

**COLESTIN RURAL FIRE DISTRICT  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING  
JULY 13, 2023**

**PRESENT:** Pam Haunschild, Peggy Moore, Sam Cheney [Gelfand], Teri Thomas

**ALSO PRESENT:** Steve Avgeris, Lisa Buttrey, Truman Stone.

**ABSENT:** Michelle Rooker

The meeting was called to order at 6:05 p.m. A quorum was established.

**MINUTES:** It was M/S/P (Sam/Pam) to approve the minutes of the June meeting as distributed.

**LEGAL MATTERS - DISSOLUTION:**

Peggy thanked Attorney Truman Stone for attending the meeting to discuss the dissolution of the Fire District.

Truman had sent several documents to the Board members and Peggy suggested the Board ask questions of Truman regarding the dissolution process and then discuss the document that, if passed, would allow the District to proceed with the process of dissolution of the Colestin Rural Fire District.

Sam invited Truman to outline the process briefly and so that it is clear in everyone's mind. Truman clearly outlined the process and reminded the Board that CRFD is concerned with the dissolution of the District. The annexation of the former District, should that occur, is the purview of Fire District Five and Truman's firm has been retained by District 5 for that purpose as well.

Truman explained that the first step is for CRFD to be dissolved and Truman outlined a variety of ways that can occur. After a lengthy discussion including some data from Steve about voting patterns in the District, The Board agreed to go forward with a dissolution motion as allowed under Chapter 198 and if it passes then the annexation process as proposed by District 5 would come into play. Once the process is certified, the District would no longer legally exist as it currently is.

Truman pointed out that there are 158 registered voters in the District and we would need **50% PLUS ONE** OF THE VOTERS WHO CAST BALLOTS IN THE NOVEMBER 2023 ELECTION TO VOTE IN FAVOR OF THE DISSOLUTION IN ORDER FOR IT TO PASS.

Steve pointed out that in the most recent election we had about 15% of the eligible voters actually cast ballots. This is a fairly typical percentage.

If the dissolution of the District occurs, CRFD becomes a Board of Trustees to handle final bills, final reports, etc and once the process is certified, the district is dissolved.

It was M/S/P (Sam/Pam) to pass the document that initiates the dissolution, provides a plan for the dissolution and calls for an election of this action on the November 2023 election. The motion passed unanimously.

The copy of this resolution will be signed by the Board Chair and the Treasurer and forwarded to Truman for filing with the County Clerk who will notify the elections office of Jackson County.

Truman requested a meeting of Chief Avgeris and Chief Hanley and himself to go over details and proceed.

The Board thanked Truman for his work thus far and his attendance at the meeting.

### **TREASURER'S REPORT**

Teri will send out a written report, but we reviewed the financials via Zoom screen share. We have \$ 47,342.01 in the checking account and \$ 33,120.20 in the State Treasury account. Those balances include a transfer of \$ 35,000 from the treasury account into checking, so that we are now ready to issue a check to Hilt Volunteer Hose Company. That check will be issued next week, once the transfer is complete.

This grant is part of our fiscal year 23-24 budget. It was approved by the Board to help Hilt with start-up and operational expenses and for costs associated with some of the equipment that will go to District 5 as part of the grant received to provide transitional services of some equipment that will eventually belong to District 5 but be housed in Hilt, as it will continue to serve the Colestin community during the annexation transition and on into the future.

The \$ 35,000 that was received for the staffing grant has not yet been deposited but it will be soon. This grant covers costs for personnel to be stationed here during fire season this year and will be paid to District 5. Steve will discuss the details of this with Chief Hanley at their next meeting. A check will be sent to District 5 once instructions have been received.

### **CHIEF'S REPORT**

Steve reported that there were 4 wildland fires and one vehicle fire since the last meeting.

Steve reported that there will be a Border meeting [between the agencies] on July 15th (tomorrow) to discuss the usual issues.

**(We lost a quorum at 7:00 pm)**

### **BOARD ELECTIONS:**

Steve reported that Sam and Pam were elected to their positions again. Teri never received material from the elections department. Therefore, Teri did not fill out the paperwork and her term ended July 1st [2023].

Absent a quorum, we need to vote by email to fill position 3. Teri is interested and received write-in votes for that position.

Peggy will email the Board for a vote by email to accomplish the filling of Position 3.

**NEXT MEETING:** The next meeting will be Thursday, August 10th, 6pm at the Hilt Church.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Not having a quorum, we cannot formally adjourn the meeting. The meeting ended at 7:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Peggy Moore