last year's responses, Teri estimates that if both assistant fire chiefs were compensated \$360 and each firefighter received \$30 a month if they responded to or called in on a page, CRFD would have spent \$2,280 last year had this policy been in place.

Tod stated that her goal is to continue to move us forward as a Fire District, including some kind of compensation for firefighters who actually respond or call in.

Peggy asked if we had a policy for paying this stipend, did Teri think more people would call in. She thought they would. So, the money could even double in terms of cost. The Board asked Steve what his thoughts were on implementing a policy and he thought it was a good idea. His concern has been that some volunteers selectively respond to pager calls and this might encourage more volunteers to respond to even the less "interesting" calls.

The Board agreed that we should try this on a one year basis and evaluate its effectiveness both in motivation and cost. Tod pointed out that we are in a pretty good place financially due to successful grants, engines and the water tender that we are able to rent out and receive income on and the planning that Steve and the Board have done in terms of purchasing equipment and engines. It was M/S/P (Thomas/Warzyn) to ask Tod and Teri to write a letter to the volunteers explaining the new policy. The elements to include in the letter are that it would begin October 1st; people would be “counted” as responding if they called in as available, and it is a trial for one year and will be evaluated after that. The money is not budgeted so will come from reserves for this first year. If it works, it can become a line item in the budget. It should be pointed out to the volunteers that this money is non-taxable.

In the letter the volunteers should be told about the \$150.00 amount that is available to reimburse for fire boots.

There being no further business, it was M/S/P (Davies/Warzyn) to adjourn the meeting at 7:25 pm.

NEXT MEETING

Due to schedules, the next meeting will be the third Friday of the month, October 15th at the Hilt Church at 6 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Peggy A. Moore