

**COLESTIN RURAL FIRE DISTRICT  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING**

**February 8, 2019**

**PRESENT:** Pam Haunschild, Peggy Moore, Teri Thomas, Cindy Warzyn, Steve Avgeris. Also present: Budget committee members Lisa Buttrey and Sharron Halvorson.

**ABSENT:** Tod Davies (excused)

The meeting came to order at 6:03 pm. A quorum was established.

The following items were added to the Agenda. ISO letter; letter to the community, communication.

**MINUTES**

It was M/S/P (Thomas/Warzyn) to approve the minutes as corrected and redistributed.

**TREASURER'S REPORT**

Teri provided an electronic version of the financial information. In addition, hard copies were passed out. We have \$9,240.17 in the checking account and \$108,303.88 in the Treasury account. Pam asked for clarification on one item which Teri will check and send along the response. No pending big expenses that are not in the budget. With the potential of a Class 8B insurance rating, we will need to purchase several items to be in line with the 8B requirements.

**BUDGET DISCUSSION**

Peggy thanked Sharron, Lisa and Karen for agreeing to serve once again as the Budget Committee. Steve shared his "wish list." Some of these are required by a Class 8 rating and some are needed to properly function. The total for the four items is \$ 12,200 roughly. They include: 1) a generator for the office and general power at Fire Station One. The current generator was donated by a member of the community. Steve thinks he might get up to \$1,500 for it but it needs significant work. He wants a 20KW generator from Hardy which will run about \$10,000. He proposes the District put \$4,500 into it and he will put the balance of \$5,500 since it also connects to his house as well as the office. 2) 2 Honda generators which will go on two of the trucks for use in the field. These are required for the Class 8 rating and stay on the trucks. We would like to have 2 additional generators for the other trucks.

3) Two SCBA's plus spare bottles out of our reserves. We would need an additional 4 as soon as possible before May 1<sup>st</sup> when the class 8 rating goes into effect. These would each need a spare bottle as well. SCBA's DO NOT qualify for traditional grant money so would need to be purchased directly by the District or under the new grant opportunity offered by the Students matching another grant which raised \$ 500,000 for volunteer departments in Josephine and Jackson County for equipment. Grants will be awarded up to \$25,000 per department. Pam will

be applying for this grant and we'll use the SCBS's and bottles as some of the requested items. The SCBS's used will run \$2,500. The total for the number actually needed is \$15,000 plus the cost of the spare bottles. 4) Akron hose for 1 inch hose for about \$700.

The budget committee feels comfortable bringing the first draft of the proposed budget to the March 8<sup>th</sup> meeting. After review and suggestions the committee will propose a tentative budget at the April 9<sup>th</sup> meeting.

Peggy inquired about a holding tank in the lower valley. Jud Parsons offered a steel tank for the Ski Road area which is very solid and heavy. The tank we just purposed was \$7,000 delivered. Steve is looking for a central place to put a holding tank in the lower valley.

### **ISO**

Steve and Peggy each received a letter from the ISO, that effective May 1<sup>st</sup> CRFD and Hilt Fire Company have both been granted a Class 8B. Peggy wants the Board to formally accept this change which will save most residents a substantial amount of money. Sharron said she was quoted \$700 a year from her company. Steve suggested that the savings will basically cover the amounts most people pay for fire protection thus making that "free." Peggy's concern is the number of firefighters required by the new category to respond to a structure fire.

The Board spent time reviewing the situation, discussing potential liabilities to the District should we not have the minimum number of trained firefighters responding and agreed that we should accept the rating as long as Steve presents this to the firefighters along with the potential dangers to the District and its residents if we are not able to count on firefighters responding. Steve will inform them that if there is a structure fire, all fire fighters must respond. Cal Fire will also send one or two engines so that can back us up on numbers.

Should we fail to have the minimum trained firefighters respond and be ready to go in IF NEEDED, we would lose our Class 8 b and go back to a Class 9 . Steve said since most structure fires that are 30% involved go down and firefighters stay outside, hosing and keeping it contained. CRFD has a 50% save rate, which the ISO was very impressed with.

Steve will provide the Budget Committee and the Board with a list of all equipment needed, that we don't have, for the Class 8B rating.

It was M/S/P (Thomas/Warzyn) to allocate donation dollars and other grant money to outfit engines with hose, ladders, spare bottles and SBCA's to be in compliance with the Class 8B requirements.

Cindy suggested it is a good faith effort on the Board's part to use reserves if necessary to show support for the firefighters with the equipment.

### **CHIEF'S REPORT**

Steve reported five calls since the last meeting. Two smoke alerts, one possible structure fire (didn't occur); one traffic call, one big rig brake fire.

SB 360 is on the books but not being enforced at this time.

Daryl Laws has been appointed second in command thus leaving the liaison position which Daryl filled open. A new person has been appointed and Steve will be working with him.

Steve will have the training dates at the March meeting. The first 5-6 (besides the initial meeting) will be conducted by the new Cal Fire person and will focus on structure fires.

Steve received a visit from a Special Districts representative which focused on Worker's Comp issues. Steve will meet with Teri to discuss further.

### **BOARD ELECTIONS**

The Board reminded the Chair that we held elections in the summer. No action is currently needed.

### **PIO**

Tod sent a written report to the Board prior to the meeting. The phone is up and running.

### **GRANTS**

Pam reviewed the particulars of the new grant opportunity from Josephine County, mentioned above. We will be applying for \$25,000 for necessary equipment not covered by the matching grant we receive each year.

### **COMMUNICATION AND LETTER TO THE COMMUNITY**

These two items were brought forth by Lisa. The first was shared by Firefighter John Ames and his group on Goat Ranch Road. They often have problems with phone service up there and they suggested that the District purchase CB radios for each "pod" leader. Steve mentioned CB radios are about \$40 and with an antenna it's about \$50-60 per unit. Lisa reported there are 13 "pods" so that total cost would be about \$650. The Board will review this and it could be a new budgeted item.

Based on her discussions with some District residents in the course of updating the phone tree, Lisa thinks the community doesn't know what's going on and a "Dear Neighbor" letter (about one page) should be crafted and sent to the community. Peggy mentioned the website and also at what point do the individual residents need to make some effort given the information that is already available on the website, in the kiosks, on face book, etc.

The Board thanked Lisa for offering to write the letter with input from our PIO Tod who should review it so that the continuity and information is consistent. Steve is interested what response we'll get from it.

**NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting will be March 8<sup>th</sup> (International Women's Day) at 6pm. Prominent on the agenda will be the tentative budget proposal.

It was M/S/P (Haunschild/Warzyn) to adjourn at 7:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Peggy Moore