

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

DATE: February 12, 2015
7:00 p.m.

BOARD: Darin Molesworth, Glenn Bartholomew, Joanne Rubin

STAFF: Fire Chief Jim Appleton, Recorder Tracie Hornung

Absent: Excused:

Public: Marc Berry, Mark Cherniak, Craig Funk, Susan Gabay, Charles Young, and Tom and Donna Wehrley

CALL TO ORDER – Meeting was called to order by Board President Darin Molesworth at 7:00 p.m.

OATH OF OFFICE FOR NEW BOARD MEMBER – Joanne Rubin was sworn in as a Mosier Fire District Board Member for Position 4

ADDITIONS OR CORRECTIONS – Added to the Board packet was a list of bills paid. Recorder Hornung said she would like to add to the agenda a discussion regarding a recent letter from the Local Government Investment Pool (LGIP); Chief Appleton said he'd like to add an update on the cost of the recent recall election.

BUSINESS FROM THE AUDIENCE – Tom Wehrley referred to a letter he had recently sent Board Secretary Bartholomew regarding Fire District policies and Chief Appleton's performance. He said he would be available to answer any questions. Susan Gabay asked Wehrley if he would be interested in serving on any future District committees. He said at this time his schedule would not allow it.

CONSENT AGENDA

1. Approval of Minutes – Nov. 13 & Dec. 11, 2014 & Jan. 8, 2015. Board member Rubin noted that in Business Item #1 of the Dec. 11 minutes "October" should be changed to "November," and that Joe Sacamano's last name was incorrectly spelled in the November 13 minutes.

2. Review/Approve Bills – Board member Bartholomew asked what a VISA expense for boots was for. Appleton explained that the expense for boots was for multiple volunteers, not just one.

Bartholomew made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda as amended. Board Member Rubin seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

BUSINESS

1. Local Government Investment Pool

Hornung explained that the District has over \$48,000 in the state LGIP and that the annual letter from the state's Finance Division had recently arrived regarding the District's funds, stating that the District needed to renew the account or withdraw the funds. Marc Berry commented that at one time it made financial sense to invest the money in that fund but no longer. Appleton noted that the interest accrued was negligible considering the fees charged to maintain the account. Hornung said the state, with permission from the District, could transfer the funds into the

District's regular checking account; the funds could then be transferred into the District's other bank account that offers a higher interest rate.

Rubin made a motion to close the account and transfer the funds to the District's checking account. Bartholomew seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

2. Recall Election Expense

A discussion ensued about a bill for \$2,781.77 from Wasco County for the recall election. Appleton said he had been told by the county clerk that the county may forgive \$1,227.08 in amortization costs, thus reducing the total bill to \$1,554.69. Hornung said she had already paid the original bill from the District's budgeted election and contingency accounts.

Rubin made a motion to pay approximately \$2,300 from the contingency account, \$500 from the election account and to ask for forgiveness and a rebate on the amortization fees from Wasco County. Bartholomew seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

3. Update on Capital Advisory Subcommittee

Craig Funk, chair of the subcommittee, gave the Board an update on the history and activities of the subcommittee. Although it has done some work on long-range planning most of the subcommittee's energy has gone into the District's short-term needs, including studying the purchase of three vehicles. Some effort has also gone into planning for a new fire station. Funk explained that during the time when there was no quorum on the Fire District Board, the subcommittee took no formal action. He added that with Ken Hudson's resignation from the subcommittee the subcommittee lacked a third member. Now that the Board has a quorum he said he would like a member of the Board to be appointed to the subcommittee. Joanne Rubin agreed to sit on the subcommittee.

4. Process for appointing 2 Fire Board Members

The Board briefly discussed asking Phil Evans, who had applied to the Wasco County Commissioners for appointment to the Board, to become a member of the Board. Bartholomew telephoned him but was not able to reach him. Bartholomew distributed a list of what he saw as the type of background or skill sets needed by a new Board member. A discussion followed on the names of local people who had expressed interest. Bartholomew explained that Special Districts told him that the Fire District needs to make a public announcement that it is seeking more Board members.

Bartholomew made a motion to appoint Phil Evans to the Fire District Board. Molesworth seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

5. Appointment of Budget Officer

There was a brief discussion about the budget timeline. Appleton said he wanted the Capital Advisory Subcommittee to meet before the Budget Committee meets.

Bartholomew made a motion to appoint Tracie Hornung as the Budget Officer. Rubin seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

6. Payment of VISA bills

Hornung explained that the timing of payment of VISA bills frequently came close to generating high late fees. A discussion followed on the best way to deal with it. It was informally agreed

that Hornung may set up an online process with the bank to pay the VISA bills following review and approval from the Board check signers.

7. Chief's Monthly Summary

Appleton asked if his summaries were sufficient; all Board members said yes. A wide-ranging discussion on Fire District policies, procedures, by-laws and possible upcoming related subcommittees followed.

Correspondence: Molesworth said he would contact Richard Morgan regarding a letter Morgan had written to the Board regarding Fire District policies and Chief Appleton. Appleton mentioned a letter to the Board from the daughter of a deceased Mosier resident regarding a memorial to her father; Bartholomew said he would write to her. At Bartholomew's suggestion Appleton said he would address points mentioned in the Wehrley and Morgan letters and send them to the Board.

Meeting adjourned at 9:08 p.m.

Approved this ____ day of _____, 2015

Attest:

Board President Darin Molesworth

Tracie Hornung, Recorder