

Mosier Fire District Capital Advisory Subcommittee Meeting
Mosier Fire Hall on Washington St.

DATE: March 18, 2014
9:30 a.m.

MEMBERS: Ken Hudson, Pete Wright, Craig Funk

STAFF: Fire Chief Jim Appleton

Absent: Excused: Recorder Tracie Hornung Public:

CALL TO ORDER – Meeting was called to order by Craig Funk at 9:45 a.m.

ADDITIONS OR CORRECTIONS – None

BUSINESS FROM THE AUDIENCE – None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

After discussion it was agreed that the last sentence in Item #4 of the February 25, 2014, minutes would be changed to: Replacing T-85 with another vehicle of a similar or larger size will occur in Phase 1. [The sentence originally read Phase 2.]

Subcommittee Member Wright made a motion to approve the February 25, 2014, minutes as amended. Subcommittee Member Hudson seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

BUSINESS

1. Hudson update from previous Fire District Board Meeting

Hudson said he told the Fire District Board at its March 13 meeting that the Subcommittee was having meetings, doing what it is charged to do and moving along. In response to a question from Funk, Hudson said the Board is satisfied with the Subcommittee's progress.

Funk noted that his schedule will change between mid April to mid May and suggested an extra Subcommittee meeting might be feasible. A discussion followed on Oregon public meetings law.

2. Finalize Type 5/6 Brush Unit recommendation (tabled from February)

Appleton said there are a lot of choices but the brush units he had looked at recently were in the \$180,000-\$190,000 range and included 500 gallon water capacity, a 500-750 gpm pump, foam capability, and a remote monitor operated from inside. He hasn't found much used apparatus that meets those design requirements. He suggested the Subcommittee use a range of \$175,000-\$200,000 as its guidepost for budgeting for a brush unit.

3. Discussion on finance mechanisms

Wright said he thought the Subcommittee should decide first if it is considering paying cash or financing upcoming capital purchases. Appleton noted that, whatever is decided, currently finance rates are very low and getting locked in to a low rate would be to the District's advantage. Funk said it was important to determine an estimate of costs within a particular time frame. Once

it is decided what should be purchased he said he could create, working with Appleton, a spreadsheet showing three financial scenarios: one showing purchases made with heavy credit, another with heavy cash, and a third a mix of cash and credit. The spreadsheet could be included in the final report to the District Board, he said.

Appleton said he would also like the report from the Subcommittee to include a recommendation to the Board. He said that as a government entity it was the District's responsibility to provide the best equipment within its means to its citizens. He cautioned against making decisions on how to pay for expenditures based on personal philosophies regarding spending. Funk suggested the Subcommittee determine what apparatus the District needs, using estimated costs within a particular timeline. He said he favored a vehicle rotation plan that could work into perpetuity, in which apparatus was cycled in and out of the system; i.e., as older vehicles were moved into reserve status (and eventually surplus) newer vehicles would be purchased. For now, he suggested that the Subcommittee recommend how much to spend for Phase I purchases. He said he and Appleton would work together on the above-mentioned spreadsheet and also include estimated costs for building a new station, and present it at the next Subcommittee meeting.

[Continuation of Agenda Item #2] Hudson, noting that approximately 80 percent of the District's emergency calls were medical, questioned using a Type 5 Brush Unit carrying hundreds of gallons of water. Funk noted that that scenario – responding to a medical call where water was not needed – pointed to the advantages of a fast-attack utility vehicle. Funk also said that a new Brush Unit might seem expensive but over 25 years its annual cost was not that high. Hudson questioned the need for the unit to have a 500 gallon capacity. Wright said it was the cost of doing business. He added that the District Board could make a policy on how the rig is used, but in the meantime he supported recommending the brush unit as the District's first purchase. Hudson agreed.

A conversation followed on the pros and cons of buying a used vehicle that required a lot of upgrading. It was generally agreed that the cons outweighed the pros.

4. Finalize used tender budget

Appleton noted that \$50,000 was the figure discussed at the prior Subcommittee meeting for replacing T-85. The Subcommittee agreed. That figure does not factor in income from selling T-85.

Meeting adjourned at 11:33 p.m.

Approved this ____ day of _____, 2014

Attest:

Craig Funk, Subcommittee Chair

Tracie Hornung, Recorder