

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

DATE: November 10, 2011
7:00 p.m.

BOARD: Glenn Bartholomew, Ken Hudson, LeeRoy Herman

STAFF: Fire Chief Jim Appleton and Recorder Jean Hadley

Absent: None

Excused: Darin Molesworth, and James Matthisen

CALL TO ORDER

Meeting was called to order by Board Secretary Glenn Bartholomew at 7:07 p.m.

ADDITIONS OR CORRECTIONS – Hadley presented a list of bills for consideration in the consent agenda. David Jacobs, local Unit Mgr. and George Ponte, District Forester, representatives from Oregon Dept. of Forestry (ODF) were present to talk about the Forest Land Classification update and to weigh in on the Burn Permit issue which is Business item #3.

BUSINESS FROM THE AUDIENCE – Chief Appleton introduced the Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) representatives to the Board. ODF/Jacobs said the last time the Forest Land Classification review was done was in the 60's so a committee was formed, with representatives from Hood River and Wasco County, to check the current classification and decide if there were any changes. The ODF representatives presented a map, for the Board to review, which showed the current classifications and any changes to the classification. The changes made will be presented to public entities, notices will be sent to property owners who are affected, and the public will be invited to attend public hearings to see the map and ask questions. These classifications determine coverage for ODF and taxes associated with ODF coverage. Class 1 – Timber Land is taxed @ \$1.79 per acre, Class 2 – Timber & Grazing land is taxed @ \$1.79 per acre, and Class 3 – Grazing is taxed @ .60 per acre. Ponte said the big issue is equity and fairness for all property owners as of today's classification.

CONSENT AGENDA

1. Approval of Minutes October 13, 2011
2. Review/Approve Bills
3. SDAO Longevity Credit and Rate Lock Agreement

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

BUSINESS

Bartholomew asked the Board if they had any objection to changing the order of business so ODF could weigh in on the Burn Permit business item. **Unanimous consensus was to change the order of business and allow ODF to go first.**

4. Burn permit jurisdiction

Chief Appleton updated the Board on the memo presented to them, from Attorney Ken Jones, which explained the law with regards to issuing Burn Permits within the Mosier Fire District, including the City of Mosier boundaries. ODF explained their jurisdiction over areas within Wasco County where they issue burn permits and how they implement the enforcement authority of the rules within the Forest Protection district. ODF said they do not charge for burn permits and they issue 100's; they agreed there are citizens out there who do not get a permit and burn. Repeated violations are followed through with a written record and/or citations. Chief Appleton shared an addendum to Mutual Aid agreement page which explains the idea of JOINT PROTECTION between agencies. Hudson felt if the District does not have to

issue burn permits then they do not have to do it; leave it to the other entities to deal with this. Chief Appleton said he will contact Ken Jones and get a clear and precise ruling on this. Herman said to leave it as it is because it isn't broken. Bartholomew said the District needs to be aware of what is going on in the District and issuing permits is one way to know. ODF said they have enforcement authority and the agreement will help to clarify the system of enforcement. There was a comment made about going electronic (e-mail) with permits and code questions; also having permits available at local stores or businesses. Appleton felt the options are something to consider for ease of public access to permits. ODF said good prevention messages are critical with a flyer or handout that sets the rules. Chief Appleton recommended tabling this item of business until he gets a clear clarification of requirements for the District with regards to issuing burn permits. ODF will back up any permits and enforcement.

1. Billing non-tax payer responses

Chief Appleton asked for more time in order to get a more clear response. This item was tabled until the next meeting.

2. ISO rating qualifications update

Chief Appleton did not have an update. Appleton said the letter has been submitted and he is waiting for a response to the letter of request for a call back.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Bartholomew reported on behalf of Matthisen who said he has ordered the plaque and he is waiting to receive the plaque in order to unveil it. Brian Barrett was recognized for his life saving event at a City Council meeting. The Board agreed to do a presentation at the next business meeting.

Volunteer update – Chief Appleton asked the Board to review the Chief Summary which includes the update of volunteer activity. The Board discussed whether the volunteers should be thanked with a personal phone call from a Board member. Board member Hudson volunteered to make a personal phone call to thank the volunteers, Pete Wright and Dave Teeney, who were instrumental in helping to keep the equipment running.

Chief Appleton reported to the Board about some equipment which is no longer viable and he will come up with a list of equipment he feels should be surplus for the next meeting.

CORRESPONDENCE – None

Meeting adjourned at 8:55 p.m.

Approved this 8th day of December, 2011

Attest:

Board President Darin Molesworth

Jean M. Hadley, Recorder