

Mosier Fire District Board Meeting
Mosier Fire Hall on Washington St.

DATE: September 12, 2013
7:00 p.m.

BOARD: Ken Hudson, Lee Roy Herman, Glenn Bartholomew, Vic Hamilton, Darin Molesworth
STAFF: Fire Chief Jim Appleton, Recorder Tracie Hornung
Absent: Excused: Public: Vaughn Swanson and District Volunteer Pete Wright

CALL TO ORDER – Meeting was called to order by Board President Darin Molesworth at 7:00 p.m.

ADDITIONS OR CORRECTIONS – Added to the Board packet were a list of bills paid

BUSINESS FROM THE AUDIENCE – None

CONSENT AGENDA

1. Approval of Minutes – August 8, 2013
2. Review/Approve Bills

Discussion: Board Member Hudson pointed out that the full board does not know what checks were signed and approved by the board’s designated check signers during the end-of-month bill payment period until after the checks have been sent out. Board Member Bartholomew suggested that bill payment dates be arranged so that all bills can be paid once a month, instead of twice a month as they are now, which would allow the entire Board to agree on payment of each bill at the monthly Board meeting. The idea was approved by unanimous consensus. Bookkeeper/Recorder Hornung said she would begin arranging the bill payment date with vendors.

Board Member Herman asked for details about the Wasco County fuel bill. After a brief discussion with Herman, Hudson and Chief Appleton about the bill, **Board Member Bartholomew made a motion to approve the consent agenda as presented. Board Member Herman seconded. The motion passed unanimously.**

BUSINESS

1. Executive Session for citizen complaint as per ORS 192.660

Board President Molesworth suspended the Board meeting at 7:18 p.m. and opened the Executive Session. The Executive Session was adjourned at 7:24 p.m. and the regular Fire District Board meeting was reconvened.

No action was taken following the Executive Session.

2. Apparatus Use Policy

The Chief’s latest draft of the policy was reviewed by the Board. Board Member Hudson said he would not vote to approve the draft if item #1.D., allowing District personnel to use District-owned apparatus to conduct District business, remained in the policy. Board Member Bartholomew suggested omitting it and to add instead the following sentence to item #3: “In such cases, the fire chief or senior person in command will notify the District Board of the circumstances which required such a deviation from existing District policy.”

Then Chief Appleton brought up agenda item #5: Surplus Tangent 1999 Suburban Available. He said he thought it was a good vehicle for doing District business at a price of \$4,000. A vigorous discussion ensued on the pros and cons of District personnel using their own vehicles for conducting District business, getting their mileage reimbursed, and the issues of Fire District taxes and responsibilities to the taxpayers. Hudson said he supported paying mileage to District personnel when using their personal vehicles for District business. Appleton mentioned his concern that if he used his own vehicle for District business and got into an accident, he would have to use his own vehicle insurance. Board Member Molesworth said he also had that concern.

Board Member Hudson made a motion to not buy the 1999 Suburban. Board Member Herman seconded. District Volunteer Wright asked to speak. His wish was granted and he explained why he supported the District buying the Suburban. Vaughn Swanson also asked to speak and he also explained why he supported the District buying the Suburban. Board Member Bartholomew suggested the District go ahead and buy the vehicle and try it for a year. If it does not work out, he said, the vehicle could be sold. After this discussion the vote was taken. Yeas: Hamilton, Hudson and Herman. Nays: Bartholomew, Molesworth. The motion passed.

Because it was generally agreed that the above vote was confusing, a new vote was taken.

Board Member Bartholomew made a motion to buy the Suburban with the stipulation that after a year an analysis occurs to determine if it was a worthwhile purchase and if not, to sell it. Board Member Hamilton seconded. Yeas: Bartholomew, Molesworth. Nays: Hamilton, Hudson and Herman. The motion failed.

The board returned to the Apparatus Policy.

Board Member Bartholomew made a motion to pass the policy with the changes to items #1 and #3 noted above. Board Member Hudson seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

3. Capital Reserve Update

Chief Appleton explained that the District accumulated \$45,000-\$60,000 last year, and this range is now taking shape as typical of yearly transfers into Capital Reserve. He referred to the Apparatus and Facilities Projection in the board packet, a “wish list” for an arrangement of equipment and buildings in the future. He said the Capital Reserve information provides a tentative idea of what kind of debt the District could incur in order to realize these changes. “We’re doing a good job of shoveling money into that Capital Reserve account and need to start planning how to spend it wisely,” he said. When asked how much a new station would cost, he said he didn’t have a good idea of that but when budgeting for other priorities it leaves about \$600,000 debt that can be devoted to a building. He said he looked at other stations similar to what Mosier Fire District needs and the range is from \$1.5 million on down. He said he hasn’t begun to budget for a building because there is not yet a clear idea of what exactly is needed but said the cost would probably be more than \$500,000. A discussion followed on the Apparatus and Facilities Projection, and District equipment needs. Board Member Hudson said he’d like a breakdown for each year of how many calls the District has received and how many fires it has dealt with since its formation in 2008. The Chief asked if this item could be tabled until the next

meeting and in the meantime he would do some legwork on a replacement truck for B-81 and move ahead with other elements of the Apparatus and Facilities Projection. Hudson said he agreed the District needs a new building and should save money for that rather than buy another truck. Appleton said he expected some grant funding could be found for the building. It was generally agreed to table the issue until the next meeting.

4. Surplus Dexter tender available

The Chief said he thought this would be a good truck for the District. Hudson said it was too big for this area, and he and Molesworth expressed concern about it being a stick shift. No action was taken.

5. Surplus Tangent 1999 Suburban available

See #2 above.

6. OSHA/work comp consultations update

Chief Appleton said he had requested an OSHA consultation for the District but has not yet heard back. He said he would keep the board up to date.

7. Bookkeeper/Recorder request for raise

Hornung said she was asking for a raise from \$16/hour to \$17/hour.

Bartholomew made a motion to approve the request. Molesworth seconded. Yeas: Bartholomew, Molesworth and Hamilton. Nays: Hudson. Abstention: Herman. The motion passed.

8. Chief's Monthly Summary

The Board reviewed the handout of the Chief's Summary, which includes the actions of the volunteers and duties of the Fire Chief for the month of August. Hudson asked about including District income each month in the Board packet. Hornung said she would start doing that.

COMMITTEE REPORTS – None

CORRESPONDENCE – Hornung read letters regarding health insurance, attorney rate increases, and from the state ethics board. Hudson asked if anyone objected to his researching other fire districts to see if he can find a less expensive attorney for Mosier Fire District. There were no objections.

Meeting adjourned at 8:54 p.m.

Approved this ____ day of _____, 2013

Attest:

Board President Darin Molesworth

Tracie Hornung, Recorder