

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

DATE: Jan. 12, 2017  
7:00 p.m.

BOARD: Joanne Rubin (via phone), Phil Evans & Barb Ayers  
Absent: Excused: Joe Sacamano & Darin Molesworth  
STAFF: Fire Chief Jim Appleton & Bookkeeper Rhonda Starling  
MOSIER FIRE VOLUNTEERS & ASSOCIATES: Maggie Goter

CALL TO ORDER – Meeting was called to order by Board Secretary Phil Evans at 7:22 p.m.

ADDITIONS OR CORRECTIONS – None

BUSINESS FROM THE AUDIENCE – Not applicable

#### CONSENT AGENDA

1. Approval of Dec. 22, 2016, Minutes
2. Review/Approve Bills

**Board Member Evans made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Board Member Rubin seconded. The motion passed unanimously.**

#### BUSINESS

##### 1. Volunteer Reports

Volunteers President Maggie Goter noted the Volunteers co-sponsored the Christmas tree lighting with the City of Mosier last month. She said the Volunteers tested the emergency generator at the Grange Hall Monday and it will be ready if there is a power outage.

##### 2. Committee Reports

Chief Appleton said the state-funded “fast track” grant is moving forward. The third meeting of the project management team is next week. They are looking at the third conceptual drawing of the project. They are still working on preliminary ideas so nothing is ready for public dissemination yet. Appleton said he saw two problems; 1) there are still objections to the location near the railroad tracks in town and, 2) the “very first, very rough estimate” of over \$5 million “which I don’t see the community being able to afford.” One reason the cost was high is because the rough proposal was to make the project level with Highway 30; Appleton noted there were ways around that. He showed a floor plan of the project on the office computer monitor. He said community development grants could pay for much of the public area portion of the building. He said he thinks there would be a high degree of interest in this project and noted the fire and EMS community likes the idea of using the building for training because regionally it’s in a central location. Board Member Ayers asked who had expressed interest “because Hood River Fire has a huge station.” Appleton said currently The Dalles must travel to Hood River and vice versa, and

it would be more convenient for them to go to Mosier. A discussion followed about funding. Appleton said if letters of support come from various state and federal agencies it could help with getting grants. Ayers said as a grant writer she was “a little skeptical” and didn’t think letters of support would help much with getting grants. Appleton said he thought the regional hub idea was valuable. Ayers asked if that wasn’t what the Readiness Center already is in The Dalles. She said she is supportive of the project “but deeply disturbed about the price tag” and said she was worried about “scope creep.” Appleton said the Readiness Center is not really a training center as it is dedicated to the National Guard and “when the fire and EMS community has tried to use it it’s been a struggle.” Ayers said the Hood River County building is underutilized and she doesn’t want to see that happen with a Mosier building. She again expressed concern about the cost of the Mosier building. Appleton said the MFD has a borrowing limit. Ayers added that she thought even \$1 million would be too much for Mosier. Appleton said if the community sees the value of the regional hub idea it could be a “win-win.” Ayers said the team exploring these plans needs various options for scale of the project. Appleton said a public meeting of the project management team will be next week and a public involvement session will be scheduled for some time in February. Then the team will take the public’s input and go back to the drawing board. Appleton said if the MFD Board has concerns about the meeting it should form a committee and send a representative. He added, “We are not going to ask the public to support a \$5 million building.”

### 3. Discussion and approval of grant to fund training officer

The grant deadline is in February and is through FEMA. Appleton said he’d like to hire someone at least part-time and preferably full time, as a training officer and volunteer coordinator with the goal of eliminating part of Appleton’s job regarding training and allow him weekends off. Ayers asked Jim to “triple-check” requirements for sustainability of the position as may be required by the grant. Appleton said he had read the grant requirements multiple times and saw nothing about that but would check again. Appleton said he needed no motion or resolution right now from the Board but wanted to confirm that there is general agreement that he should write the grant. Ayers asked about PERS and salary for the proposed position. Appleton said the full-time option would be 40 hours/week with benefits, including PERS, or part-time at 30 hours/week with benefits. The issue of sustainability of the position arose again; Appleton said there is nothing in the grant requirements regarding continuing the position after the grant expires. He said didn’t have a pay scale in mind yet. Evans asked Appleton to distribute a draft of the grant to the Board before he sends it off to FEMA; Appleton agreed.

### 4. 2017 SDAO Annual Conference

Board Member Ayers will go to one day of the conference on February 11. It was agreed she will pay for the registration fee and get reimbursed by the Fire District.

### 5. Chief’s Monthly Summary

The Chief handed out the past two months of responses and several pages of the yearly summary.

Meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Approved this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2017

Attest:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Board President Darin Molesworth

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Tracie Hornung, Recorder