

**COLESTIN RURAL FIRE DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
January 8, 2010**

PRESENT: Cheri Avgeris, Tod Davies, Peggy Moore, Teri Thomas, Cindy Warzyn, Steve Avgeris, Andy Herskind, Betsy Bradshaw.

ABSENT: None

The meeting was called to order at 6:05 pm after everyone wishing everyone a Happy New Year.

MINUTES

It was M/S/P (Avgeris/Davies) to approve the December minutes as distributed.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Cheri passed out copies of the Rent activity, bank account details, the profit and loss detail and the 07-08 and 08-09 budget for review. The checking account has \$6,673.29 and \$44.17 remaining in the soon to be closed Chase account, which will be transferred to the state account this month. The savings account has \$1,667.70 and the treasury account has \$30,317.79.

Cheri filed the VFT grant. We have already been told we will receive half of the amount we filed for in equipment, which will be over \$11,000.

Cheri and Teri discussed some problems that occurred with the approved budget. When Steve went to find money for items on the wish list, the money wasn't there. It was a problem with placing money in different places in the budget, making it more difficult to find. The budget is balanced and there are no issues with the money itself. Teri suggested that even though the minutes, throughout the year, indicate when items are being paid for out of reserves; it might be best to find an easier way to identify them.

Peggy suggested that she make a list of the items, each time they are approved from reserves, so that the Board and the budget committee can have a clear record of these. The Board agreed this would be helpful and it shall be so.

Cheri also provided the Board with a copy of the itemized coverage from Special Districts for our insurance. This list does not include worker's comp.

Teri wrote a letter to the Secretary of state because the in kind money from the radio grant was shown as income to the District, putting us in a higher class of bond which would cost a lot more money. The Secretary of State reviewed our "Report in Lieu of Audit" and the letter from Teri's office and accepted our explanation that this was a one-

time increase to income allowing us to maintain our current level of bond insurance.

CHIEFS REPORT

Steve provided the Board with a wish list for 2010-11 and a list of items that could qualify for another VFA grant for 2010-11. This is in part for Board discussion in preparation for the meeting with the Budget Committee at the February meeting.

Tod suggested that we amend the list for the VFA to go over Steve's list in order to maximize the amount we could receive from VFA. So Steve combined the lists and the equipment is listed in priority order. The criteria for priority are first, firefighter safety and second fire fighting itself.

- 1) Pass Devices (14) \$6,300.
- 2) Headlamps (20) \$1,200.
- 3) Structure Gear (7) \$10,500.
- 4) Bendix King Radios (6) \$6,600.
- 5) Turn Out Coats flashlights (6) \$420.
- 6) Aqua Puncture 48" (1) and Aqua Puncture 72" (1) \$725.
- 7) Minitor II pagers (10) \$2,350.

Items on the list but not prioritized are Fold Da Tank (1) \$1,045; Floto Pump (1) \$1,995; super saberities (6) \$420.

The Board agreed that we should submit items a little in excess of \$30,000 since we would receive \$15,000 from the VFA grant allowing us to maximize district dollars for essential safety and fire fighting equipment.

Steve reported there were no incidents since the last meeting.

Steve said with great regret, Andy Herskind will be resigning his position as the Hilt Assistant Fire Chief, effective February 1st. Andy has held this position with great distinction for 14 years and Steve stated that it will be almost impossible to replace him. The Board expressed its deep appreciation and gratitude to Andy for his amazing commitment to both the Hilt and Colestin fire departments. He has served with boundless energy, always responding to calls, taking the lead in all situations requiring his expertise and has served as an example of the "firefighter of the year" award he was given last year by Siskiyou County. Andy will be deeply missed.

Carole Herskind has also tendered her resignation from the Hilt Board. We have worked extremely well with the Hilt Board and will miss Carole's leadership and dedication.

Steve reported that the First Responder Class would begin February 13th and continue for 6 weeks. It will be taught by instructors from College of the Siskiyous and will be a community service class, thus no college credits/units will be awarded. Participants

successfully completing the course will be certified. Steve will work with Cal Fire to determine the dates for training. There is a possibility that the SB 190 course could begin prior to the First Responder class. The rest of the training will occur AFTER the first responder course is completed. Cal Fire would like to have the S 190 class finished prior to the first responder class but since the participants are the same people, Steve is reluctant to ask people to give up so much time simultaneously. Steve reported that a survey of active fire fighters resulted in him changing the trainings to Friday nights rather than on Saturdays.

Steve asked the Board if they wish to pay the cost of people taking the first responder class. It should be about \$60 per person plus books. It was M/S (Davies/Waryzn) to pay associated costs for individuals taking the course. In addition, those not being transported to the class by a district vehicle will be reimbursed mileage. Car pooling is encouraged.

Steve reported that we (and all rural districts throughout the United States) continue to have problems with insurance companies recognizing our Class 9 Status. He has sent a letter, formally notifying ISO, of the status. Steve believes this will continue to be a national problem as the insurance companies are paying millions of dollars in claims in rural areas across the nation but particularly in California. We may need to consider a Class 8 in the future. Steve estimates the cost to do so would be about \$25,000. Peggy stated we would need to go to a special tax override but the benefit to all residents in the valley would far outweigh the one time increased cost.

Steve reported that the AEDs were purchased. We should be receiving the VFA grant money of over \$11,000 very shortly.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting is February 12th at 6 pm at the Hilt Church.

There being no further business it was M/S/P (Davies/Warzyn) to adjourn the meeting at 7:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Peggy A. Moore