

**COLESTIN RURAL FIRE DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING**  
**March 11, 2016**

**PRESENT:** Pam Haunschild, Alissa Lipking, Peggy Moore, Teri Thomas, Cindy Warzyn, Steve Avgeris

**ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:** Michael Englestein, Lisa Buttrey, Karen Dwyer, Sharron Halvorson

The meeting was called to order at 5:55 and a quorum was established.

**MINUTES**

It was M/S/P (Lipking/Warzyn) to approve the minutes (as corrected) for the February meeting.

**TREASURER'S REPORT**

Teri forwarded the financial report through email and provided hard copies at the meeting. We have \$79,515.59 in the Treasury fund and \$ 11,553.67 in Checking. About \$20,000 of the treasury funds are budgeted but have not yet been spent.

Larger areas not yet spent but allocated in the budget include worker's compensation, fuel and volunteer reimbursement for responding to calls.

The budget committee requested that Steve spend the money allocated. He will do so.

**BUDGET**

The Board thanked the Budget Committee members for attending. Sharron thanked Michael Englestein for serving as he purchasing agent. His work has saved us money.

Steve informed the Board that Jeremy Hanson from Les Schwab Tires in Ashland came out and inspected the tires on five of our six vehicles. The sixth is housed at John Ames home and he was not home to let Jeremy in. Steve will take 4410 to town for inspection.

There is some argument about the interpretation of the five year period for replacing tires. Some believe it should be from the date the tire is put on and other believe it is five years from the date on the tire. Jeremy will confirm which is accurate.

4412 needs 6 new tires immediately at a cost of about \$3,300. 4413 needs tires in the 2016-17 cycle. The other three have some time left on the tires.

These will qualify for the VFD match grant.

Steve reminded the board that if tires are kept out of weather it increases the time the tires will be good.

Steve will have the 6 tires on 4412 replaced immediately.

Peggy requested that the District purchase a laminator to save money from having to have it done by a print shop. Karen has the District's laminator and will arrange to get it to Betsy for use.

There was a discussion about Media expenses and Community Outreach in terms of maintaining both as budget categories. Lisa recommended that in the future we might purchase containers to be housed in both stations that have emergency supplies in the event of a disaster. After discussion it was agreed to keep both categories. The media category is for Betsy to use for community material to educate the community and a small amount should be kept in the Community Outreach category as well.

The Budget Committee pointed out that the increase of 17% in Worker's Comp is included. Dawson CPA has generously donated a third of the cost of providing the accounting. Training expenses increase \$200 to account for the mandatory CPR training every volunteer will have to complete this year.

### **PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE**

Budget Committee members brought up the subject of planning for the future and the possibility of earmarking some of the reserves for future contingencies. The money needs to remain "liquid" so CD's are not an option. Teri reminded the Board that we get the best return on the money by leaving it in the Treasury account.

Primary planning concerns are the age of our population, the lack of volunteers which is exacerbated by the fact that younger people are not moving in, and the perception that many of our residents believe they pay for fire service and therefore do not need to participate. This mythology needs to be dispelled.

Discussion continued around contract services to supplement the volunteer base, hiring a full time (or 2) positions – which we could not afford unless there was an increase in the tax base and other possibilities.

Peggy assured the Budget Committee that this topic has been discussed a number of times and the Board realizes we need a plan. The Board suggested we form a task force with appropriate people from the community and the Board to focus on infrastructure concerns. Peggy asked the committee to suggest people they think might be good to have on such a task force. Steve did an analysis of options and costs some months ago and will bring it to the next Board meeting for additional discussion.

Cindy suggested that the speed signs along Colestin Rd catch attention and perhaps we could do a similar thing about volunteering. We will pursue this.

The Board thanked the Budget Committee for their excellent work. In April, we will review the tentative budget for approval and "sun shining" and vote on a final budget in May.

### **CHIEFS REPORT**

Steve reported that we had one call (a medical) since the last meeting.

He passed out the training schedule and stated that some of the later sessions may need to change from a Friday evening to Saturday for more hours and to be able to train outdoors. There have been requests for more hands-on training.

The new ODF personnel are Lee Winslow- new Unit Chief and Taylor Wilkerson -new South West Unit Supervisor. They will meet with Steve this coming week for a tour of the District and to discuss CRFD's relationship with their agencies.

The Border meetings have “dried up” with the retirement of key Cal Fire and ODF personnel. The Klamath National folks want to resurrect these and one is scheduled for May 17<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 at Callahan’s. Since space is limited few people will be invited. ODF, Cal Fire folks want to schedule another meeting with us in June.

### **GRANTS**

Pam reported that we again have the opportunity to apply for the ODF VFA match grant which is \$10,000 from the grantor and we have to find \$10,000 to match from approved categories. We will immediately buy the six new tires for 4412. Discussion followed about other items that would make the match. Steve’s equipment wish list, purchasing 2 more sets of tires will be needed, training costs and clothing and a fire shelter were also proposed. The grant is due prior to the next Board meeting and Pam will file it and send copies to the Board. .

### **MEETINGS**

We will continue with the Friday meetings in April but return to meeting on the second Tuesday in May until the end of the year.

### **NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting will be April 8<sup>th</sup>. Both Peggy and Pam will be absent. Cindy will check that everyone else will be able to attend.

It was M/S/P (Haunschild/Warzyn) to adjourn the meeting at 7:43.

Respectfully submitted,

Peggy Moore