

## **COLESTIN RURAL FIRE DISTRICT**

### **BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING**

**March 11, 2014**

**PRESENT:** Pam Haunschild, Alissa Lipking, Peggy Moore, Teri Thomas, Cindy Warzyn, Steve Avgeris. Also present: Lisa Buttrey, Sharron Halvorson.

**ABSENT:** None

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

#### **MINUTES**

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

#### **TREASURER'S REPORT**

Teri and Lisa emailed the report prior to the meeting. We have \$3,644.67 in the checking account and \$76,957.57 in the Treasury account.

#### **BUDGET COMMITTEE**

Lisa and Sharron were present from the committee. They handed out a comparison of 2013 revenues and expenditures and a proposed 2014 budget. Of note: since the cell phones are rarely used, they propose we get rid of them and save several hundred dollars a year. The items in the following accounts are different from the present budget: volunteer recruitment is down; vehicle repair is up (the Chief requested more money), a slight increase in revenue from donations is suggested.

Teri suggested in spring we review our current bank since we seem to be incurring more fees at America West. Lisa and Alissa suggested Rogue Valley Federal Credit Union which appears to be more community friendly. Alissa will get information from them and Teri will visit with them after tax season.

The portable pump and the pole saw are included in the budget but could be offset by grant money if we receive any this year.

Sharron noted that three volunteers have been recertified for 2 years as EMR's. The District pays for the cost of the classes.

After some discussion, it was M/S/P (Thomas/Warzyn) to accept the proposed 2014-15 budget as a tentative budget and sunshine it for at least 30 days. Sharron will let us know when it is ready to be posted and that will begin the 30 day period. We can then adopt the final budget at the May meeting for submission to the state in June.

## **CHIEF'S REPORT**

There was one call this month which was cancelled on route.

Steve informed the Board that the Hornbrook Station is closed. CRFD, Montague and Yreka will pick up the calls, assisted by Cal Fire. Problems with the Board and the firefighters caused the closure. There will be a community meeting shortly and Steve will attend, as will Cal Fire and a variety of Siskiyou County personnel. It is a very serious situation and Steve will help where he can but not become involved in the politics which has haunted this district for some time.

Steve reported there were 15 volunteers at the first training, including two new fire fighters. He informed the Board that he has decided that if a volunteer doesn't attend at least one of the first two trainings, he will ask them to turn in their gear.

The Board discussed this although it is squarely in the area of responsibility of managing the Fire District which falls to the Chief. While there might be some concerns among those asked to either attend trainings or turn in their gear, the following points were made:

It costs about \$5,000 to outfit a fire fighter. With an annual budget of \$35,000 that would allow us to outfit 7 firefighters until we exhausted our budget. That would mean no money for gas, repairs, insurance, and equipment. We can't have expensive gear out with people who intend to come if there is a big fire but not respond as members of the volunteer force to calls they don't want to respond to. We have a financial responsibility to manage resources. We also have firefighters waiting for gear in order to train and respond. The Board voiced their support for the Chief's decision.

Steve agreed with the decision to cancel the cell phones. Sharron offered to collect them as they can be resold on line, which Sharron will ask Michael to do.

Steve reported that he spent a good deal of time making trips to Portland and other places in Oregon to look for Cats. He found one in the Midwest but it would cost almost \$2,000 to get out here. By the time he was in a position to buy it, it was gone. He did, however, locate one from American Tractor. It's a John Deer 450E crawler dozer (1986) for \$23,500. It will cost an additional \$3 to 4,000 for fire curtains, light bar and head set. The machine can replace over 30 firefighters on a line.

There was discussion about the cost since it is not clear that the grant would find \$10,000 of this. Teri reported that we have about \$60,000 in reserves. The Board discussed the critical need for this piece of equipment based on Steve's recommendation. Our reserves are very healthy due to previous grants, income from the water tender and light fire years. Given all of those reasons and the lack of numbers of firefighters it was M/S/P (Haunschild/Lipking) that we purchase this dozer and the required equipment (fire curtains, light bar, etc) The total amount authorized for the purchase is \$25,000. Steve would need to come back to the Board for any amount over that. The price of \$23,500 is FOB and will be cleaned and painted before leaving the shop. Steve expects it will be in the District by May. Steve noted that there are currently 6 operators who

must also have fire gear like a shelter, etc. that are certified to run the dozer. There will be a class, once the dozer is here, for the 6 to refresh and others to train if they wish. Cindy pointed out that we are very fortunate in that we have the necessary equipment (thanks to Steve) to transport the dozer to the fire. If we did not, we would have to purchase that as well.

### **GRANT**

Pam asked for the description of the hose and portable pump and pole saw for the grant that is due in early April. Steve provided it and Pam will finish up the grant and submit it.

### **HILT**

Alissa reported that she sent out 30 donation letters to the Hilt residents, hoping to receive donations since they are not in a tax base and we receive no revenue from them. She also asked for any who might be interested in volunteering.

### **NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting will be on Tuesday, April 8<sup>th</sup> at 6 pm at the Hilt Church.

It was M/S/P (Lipking/Warzyn) to adjourn the meeting at 7:45.

Respectfully submitted,

Peggy Moore