

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

DATE: September 15, 2011
7:00 p.m.

BOARD: Darin Molesworth, Ken Hudson, LeeRoy Herman

STAFF: Fire Chief Jim Appleton and Recorder Jean Hadley

Absent: None

Excused: Glenn Bartholomew and James Matthisen

CALL TO ORDER

Meeting was called to order by Board President Darin Molesworth at 7:04 p.m.

ADDITIONS OR CORRECTIONS – A new list of bills was presented for the consent agenda.

BUSINESS FROM THE AUDIENCE – Jane Herman presented copies, to the Board Members present, of a letter addressed to her from Deputy State Fire Marshal Ted Megert which related to a request from Herman to research the Oregon Fire Code for certain authority related to weed eradication. Herman stated how the Fire Chief does not have authority to enter private property for the purpose of weed eradication. Herman said there is nothing in the Mosier Fire Code regarding the business of weed eradication. Herman said the business of protecting structures not wildland is what the District should be concentrating on for the department. Chief Appleton stated how he is entering private property, with permission from the property owners, and has never asserted any authority and has represented himself and the Fire District as helping with a problem. Appleton said he has used very little of his time as Mosier Fire District Fire Chief to do weed eradication. Herman said it is the job of the County Weed Master to patrol, identify, and spray invasive weeds on private or public property. Herman said she will mail the letter to the absent Board members.

CONSENT AGENDA

1. Approval of Minutes August 11, 2011
2. Review/Approve Bills

A motion was made by Board Member Herman to approve the consent agenda including the new list of bill presented. Board Member Hudson seconded. There was no discussion. The motion passed unanimously

BUSINESS

1. Re-visit skeleton weed eradication

Appleton said there is a limited set of circumstances and limited roles for time commitment to identify, motivate, eliminate and recognize fire fuel issues. The Board present spoke about the Chief spending time and money on weed eradication. The Board felt the amount of money spent by the district should be billed to the County weed and pest management division. The Board agreed to consider at a later meeting the work of weed eradication with regards to the duties of the Fire Chief and see if there are any references in the fire prevention code. Chief Appleton asked for consideration of creation of a Fire Prevention Code for the district which would include a vegetation ordinance with a list of nuisance plants, shrubs, and trees; allowing the District to control issues that pose a problem in a fire incident.

2. Task priorities for Chief

In the on-going conversation of duties for the Chief and volunteers the Board reviewed the list of tasks presented to them from the Chief. The list included Chief interaction with the volunteers and their processes and accomplishments of continuing education, citizen involvement, and grant writing. Hudson asked about ordinances for the Rural area pertaining to the City and vice-versa. Hudson felt the land owners, including the City, should pay for fuel reduction activities in their area. Appleton said the two

jurisdictions are different in their nature to fire and any rules would not be able to apply to both. Appleton reminded the Board that the City has its own rules with regard to nuisance vegetation. Hudson asked if the railroad is billed for response from the Fire District. Appleton said the railroad says to send them the bill; it just has not been done. **The Board strongly felt that the responses on the freeway, twin tunnels, or any other non-tax payer response should be billed. Appleton said he would look into this.** Appleton also spoke about the National Incident Management System (NIMS) compliance class, required by FEMA. Appleton said he will be doing an assessment of the requirements for changing the insurance rating number.

Appleton reported the activity up on property owned by Friends of the Columbia Gorge (FOG) Land Trust which is used by more people than what would be considered safe, with up to 30 cars parked on a field of dried grass. Appleton said the time spent on the Conditional Use Application was in service of restricting vehicle access and other requirements on FOG in response to the application for a walking trail which was presented to the County. The Board spent time reviewing the activities Appleton had mentioned on the list.

3. Auditor

Hadley told the Board of the full audit requirement and how the District does not need that because of the money amount moved around by the District. Appleton said the form signed this evening will report the need of a review as opposed to a full audit. Appleton and Hadley will create an RFP for finding an auditor for the District.

4. Board policies discussion

Molesworth asked about whether the Board felt there was a need for policies or not. Hadley asked if the Board had made any move toward creating policies for themselves with regard to Board attendance or meeting agenda items...etc. The Board felt it was not necessary at this time to set rules; there were more important tasks to accomplish.

5. FEMA Grant 2011 update; apparatus plan

Appleton updated the Board on the grants and their completion, due date, what is being applied for with regard to equipment or vehicles. Basic firefighter and wellness grants are generally approved and Appleton explained how most grants are determined by the amount of call-outs and responses, call volume, by the districts applying and demonstrating the need for the money associated with any grant.

COMMITTEE REPORTS – Appleton asked the Board to refer to his list of activities presented earlier.

CORRESPONDENCE – None

Meeting adjourned at 8:16 p.m.

Approved this 13th day of October, 2011

Attest:

Board President Darin Molesworth

Jean M. Hadley, Recorder