

Approved Mosier Fire District Board Minutes 8/12/10

James, in Darin's absence, called the meeting to order at 7:09 PM in the Mosier City Fire Station office.

Board members present included; LeeRoy Herman, Ken Hudson, James Matthisen, and Glenn Bartholomew.

Others present; Jim Appleton

Items discussed/actions taken;

Completed paperwork is needed for Ken to be bonded. Jim will obtain a copy and provide it to Ken.

Jim is updating the Fire District's map. He asked for any inputs that will help to ensure its accuracy and completeness. He will send the new map to the printer's in the next week or two using funds from the previously approved Interim Budget.

Jim reported on his recent meeting with representatives from the Mid-Columbia Fire and Rescue (MCFR), the Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF), and the Columbia Gorge Scenic Area (CGSA) regarding preplanning for Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) areas in or adjacent to the Mosier Fire District. Items under discussion included; joint training and response, generating auto-aid agreements, Mosier's quick attack capabilities, meetings with affected home owners on a periodic basis to review defensive strategies, and pursuit of a project to install several hydrants at the intersection of Osburn Cut-off and Dry Creek. Water will come from a nearby pond. Property owners are in tentative agreement. Jim is obtaining an estimate for materials from Bryant Pipe and will pursue the availability of grant funding.

The Board discussed the possible need to pursue a lot line adjustment for the Upper Station. The discrepancy was recognized several years ago when the adjacent property was offered for sale. Preliminary estimates that the costs for the adjustment indicate that the County fee would be approximately \$1,700, and the survey and related costs would be approximately \$3,500. The cost for the land is unknown. After discussion, Jim was asked to contact Ken Jones (the District's legal advisor) and explore our options and report back to the Board.

Jim asked the Board to approve funding for a baseline Hose and Ladder test. The estimated cost will be approximately \$1,800 for the hoses and \$600 for the ladders. Many of our existing hoses are very old and in questionable condition. While the Department has the ability to conduct future tests, Jim recommended using a professional tester due to the potentially high degree of risk involved in the initial tests. After additional discussion, James moved and LeeRoy seconded a motion to approve the expenditure of these funds from the previously approved Interim Budget. All members voted to approve the motion.

Jim reported that after a series of maintenance and repair efforts, all of the District's pumper trucks have had their pumper capabilities tested and all passed.

The Board discussed the potential value of using specially designed software to help automate record keeping and reporting that the Department is required to perform. Jim will check with other Departments to see what they are using and how effective it has been in meeting their reporting and information gathering needs. He will report back to the Board with the results.

Jim asked for approval to place an initial order for new and replacement Wildland Personal Protective Equipment (PPE). This order is expected to cost approximately \$5,000. The incremental funding of PPE and related equipment (nozzles, valves, hose, etc.) was included in the previously approved Interim Budget. James moved and Ken seconded a motion to approve expenditure of these funds. All members voted to approve the motion.

Jim asked the Board to consider installing Air Conditioning for the Department office. The Board agreed that the office will now be occupied for extended periods of time and that during the summer months those working in office will be much more productive with the addition of A/C. Jim was asked to obtain a bid to open a hole in the wall for the A/C unit and to bring in the necessary electric circuit. Jim was asked not to exceed \$500 if at all possible.

Jim asked the Board for approval to obtain Group Life Insurance in the amount of (\$50K) for up to 24 volunteer firefighters. The Board agreed with the appropriateness of providing insurance to those volunteers participating in such a high risk public service. The cost of providing this insurance (\$141 per year per person) was included in the Interim Budget. After considerable discussion, the Board developed the following policy for determining eligibility for insurance coverage. The policy states that "life insurance will be provided for volunteer firefighters who have obtained Firefighter I or Wildland certification, or have actively participated in 8 or more training drills and/or fire/emergency calls during the proceeding year and who are considered an active participant by the Chief". Ken moved that the policy be approved and James seconded the motion. All members voted to approve the motion.

The Board discussed the Chief's degree of involvement in identifying and enforcing fire related Mosier City ordinances. After considerable discussion, it was unanimously decided that the appropriate level of involvement for the Chief is for him to identify fire related ordinance violations and to forward them to the City for their follow-up action.

Jim reported that 5 volunteer firefighters (including himself) want to enroll in the next EMT training course at Columbia Gorge Community College. The cost of training will be \$400 per candidate plus \$200 lab fee each. The funds were included in the previously approved Interim Budget. Successful completion will increase our EMT resources to 8 by early next summer. James moved and LeeRoy seconded a motion approving the expenditure of these funds. All members voted to approve the motion.

The Board began discussion of the development of a contract to employ a Department Chief. The draft contract under consideration was provided by Ken Jones (the District's legal advisor). It was noted that the salary proposed in the interim budget was on the low end of salaries for comparable departments. It was further noted that the budget allowed for future increases at the Boards discretion beginning in year three of the budget. Criteria for determining such increases will be discussed separately. It was also noted that the least well defined aspect of the contract was the array of benefits possible. The interim budgets initial assumption was that benefits would represent a sum equal to approximately 30% of the positions base salary. After deducting for those set rate benefits such as Social Security, Medicare, and PERS, it may be that the remainder is insufficient to fund an appropriate Health Care benefit. James has a background in this field and will meet with Jim to help review and develop appropriate benefit options.

The next Board meeting, which will continue discussion of the contract, was scheduled for Aug 26th at 7PM at the Mosier City Fire Station office.

James adjourned the meeting at 9:45PM.

Glenn Bartholomew

Interim Secretary