

Mosier Fire District Board Meeting
Mosier Senior Center
500 East 2nd, Mosier Oregon 97040
October 25, 2018 at 18:00

MINUTES

Directors present: Evans, Sacamano, Reeves, Rubin

Excused: Ayers

Staff: Bookkeeper Starling,

Public: Jim Appleton

Volunteers: Kris McNall, acting Recorder

1) Call to Order 18:02

2) Agenda additions or corrections

Add:Kris asked for a discussion of the Board's note taker person. The Board agreed that they would send documents to Kris McNall temporarily and she would fill in until a decision is made.

Rhonda pointed out that there is a job description for the recorder (aka note taker) and that the district has budgeted for it being a paid position.

The Board inquired about the Wordpress ads on the website. Todd volunteered to host the mosierfire.com website, Kris said she and Charles could work with him about porting to his server.

3) Comments from the public (items not on the agenda) – None.

Jim Appleton made public comment.

He was concerned that the meeting was not properly noticed. He stated that he believes that any decisions may not be official.

Secondly he stated that he has not seen the minutes and that he has a vested interest.

Third, the substance of his comments on prior minutes have been rejected. He wants the Board to weigh in on his comments in a public meeting. He asked for the board to assess its own decisions and how it is playing out in mutual aid, response times, training, etc. He believes these are important questions for the public.

Jim asked that the agenda have sections for public comment regarding items either on or not on the agenda. Phil gave Jim an opportunity to comment on either. Jim replied that he had already done so.

There was no other public comment.

4) **Consent Agenda**

The Board did not receive the minutes so they were put on hold.

Joanne moved to approve the bills, Todd seconded. All present voted in favor.

5) **Business**

1. **Letter from MCFR – Phil**

Phil announced that he responded to MCFR's letter and that at the present we are not interested in a merger, but that at some point he would like them to come and make a presentation to the Board.

2. **Joint Use Facility Update - Mike**

Mike was not present so this update did not occur.

3. **Audit vs Review - Rhonda**

At the last meeting Rhonda announced that MFD had spent over \$150,000. She was under the incorrect assumption that the necessary review is based on the general fund expenditures only. MFD has spent well over \$500,000 total this year so that means that we need to have an audit.

The accountant sent MFD a letter that the fee for audit services can be up to \$15,000 vs the review that was estimated at \$5,000. Rhonda reported that the city audit has cost between \$12,000 and 13,600 in past years; MFD books are less complicated so should be less expensive. She believe that an audit will be good practice and useful.

Not all CPA's can do a municipal audit. Joanne thinks that the Board agreed to use Friend and Reagan. Rhonda recommends that MFD go through with the audit and use Friend. Rhonda also says that she has said that she would like a review, but that she did not instigate this situation.

Thus, MFD needs to allocate an additional \$10,000 to pay for the audit. Rhonda and the Board discussed the best way to appropriate the necessary funds.

First, the district has over \$52,000 in the General Fund, with only one more month of bills that she expects to be around \$12,000, before new tax revenue begins to arrive. The money could come from the general fund.

Alternately there is a UP Equipment Fund of \$45,385.29. This money is from leftovers from the UP fund to buy apparatus plus money reimbursed to MFD from the derailment cleanup, as well as a bit of money from the Team Mosier settlement.

A third option would be the Giswold bequest, but the Board felt it should not be used for this purpose.

Kris commented that she wasn't happy about using the UP money. Joanne agreed. Rhonda thinks that we should use the UP money temporarily to avoid doing resolutions. Joanne also didn't want to do resolutions. Kris commented that she had been the designated Team Mosier representative and that the spirit of the Team Mosier deal implied that we should use the UP money for more tangible assets.

Rhonda's concern is that the budget is built on taxes that are coming in. Thus money will be moved from one column to the other. Alternately the audit can be paid for from the Capital Reserve. Rhonda will need to research how we are allowed to allocate the money in the general fund that is left over from prior years. Alternately we could use the money that has been budgeted to the contingency line item.

Joe asked about legal fees. Last year the district did a resolution to move money into the legal fund. Rhonda will find out how to move money from the general fund and how to make a resolution transfer.

After discussion the group agreed that the money should come from the general fund. Todd suggested that the money come from the contingency line item of the general fund budget. Rhonda said that she would get more information from the Department of Revenue about the requirements for maintaining a proper budget.

The Board also agreed that Rhonda would instruct Friend to begin work on the audit as it needs to be done by the end of December.

4. Vehicle Inventory Reduction Progress – Mike

Postponed.

5. Chief's Report – Mike

Postponed.

6. Volunteer Report

None.

7. Committee Reports

There will be a Chief's Annual Review Committee meeting on October 30th, tentatively at 2:00PM. The committee is Phil, Joanne, and Susan Gabay.

8. Correspondence

Todd commented that he read a member of the public's concerns and feels that we are doing fine. Therein followed discussion about how the Board might address Appleton's letter that he had sent to the Board. Joanne commented on the idea that perhaps a committee could be formed that includes Chief Mike Renault and they would discuss the issues Appleton raises. Rhonda said that she thinks the Board should do something. Joe said he called George Dunkel at SDAO to see if they could get a consultation. Phil suggested that the Board adopt a complaint policy.

Rhonda will write up a proposal for a complaint policy and send it to the Board.

9. Comments from the public

No additional.

6) Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 19:33