

**COLESTIN RURAL FIRE DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
March 17, 2017**

PRESENT: Pam Haunschild, Peggy Moore, Cindy Warzyn, Alissa Lipking (arrived 5:00 work), Lisa Buttrey, Sharron Halvorson, Steve Avgeris.

GUESTS: John Vial, Chad Helvby, Carl Rhoten (Jackson County Road Department Management)

ABSENT: Teri Thomas (excused)

The meeting was called to order at 4:05 at the Hilt Church. A quorum was established.

Peggy welcomed our guests from the Jackson County Road Department and thanked them for coming. Peggy asked Steve to review some of the concerns we had this past winter.

Steve cited two areas of concern 1) snow removal which causes upper Colestin to go to one lane. 2) The condition of the road.

Going to one lane forces the District to close upper Colestin Road to emergency service vehicles which occurred this past winter. Putting the District out of service is a serious action and leaves the residents without local emergency fire and medical services.

With respect to the road, Steve reviewed the history from his perspective which included when the county went from rock to DG. Doing so without a base causes issues with the road. John Vial agreed that there is not enough rock on the road and stated that the plan, once we are out of winter conditions, is to put more rock on the road to begin building a base.

He reminded the Board that the rock began to evolve into wash boarding on the road which caused complaints from the residents. The DG takes care of that problem but creates other problems. Steve stated that the wash boarding occurs because of people's driving habits, including driving too fast.

A discussion followed with Road management staff about issues they face in unusual weather conditions. They are responsible for 960 miles of road throughout the county. This season, the least amount of snow anywhere was 8 inches during the worst of the storm. They go to the areas which impact the greatest number of people first. Because of impact, including potential accidents, the cities are dealt with first. Then the more rural areas. It is primarily a resource issue, both equipment and people.

Fortunately these kinds of more severe and unusual situations occur about every ten years. Steve suggested maybe contracting out in these situations. They will consider this. They have been providing additional training to operators since the need to effectively move the tailings from the road so that the road can continue to be used is of concern.

They provided the Board with a handout indicating the number of hours during the worst part of the storm this year and the cost, which was over \$82,000. Peggy will ask Betsy to post this for the community's edification on the website.

Peggy also suggested that just prior to winter; CRFD will notify and remind the community that if we have a bad storm, the road crews may not get down here quickly. Chief Avgeris is the point person for contact and information and should be notified so we can notify the community.

The meeting was very productive and we will be continuing to partner with the department and agreed to communicate with them directly to report actual conditions here. Peggy will send them a thank you letter.

The regular meeting of the Board began at 5:00

MINUTES

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

TREASURER'S REPORT

Teri forwarded the complete report to the Board. Lisa commented that the report showed we continue to be on target with spending.

BUDGET

Lisa and Sharron reviewed the budget with the Board. Jackson County is paying us in full and has been for the past year or so. Lisa reported that the County takes on the liability if all money is not collected. This has apparently worked.

The Chief's wish list was funded in its entirety, for which he thanked the committee. Additional money has been allocated to clothing and radios and pagers.

It was M/S/P (Warzyn/Lipking) to approve the preliminary budget for "sun shining." Lisa will send Betsy a PDF of the budget and L1.

Pam mentioned that she and Steve have a 20,000 gallon storage tank (underground) which CRFD can use. Steve will go up and look and discuss with Pam. This will be in addition to the tank John Marin has which the District will help to put in service.

CHIEF'S REPORT

Steve reported that training will begin on April 21st. He had been waiting for confirmation from Cal Fire but people need to begin to plan so Betsy has put these dates on the website and will be mailing notification cards soon. The dates are April 21st, May 5th, May 19th, June 2nd and June 16th. More dates can be added if needed.

There have been four calls since the last meeting. Two vehicle calls, one medical and one big rig.

Steve purchased the new Squad for under the amount the Board authorized. He believes it is a good engine and Town and Country Chevrolet did a safety check on the vehicle and it passed satisfactorily. He put new tires on it and it is currently getting the light bars and radios. It will then be ready for signage.

Steve would like to put a slip in water pump unit in it but the bid was \$11,000 which is not within our means. Steve will investigate further and may do it himself.

He is looking at a Cal Fire engine, model 14, to replace 44-13. Cal Fire had discontinued its practice of allowing districts to inexpensively purchase surplus. They are starting up a single item sale process. We are first on the list. Steve spoke with Ben Stott about this need and Ben is happy to consider funding it through the Tides foundation up to \$10,000. Cal fire has agreed to rent out one engine during fire season (much as they did with the water tender in the past which resulted in about \$20,000 income to the District).

It was M/S/P (Warzyn/Haunschild) to approve up to \$15,000 for the purchase of the Cal Fire engine.

Cindy brought up the Fire Cat. She and Steve believe it could be rented out during winter for snow removal. Cindy raised concerns about insurance, wages for the operator, etc. Lisa and Teri will investigate different possibilities and get back to the Board on possibilities. Steve also suggested it could be simply contracted out to an approved operator who would carry insurance and deal with the wages.

GRANTS

Betsy sent Pam a possible grant. It's a good one for fire suppression but the minimum amount is \$100,000 and requires a \$ 100,000 match. Given that, we decided not to apply. Pam has room in the potential 2017 VFA grant for a 5,000 gallon water storage tank. Lisa suggested maybe purchasing a couple of 5, 000 gallon tanks and the hardware to tie them together. It's easier to maneuver smaller tanks and gives us more flexibility.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be on April 14th at 6 pm at the Hilt Church.

It was M/S/P (Lipking/Warzyn) to adjourn at 6:00.

Respectfully submitted

Peggy Moore