

**COLESTIN RURAL FIRE DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
FEBRUARY 11, 2014**

PRESENT: Pam Haunschild, Alissa Lipking, Teri Thomas, Peggy Moore, Cindy Warzyn, Steve Avgeris.

ALSO PRESENT: (Budget Committee) Lisa Buttrey, Karen Dwyer, Sharron Halvorson

ABSENT: None

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm at the Hilt Church

MINUTES

It was M/S/P (Lipking/Warzyn) to approve the minutes of the January meeting as distributed.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Teri sent out the report that Lisa prepared via email. Hard copies were provided at the meeting. The checking account has \$4,479.90 and the State Treasury account has \$76,719.89. Teri reported that she received a notice that Workers Comp rates will increase by 17.9% for this coming year. This is as a result, apparently, of claims from others in the insurance group we are in. Cindy noted that last year it was up about 15%. This is about a 1/3 increase in two years. We can earn up to a 10% credit for filing out appropriate paperwork and another 4% if we do Board training sessions. These can be done by physically attending training sessions or by watching DVD's on specific subjects like discrimination, Board ethics, etc. Alissa offered to watch several of the DVD's and report back to the Board. Teri will note that to the insurance carrier.

BUDGET COMMITTEE

The Board thanked the budget committee for attending. The Chief passed out the "wish list" for this year which included a pole saw (725.00), 1 ½ inch hose (200 feet for \$6,040), 2 ½ inch hose (\$848), and a portable pump (\$1,429). The total amount requested is slightly over \$9,000. Lisa suggested that some of the current hose – which is outdated in terms of legal requirements – could be sold to individuals in the Valley for personal use.

Pam will be applying for the matching grant (\$10,000 matched by \$10,000 from CRFD) and all of this should qualify.

Steve brought up an equipment need. He believes a variety of factors converge to create the problem of finding more volunteers for fire fighting. These include an aging population in the Valley, lack of jobs locally and others. Up until very recently, he has kept a cat rigged for firefighting at his home. Circumstances have dictated that the vehicle be sold. We do not currently have a cat in the District that can be quickly taken to a fire. Of course cats would be

summoned from Klamath Falls, Jackson County, California but none would be here in less than an hour.

He is recommending that CRFD purchase a small tractor for fire fighting. Steve will lease his truck, only when needed for fire work, to the District in order to keep the insurance on it legal. The tractor can then be trucked to a fire for initial attack.

The cost of a used tractor is between \$20 and 25,000. An additional \$3,000 would probably be needed to outfit it. Teri reported that we have the money in reserves to purchase it immediately. It, too, would qualify for the grant. There was a good deal of discussion about the safety factor and need for having an initial attack machine in the District, ready to go. The cost of it is the cost of outfitting about four firefighters. The tractor will provide more fire safety than people digging hand line. Steve will investigate what is available and bring it back to the Board.

The budget committee members or member will return in March with a rough budget.

EMERGENCY PLAN UPDATE

Peggy thanked Lisa for her leadership on this project. Many of the 12 groups have met with their neighborhoods and both Lisa and Peggy are pleased with the progress. We will need to have radios for emergency use by the leaders and co-leaders in the Valley. These only need the Colestin frequency on them. Steve believes we have about 12 so we would need to purchase another 12.

RESPONSE CALLS

Steve reported that there was one call since the last meeting. It was a vehicle call from I-5.

HILT UPDATE

Alissa passed out the previous letter she sent on behalf of the Hilt Board to Hilt residents about donations. Hilt does not have a tax base and the residents in the Colestin District should not be called on to provide the funding for Hilt. Alissa will send an update letter, requesting donations of \$200 a year per household.

In addition, those on contract with CRFD, outside the District, are all delinquent in payments to us per their contract. At least some have received a letter from CRFD, notifying them that the contract is null and void due to lack of payment. The Board suggested we, not the Chief, send a letter reminding them of their contract, advising them that they can “re up” their contract if they send back payments to us.

NEXT MEETING

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

It was M/S/P (Warzyn/Lipking) to adjourn at 6:55 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Peggy Moore