

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

DATE: April 10, 2014  
7:00 p.m.

BOARD: Ken Hudson, Lee Roy Herman, Vic Hamilton, Glenn Bartholomew  
STAFF: Fire Chief Jim Appleton, Recorder Tracie Hornung  
Absent:                      Excused: Darin Molesworth                      Public:

CALL TO ORDER – Meeting was called to order by Board Secretary Bartholomew at 7:12 p.m.

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

BUSINESS FROM THE AUDIENCE –

CONSENT AGENDA

1. Approval of Minutes – March 13, 2014
2. Review/Approve Bills

**Board Member Hamilton made a motion to approve the consent agenda as presented. Board Member Hudson seconded. The motion passed unanimously.**

BUSINESS

1. Capital spending presentation

Two financial advisors invited by Chief Appleton presented information and answered questions via telephone on capital spending and planning, in light of future decisions to be made on buying apparatus and building a new fire station. George Dunkel from Special Districts and Tom Linhares, Wasco County Assessor, addressed bond measures, tax rates, loans and other issues. Appleton read aloud the Fire District resolution that defines capital expenditures and noted that building construction is not included. He said the District may need to amend the resolution to allow for construction of a new fire station.

2. Capital Advisory Subcommittee meeting update

Board Member Hudson updated the Board on the March 18, 2014, Subcommittee meeting. He said Appleton's April 9 email to the Board discussing the District budget, and possible capital planning and payment options, covered most of it. Appleton added that the Subcommittee will soon be asking what the Board thinks about these capital spending issues.

3. Proposed prescribed burn on City of Mosier land

Appleton asked what the Board thought about the District being involved in a prescribed burn on City property. He said the benefits were that District Volunteers would get training and that the burn would eliminate thatch that could become fire fuel. Hudson said he would want some entity to take responsibility for restoring the burned area before he would approve the idea. He also asked why do it if the City is not pushing the idea. Appleton said that it is good training for the Volunteers; although it can be done elsewhere that would mean taking the Volunteers out of the area. He said he will get more information and the Board could revisit the idea in the future.

4. Budgeting for computer

At last month's Board meeting, the idea of repairing or replacing Hornung's personal computer, on which she does District business, was discussed. At this meeting she explained it is failing

rapidly. She asked if a new computer could be purchased with Fire District funds, and if so, noted that she had originally hoped to be able to wait until the next fiscal year to do so. However, it is becoming difficult to do her job with it now. Currently, the budget for office supplies and equipment may not cover such a purchase but contingency funds could be used. Appleton said there is logic in the District having a back-up computer if his District computer should break down. Estimated costs for a new computer were discussed.

**Board Member Herman moved that up to \$750 from the contingency fund be used to purchase a new computer. Board Member Hudson seconded. The motion passed unanimously.**

#### 5. Signing of checks

Hornung explained that there was a delay recently in getting vendor checks signed. The best way to alert the Board signers that the checks were ready was discussed. Appleton added that if signatures were still needed after three days he would make phone calls.

#### 6. 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 March.

Regarding Monthly Apparatus Mileage Logs: Board member Herman asked Chief Appleton if the copies of apparatus mileage logs from March enclosed in the April Board packet were all from the same year. Appleton said he didn't understand the question. Herman said he didn't recall so many emergency runs and wondered if the period covered was one year or two. Board member Hamilton said the mileage logs aren't emergency runs, but day-to-day driving. No further discussion. Board member Hudson expressed concern that B82 is spending time in Hood River. Chief Appleton asked for specifics. Attention was directed to the Board packet copy of B82 mileage log at 3/19: "To Les Schwab Hood River x 2 -- summer tires." Then to 3/27: "To Col. Gorge Fire Equipment (West Side) for booster hose compression fitting." Appleton said the first instance was to change B82 from snow tires to summer tires, and the second instance was to repair a ruptured hose attached to the booster reel, using equipment which is permanently mounted at the shop on Alameda Road. Appleton said the booster hose is essential equipment which was out of service after damage sustained in a recent structure fire, and the repair was a top priority given B82 is our first-out on every call. Appleton asked if Hudson was concerned about any other dates. Hudson asked if B82 only goes to Hood River if it's something for that truck specifically. Appleton replied, "Pretty much." No further discussion.

Herman asked what would happen if someone being trained to drive a tender who was not a member of the District had an accident. Appleton said the specific people Herman referred to were members of the District because they had submitted applications and Appleton had accepted them. Herman said they were not members because they hadn't been approved by the Volunteer membership committee. Appleton said as District Chief he has the authority to determine who is a volunteer. Herman said he had contacted an insurance agent because he was concerned that if a tender driver got in an accident with a District vehicle the Board could be sued. He said the agent told Herman that he, as a member of the Board, probably would not be covered. Appleton said the District has an insurance policy for this issue and would confirm it the next day. Hudson said he wanted to see the policy at the next meeting. A discussion followed on Appleton's authority to approve Volunteer training; he answered that he is a certified trainer

with DPSST. Also, Hudson said he did not like language on the Fire District website stating that “our needs still exceed our budget.” Appleton explained why he wrote that, saying the District is challenged to meet essential needs such as turnouts and fire supplies as well as capital items without grant support and other non-tax sources. The discussion ended with no action.

CORRESPONDENCE –

Meeting adjourned at 9:14 p.m.

Approved this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2014

Attest:

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Tracie Hornung, Recorder