

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

**June 11, 2019**

**PRESENT:** Tod Davies, Pam Haunschild, Peggy Moore, Teri Thomas, Steve Avgeris

**ABSENT:** Cindy Warzyn

The meeting was called to order at 6:05 pm and a quorum was established.

**MINUTES**

It was M/S/P (Davies/Haunschild) to approve the May minutes as corrected and distributed.

**TREASURTER'S REPORT**

Teri sent out the Financials and also distributed them. We have \$ 12,201.74 in the checking account and \$ 99,249.46 in the Treasury account. We are still holding \$ 10,000 "in trust" for the Engine. Steve will report more about this in his Chief's Report.

We received a check from the Josephine County Youth Foundation. Teri will get a picture of the equipment and Steve standing next to it to send to the Youth Foundation. This grant is good for four years and so we need to plan on attending the event which announces the winning departments.

Teri also sent a personal thank you to the students.

The Board signed the volunteer reimbursement checks and these will be sent to the firefighters. The amount was greater than usual, primarily due to the Klamathon Fire.

Teri also provided the Board with a detailed listing of both the percent each fire fighter had of the possible total of the calls as well as the number of calls responded to. Besides the Chief, Sharron Halvorson was the firefighter who most responded. Margo and Steve Beamer and Karen Dwyer were all above 30% of responses.

**SAFETY POLICY**

We were "called on" our lack of an adopted Safety Policy. Teri has been working with the appropriate agency regarding a policy which she presented to the Board for adoption. This policy has different time frames for reporting and meetings. They will be quarterly rather than monthly. We need to identify a Safety Officer. Steve asked about how much time a quarter a person would need to devote to the task. Teri thought a few hours a quarter would meet the requirements for the safety issues. This includes the written report.

It was M/S/P (Thomas/Davies) to approve the draft policy as presented. The Board discussed some possible people who might be invited to assume this role. It must be someone Steve is

comfortable working with as well as someone in close proximity to the main fire station for convenience. The Board authorized Steve to identify a person and offer them the position.

### **CHIEF'S REPORT**

We had one traffic incident and one structure/wild land fire since the last meeting. The fire was easily contained without significant damage.

#### **Fire season began June 1, 2019.**

Steve reported that due to budget issues with large fires last year, Cal Fire will only have one engine per station in California until July 8<sup>th</sup>. There is some risk involved in this because of the need to quickly contain a fire. Cal Fire has been asking local districts for a commitment to respond to fires with engines. Steve promised to respond as possible but he did not commit the District to a certain number of responders or engines.

The \$10,000 we had set aside for an engine is still there because Steve spoke with appropriate Cal Fire personnel and they informed him that a number of the engines up for purchase have sat on the lot for up to four years. It would be unwise to put in a bid without first examining the engines which will take several hours.

There may be a second round of engines available, including Engines 14. Everyone wants them. Steve will go down to Sacramento and examine available engines before putting in a request for a specific engine.

Steve reported that the water system is finished. We have 20,000 gallons of potable water to draw on for a fire. Cal Fire Officials came up to examine the system and said they have never seen a volunteer department with such a strong storage system. This is a major accomplishment and Steve thanked the Board for their support and active engagement in getting this done.

### **BOARD ELECTIONS RESULTS**

There are 172 voters in the Valley. The turnout for this election was 16.28% which is about 28 voters. Teri received 26 votes plus a write in. Cindy received 27 votes and Tod 25 votes plus a write in. Steve will certify the election and the winning candidates will receive official notification from the county.

### **WATER TENDER**

Steve is retiring from his logging business and can no longer carry insurance on the low bed used to carry the fire cat. He outlined several options. Since it is essential for a quick response to have a way to haul the cat in a fire, Steve will lease the low bed for \$1.00 a year and the District will carry the insurance.

The amount will be less since it will be the fire district carrying the insurance and not a business.

## **BUDGET PROCESS**

Steve expressed his unhappiness with the new budget system. He spoke to another volunteer (a large one) department and they have a little different approach. The Chief is the Budget Officer. There is a budget committee and a public sun shining process as well as a Board adoption process.

It makes sense that the Chief is the budget officer since most of the non routine expenses are related to the Chief's annual requests. The Board discussed the new convoluted system and it was M/S/P (Davies/Haunschild) to name the Chief as the Budget Officer and proceed with the appropriate process for presenting the budget to the public and the Board.

## **PIO REPORT**

Tod requested that the subject of Official ID's in the event of closures in the Valley for firefighters and first responders so they are not "locked out" of entering the Valley to report for duty be put on the agenda for the July meeting.

She also mentioned that some guidance needs to happen regarding the PIO (Tod or Pam) responses to a serious emergency. They would need to report as requested by the Chief. Pam and Tod will work to provide a response plan and provide that to the Chief. Basically the Chief will assess and then call the appropriate PIO personnel to engage.

## **GRANTS**

Pam reported that we are still waiting for the grant money.

## **NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting is July 9<sup>th</sup> at 6 pm at the Hilt Church.

It was M/SP (Haunschild/Davies) to adjourn at 7:20 pm

Respectfully submitted

Peggy Moore