

Mosier Fire District Board Meeting

Thursday, May 13th, 2021 at 6:00pm
Held as a Zoom Meeting

Minutes

Board: Evans, Ayers, Reeves. Rubin & Fisher absent.

Staff: Renault, Goter

Volunteers: Anderson

Public: Appleton

Minutes taken by Goter

Call to Order at 18:01

Agenda additions or corrections: Resolution from City of Mosier added between 4 and 5

Comments from the public

Appleton comments that Positions 2 and 3 were switched in Draft Minutes for April. Reserves right to comment after Bond Discussion.

Consent Agenda

- Approve Minutes from April Board Meeting: Reeves moves, Ayers seconds.
- Review and approve bills for payment: Postponed to next month. Bills did not go out due to technical issues.

Business:

1. Update on Budget Committee – Evans. Next scheduled meeting is Tues 5/18 at 1800.
2. Updates on available grants (PSPS, CARES, fire prevention) – Chief Renault. The OSFM WUI grant for approx \$24.5K was approved. (Those are going to agencies hit hard by fires last year). This will buy 10 sets of wildland PPE, some line tools, hoses, bags, appliances, a radio, training & prevention materials. RFA/VFA State Forestry grant for \$10K was approved. This will buy 5 sets of wildland PPE, more hose, hose packs, appliances, chainsaw, & a radio. Bookkeeper has said these don't need to be added to budget. Hazmat grant is waiting until next budget cycle, but in July we will receive 2 TICs (Thermal Imaging Cameras), 2 4-gas monitors, and 2 infrared thermometers free from the state.
3. Value & Productivity of the Squad - Evans. The Squad is the only significant debt the fire department has. We purchased it new in October 2016 and are paying \$27,236 per year on a ten year plan. It has 6000 miles on it, the majority of which came from the original delivery to us and driving to/from maintenance.

Evans: It may not currently fit within the department and seems to have significant limitations as evidenced by damage to the CAFS system this summer. Might we be better served by selling this item rather than trying to find reasons to justify its existence?

Renault has reached out to a broker we've used before. Est sale price at least \$175-180K, plus it would cost the purchaser \$10-15K to reinstall the CAFS system. Would cover the principal owed with some left over.

Board asked for input from volunteers present: Goter & Anderson both said functionality is limited compared to other rigs. Both would take other rigs out first. Anderson supports the board bringing up this question.

Renault: we did not make an insurance claim on the damaged CAFS system since it only cost approx \$1000 to remove. The light tower is useful for nighttime motor vehicle crashes.

Reeves notes new equipment is hard to come by right now - this might be a good time to sell.

Chief Renault will follow up with broker, find out their fee, etc. Also will look into what we might replace it with. He's keeping an eye out for another federal excess Type 6 engine (from BLM) like Brush 11 which we would be able to acquire very cheaply.

4. Mosier City / UP - Witt Anderson, Mosier City Council. There are two agreements with UP: one is the 4-party "Team Mosier" settlement which includes MFD, second is just between UP and City for Site Restoration. They've been doing restoration and design work over the last 3-4 yrs. Remaining work would mostly be pretty expensive: restroom, facilities for a camp host, work on the south side of tracks (parking, signage.) Some reseeding & revegetation yet to be done.

The City is working with UP to just get remaining funds as a check. This does not affect the 4-party agreement. City will release any claims and further obligations at the site and UP will give City \$1.3 million. On the order of \$200K will be used for the remaining site restoration work, and the majority (on the order of \$1.1 million) will be available to use for the Community Center. City Council agreed yesterday. Working with architect to figure out exactly what still needs to be done. The City thinks this is a better use of funds for the community as a whole.

- Resolution from City of Mosier - Witt Anderson, Mosier City Council.

The attorney for UP recommended the City gets resolutions in support of the reallocation of funds from the fire district and school before the site agreement is amended. The school has passed such a resolution.

Anderson asks MFD board to pass this resolution tonight. This allows us to demonstrate that we have "skin in the game" for a federal grant application being submitted tomorrow.

Text of resolution read aloud: see attachment. Reeves moves to approve, Ayers seconds. Passed unanimously.

Next board meeting, Anderson suggests bringing Jill Burnett on the agenda to bring the fire district up to speed with City's actions re Mosier Center.

Current estimate for Community Center (including some of the Hub funds which would go to the plaza on the west side) is \$6.5 million. With the money from UP we're at about \$3 million. We're looking for lottery bond money and ARP money from the state - we've requested \$750K, which would bring us above 50%. After we've raised around 80% it becomes easier to receive foundation grants to complete it.

State money would be known by the end of June. Federal funds would potentially take longer.

The funding vision right now is as follows:

- \$350K from city and fire coffers right now (mostly fire)
- \$750K from state
- \$650 federal funds
- \$450K from foundation grants
- \$450K from individual donors
- \$1.5 mil fire bond
- \$1.1 mil from recent UP reallocation

Board members agree that we should meet with architects again and see what we can trim from that \$6.5 mil figure.

5. Bond Discussion - Evans

The tentatively proposed bond is for up to \$1.5 million,, which works out to \$58 per 100K spread over a 20 year repayment period.

Discussion: What if a bond is approved but we don't end up needing all of it? After the district passes a bond measure, it doesn't have to issue bonds right away. Any remaining proceeds must be used for capital construction & improvements as approved by voters, or debt service. A bond can also be downsized after it has passed, and nothing prohibits us from not issuing bonds if we get funds elsewhere.

Questions:

- If the bond fails, do we still need to pay \$10K to SDAO? That \$10K walks us through the entire process including PR, strategy, voter education, official forms, documents.
- What is SDAO's success rate on this sort of advocacy?
- Do they survey the community before we issue a bond? We need to know if we're asking for more than the community is comfortable spending before we put a bond on the ballot.

Evans will follow up with David Albricht at SDAO and bring info to June meeting.

Appleton public comment:

The district has a larger number of cheaper properties and smaller number of higher value properties. The median assessed value during his tenure was approx \$115K. That's probably changed - there are new properties now. He recommends the board reference updated information from county assessors, which would include a detailed breakdown of each property in the district with assessed value. This spreadsheet would cost \$25. David Albricht should be familiar with it.

The following text is added to the summary of Appleton's comment per his request:

"Jim Appleton expressed support for board discussion of a potential bond election.

He recommends that board and staff acquire and familiarize the County Assessor's spreadsheet of taxable assessed values of all tax lots in MFD, and consider tools which could aid both MFD and its constituents in accurately understanding the impact of a bond on each tax lot owner.

He also questioned part of prior discussion stating as fact that individual liability for bond payments by tax lot increase over time."

6. Chief's Report – Chief Renault

Only change to written report: A partial burn ban starts 5/15 and a full burn ban will probably be enacted on 6/1. This is earlier than normal, but predictors are for a heavy fire season that starts early.

Firefighters Kelly and Cosens left the department recently.

ODF and Forest Service did FEP inspection to make sure we still have the equipment they gave us. We have an extra piece of equipment (a very old, non-operational brush truck) at S12 that we're going to get rid of. We will sell it where it sits.

7. Volunteer Report: N/A
8. Committee Reports: N/A
9. Correspondence: No correspondence.

Next Month's Board Meeting will be on June 10th.

Adjourned at 19:48.