

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

DATE: October 10, 2013  
7:00 p.m.

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

CALL TO ORDER – Meeting was called to order by Board President Darin Molesworth at 7:03 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 – September 12, 2013
2. Review/Approve Bills

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

#### BUSINESS FROM THE AUDIENCE

Pete Wright explained that the volunteers had agreed to spend \$3,000 from the volunteers' association budget on a trailer to carry their already purchased emergency generator. He asked the Board to consider buying the extra equipment necessary to outfit the trailer for emergencies. Hudson suggested the District could spend \$500-\$1,000 and asked Pete to come up with specific equipment ideas and prices.

#### BUSINESS

1. Apparatus replacement update

Chief Appleton referred to a list he compiled based on Hudson's request at the last meeting regarding the number of fires Mosier Fire District responded to, and showing when foam was used. Appleton noted that foam use could be helpful in determining what kind of apparatus to buy in the future and Hudson agreed. Craig Funk, at his request, was allowed to speak. He said speaking as a homeowner he felt reliable firefighting equipment is important, and speaking as a fire professional he noted that in recent years it is becoming easier to sue government agencies. He said the person in charge can be subject to a lawsuit if negligence is found or if government standards are not adhered to, and added that it was in the Board's "best interest" to move forward with an apparatus replacement program. Pete Wright said that as a volunteer his concerns included safety and litigation issues. Craig added that it is harder these days to keep volunteers, therefore they may not be as experienced as volunteers were in the past and the combination of less experienced volunteers with the District's old apparatus could prove dangerous. Vaughn Swanson said he had attended four Mosier Fire District Board meetings in a row and, even though this issue had been discussed at each one, nothing has been done. Appleton asked the Board if they would be interested in a committee made up of Board members and the

public to hear what the community thinks about this issue. There was no response. Funk suggested it could be a one-time or standing committee. Appleton then suggested he and Funk would meet to discuss apparatus possibilities, take their research to the volunteers' next business meeting, and then report back at the next Board meeting.

## 2. Scheduling Bill Payments

The spreadsheet prepared by Recorder/Bookkeeper Hornung showing District vendors and payment terms was discussed. At the previous Board meeting Hudson had 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 had suggested that bill payment dates be arranged so that all bills are 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. After looking at the spreadsheet, other options were discussed, including setting a dollar limit for individual bills; anything over that would require the full Board's approval. Another proposed option: If a bill was considered controversial it would not be paid until the Board could hold a special meeting. The issue was tabled until the next Board meeting. Appleton said in the meantime he would hold any bill he thought the Board might consider controversial.

## 3. Update on research for less expensive attorney

The issue was tabled until the next Board meeting.

## 4. SAIF insurance for volunteers

The Chief said he will come up with costs at the next meeting. The issue was tabled.

## 5. Special Districts insurance renewal

The Chief said he would like Board Secretary Bartholomew to look at the renewal form, adding there were no big changes to the coverage or costs. He added there are things the District can do to get reduced premiums. The issue was tabled until the next Board meeting.

## 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 September. Board Member Hudson asked for more details about the possibility of the county yard becoming the site of a new MFD station. Appleton showed a possible site plan as discussed with the county planning department. He asked if the Board wanted to approve having a survey of the site done. Hudson said he first wanted to know what the county thought about the site for a fire station. Appleton said he thought it unlikely that the county would offer an opinion without a specific proposal from the District but said he will ask. Appleton also noted that he is ready to apply for District accreditation by the DPSST.

COMMITTEE REPORTS – None

CORRESPONDENCE – None

Meeting adjourned at 9:05 p.m.

Approved this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2013

Attest:

---

Board President Darin Molesworth

---

Tracie Hornung, Recorder