

**COLESTIN RURAL FIRE DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
May 10, 2013**

PRESENT: Pam Haunschild, Alissa Lipking, Peggy Moore, Teri Thomas, Cindy Warzyn, Steve Avgeris, Michael Engelstein.

ABSENT: None

The meeting was called to order at 6:05 pm

MINUTES

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

BUDGET

Teri had emailed the budget and brought extra copies to the meeting. We have \$51,123 in the County account and \$16,836 in the checking account. Teri reminded the Board that part of this money is as a result of the grant that we recently received. Teri reported that we still have Worker's comp to pay. The profit and loss statement reflects the tax amounts to date. It is possible a small amount might still come in this month. Everything else is paid except vehicle maintenance.

We received a letter, congratulating us on our worker's comp claims (we've had none) but the rates for workers' comp are going up 16% for everyone.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Firefighter Michael Englestein requested an opportunity to address the Board. He has been thinking about one of the issues we raised at the first fire fighter training this season regarding communication. He discussed some of the areas he thinks might rectify the communication problem including more frequent post cards or newsletters or other forms of information to the residents. We provided a brief history of the ways we have communicated and do communicate including the newsletter which went out bi monthly for over 10 years, the postcards which go out throughout the year and the website.

Michael believes more frequent communication and post cards that are more simple (i.e. just have an eye catching graphic with No Open Burning on it would catch people's attention. Several of the Board members disagreed. Discussion continued and the Board will think about ways to help people use the information we provide. Steve, in talking to several other Chiefs, stated that they don't send cards or other communication, except official statements about the level of fire danger out to their communities.

Michael also mentioned that the banner we do for the picnic each year should be different. Some residents don't know what CRFD is. It's better to have Fire District Community Picnic or something like that so that people know.

GRANTS

Pam informed the Board that she applied for the Cal Fire Grant with three days lead time. She wondered at the quick turnaround. Steve informed the Board that Siskiyou County applies for the grant but this is the first time it has been funded. And everyone was complaining about the tight turn around. The Board thanked Pam for her quick response. The grant does not fund structures or engines. But any money from the grant will offset some of our expenditures, allowing us to use that money for things the grants won't fund.

Peggy suggested that we have a short planning session at one of the Board meetings so that we agree on a "wish list" of both equipment and any other project that would involve funding so that when Pam is developing a grant, she has an idea of the Board's priority for funding items.

SKI ROAD FIRE STATION

Pam has been unable to contact the Stewarts. Peggy will email Tim again and ask for the status of the land. In addition, she will contact Nancy Bringhurst to get Sheila Maher's contact information about the possibility of her property. It is in a good location and has power so would be less expensive for us. The only down side is snow removal. We believe we might be able to get a contract with county for snow removal for a reasonable fee.

KIOSKS

Betsy sent the Board photos of the area for the Kiosk in the south side. She would like approval for the proposed location, which is on Fruit Growers land. Steve will talk with Fruit Growers. Betsy will contact Brian Dwyer to see if he would be interested in bidding on the project. The Board was enthusiastic about the location and involving Brian.

CHIEF'S REPORT

Steve reported that we had three calls (1 medical, 1 escaped controlled burn, 1 controlled burn from I 5.)

He signed contracts with Cal Fire for both Colestin and Hilt. The Klamath National wants to sign a contract with us this year as well.

44-12 is done except for some wiring. It will then be "lettered" and put into service. Steve is hopeful it will be done by the end of the month.

Steve informed the board that there is concern from some of the volunteers about other volunteers who do not attend all the trainings. They are requesting that those who do not, have

their gear taken back. Some of these folks live out of the area and want to train to respond to wild land fires. Due to distance, they would not be responding to structure fires.

The Board had a lengthy discussion about this issue. The Board's position is as follows: our responsibility is to protect the land and residents within our jurisdiction and policies regarding training, who is equipped, etc. must be decided with regard to that mission. We have barely enough volunteers to handle potential fires and to not allow people to continue to volunteer who do not come to all trainings does not support this goal. Cindy suggested that we might have a pin or something to give those firefighters who do all the training. They are qualified to respond to all calls. The others, a second tier of volunteers, would be required to train a certain number of times to respond to wild land and/or drive the engine. Training would occur it would just not be training in all areas.

The Board encouraged the Chief to communicate the Board's decision to the volunteers who are concerned with this, stressing the ultimate intent to save lives and property.

Steve asked the Board if they are supportive of CRFD calling no open burning ahead of ODF if the Chief believes we are in serious danger by allowing open burning. The Board concurred. Steve will get some NO OPEN BURNING signs and get them up. He will also issue warnings to those ignoring the regulations. And if the warnings are not heeded, will consider citing them into court. We continue to hope that our residents will understand the need for restrictions and will understand they are not put in effect lightly but our mission is to protect residents from fire and this is one way to accomplish this.

BUDGET

Peggy explained that Teri caught an error in the budget and it has not been "sun shined" yet. In order to be in compliance with the 30 day requirement, we will vote on the final budget at the June meeting. It will be posted tomorrow in the Kiosk, at the south end of the Valley and at the fire station. It is already on the website.

NEXT MEETING

Due to conflicts, the June meeting which would normally be held on the 14th will be held on June 7th at the Hilt Church.

It was M/S/P (Warzyn/Lipking) to adjourn the meeting at 7:40 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Peggy A. Moore

