

**COLESTIN RURAL FIRE DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
May 11, 2007**

PRESENT: Cheri Avgeris, Carolyn Brafford, Peggy Moore, Teri Thomas, Steve Avgeris.

ABSENT: Mary Jo Trainor

The meeting was called to order at 6 p.m. at the Hilt Church. Teri requested that we add Worker's Compensation to the Agenda.

BUDGET

Peggy reviewed the budget sign off sheet prepared by Budget Committee Chair Sharron Halvorson and noted that the date for sign off needs to be at the June meeting. Cheri pointed out that Sharron needs 20 days prior to the end of June to have the budget sent. Since the normal meeting time, the second Friday of the month, conflicts with two Board member's schedules (graduation), the Board agreed to meet on Friday June 1st at which time they can approve the budget in time for Sharron to submit it to the state.

Carolyn mentioned the need to discuss the added agenda item, worker's comp, prior to final budget approval.

WORKMAN'S COMPENSATION

Cheri provided Teri with the information about a proposed Senate bill in Oregon (SB 560) which would effect worker's compensation. Basically the bill states that if a firefighter contracts cancer, it will be assumed that it occurred as an occupational illness, moving the responsibility to worker's comp. This could TRIPLE the cost of worker's comp to individual departments. Upon closer examination, it appears that volunteer departments can "opt out" of worker's comp in several ways. The Board can remove itself from the worker's comp "arena". (CRFD Board does not fall under worker's comp as determined by the Board) and the volunteers can be removed from worker's comp and thus not affect the worker's comp rates.

CRFD has prided itself in providing worker's compensation coverage for its volunteer firefighters as a small token of appreciation for the dedication and responsibility they encounter as volunteers. We would hate to make this unavailable but must review the District's liability with respect to cost.

Peggy will call Tammy Fitch with Special Districts to inquire about the ramifications of this pending legislation. It appears it has not gone out of committee yet. Peggy will report, in an email, to the Board, her findings. This will be on the June agenda for discussion.

MINUTES

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

TREASURER'S REPORT

Cheri distributed the budget sheets. The general checking account has \$3,944.92. The county account has \$34,646.68 and the savings account has \$1,661.17

Cheri reported that there is no money available from RFA so we were not funded. The proposal, which included money for pole saws and storage compartments on the water tender, will be forwarded to the Grants committee in the hopes that other funding might be available.

ROAD

Peggy passed out copies of the letter of appreciation she sent to Jim Douglas on behalf of the Board.

CHIEF'S REPORT

Steve commented on the incidents since the last meeting. One illegal burn, 3 lightning strikes, one escaped controlled burn. The water tender went on its first incident as well as two CRFD rigs. We will receive money from these.

If conditions don't change, fire season will begin in about ten days. Steve will stop all burning in our area.

Steve is happy to report that the water tender is finished. All necessary work has been done.

The Colestin steward ship project took out 62 loads of material with no problems. The feds are very happy with the results and have taken video footage which will be shared in Washington. This will be a showcase project for fire prevention nationally.

Steve reported that OSHA would be here on Monday to inspect the fire station. Steve believes we have complied with concerns and should be fine.

JULY 4th

While the Board would like to participate in the 4th of July parade we simply do not have the resources in terms of people and time to do so.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be the FIRST Friday in June, June 1st at 6:00 at the Hilt Church.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Peggy A. Moore

