

Mosier Fire District Board Meeting

Thursday, October 14th, 2021 at 6:00pm
Held as a Zoom meeting

Minutes

Attendance

- Board members: Phil Evans, Barb Ayers, Joanne Rubin, Todd Reeves, Steve Fisher
- Staff: Chief Mike Renault, Maggie Goter
- Others: Kris McNall, Colleen Coleman, Joe Sacamano

Called to order at 1804

Agenda additions or corrections

- None

Comments from the public

- None

Consent agenda

- Ayers asked about SAFER reimbursement - the statement says we have about \$2600 in SAFER reimbursement. That is correct. There is a \$44K payment in progress that has been submitted but has not come through yet. Nothing this fiscal year.
- Ayers believes we should change balance sheet to make purchases charged to SAFER easier to see.
- Reeves moves to approve, Rubin seconds. All in favor.

Business:

1. Upcoming vacancy in MFD Board Position 2 – Evans

Ayers is moving to San Diego. Re succession, McNall has been brought up as a good candidate now as well as in the past. Discussion ensued about whether to appoint a candidate tonight or wait a few weeks.

McNall is interested in serving on the board. We don't have UP money anymore and she anticipates JUF will cost more operationally than current facilities - it's important that board provides support to the Chief so we have money for our needs without running us down to zero. Also, she's good at written stuff and number pushing and that's good for transparency.

Discussion about timing: Ayers will stay on until replacement is on board. Doesn't want to leave a hole.

Motion: Rubin moves to accept Kris McNall to fill MFD Board Position #2 (which is currently held by Barb Ayers) for the remainder of the current term, to take effect October 20th 2021 following Ayers' resignation. Reeves seconds.

Fisher: wants to revisit bylaws to make sure we're following procedure before appointing someone. Rubin & Reeves confirm appointing to fill terms is standard practice. Most current board members started their terms with appointments. Evans confirmed with SDAO that it's fine to be a volunteer and on board, or to be on multiple community boards.

Fisher wants to wait, wants more time to process this, advocates waiting a month.

Ayers thinks McNall would be good on board due to prior positive experiences on the finance committee where she's trying to make things work long-term. Plus history with Mosier Community and fire district.

Re finance committee, it will also need a new chair.

Question about timing: Ayers will stay on until a successor is named as she doesn't want to leave a hole. Board can name a successor to take over the day after this meeting or next meeting, then Ayers can time her resignation so there aren't six people on the board.

Joe Sacamano asked to comment: McNall is exceptional, well known to the board and community, smart, energetic. He's thrilled she's willing to take on more responsibility.

Vote: Rubin, Evans, Reeves, Ayers are in favor. Fisher abstains. Motion passes.

2. Sale of the Squad and replacement plan – Chief Renault

Payoff for Squad: we thought it would be about \$125-126K, actual is \$154,975.45. We still have a payment due later this year. That payment will bring it down to \$126K. The payment is \$27,236.36 (already allocated in budget). He's been in touch with Chief of agency buying it, has a PO, waiting to hear back from their financial institution re wire transfer details.

We will need a special budget hearing next month since we're bringing lots of money in and sending out. Will solidify us going forward paying off the Squad. We need to give a 30 day notice when we pay off the loan.

An agency in Ontario, Canada bought it. We put it out for 180K, they bought it for 175K. Chief Renault's had multiple conversations with their Chief - they're fine with it & lack of CAFS. Will benefit their vols because it'll give them a smaller rig to drive around in.

Net cash to us \$20,024.55 after paying off vehicle loan & broker fees.

That area is more suburban than us. Rural, but not like our South County - more paved roads. Rig should work well for them.

Ayers: There was a letter to the editor about the Squad - wants to throw out whether we should put out information countering rumors. Renault talked to Evans, our legal department, regarding that letter. Encourages anyone with questions/comments to call the office and talk to him to avoid misinformation.

McNall: she'd like talking points from the Chief (a few sentences) to make sure she's saying exactly what she should be when talking with community members.

Renault: Loan payment is \$154K. Once we pay that off, out of the \$175K sale we have \$20,024.55 coming back. Once we add \$27K loan payment for this year we've already budgeted, we have \$42K available since we're not making that payment.

Re replacement:

ODF is getting rid of 2008 Ford F550 for \$8K. That covers the cost of chassis and fire suppression system. Total cost will be approx \$30K and that will also cover some repairs. There is a valve or a lifter going out. But if they find more issues in the process of doing that there could be more repairs needed. That would bring us to \$16-18K in repairs. At that point it would be easier to buy a new motor from Ford: just shy of \$30K.

64K miles. Runs fine short of motor work. No body damage, has been in district.

\$20K for motor, \$8K for vehicle. Extra is for tires, striping, radio. With upgrades, total cost will be \$35-36K.

To continue vehicle plan:

Renault was looking into replacing the command rig/Suburban next year. But with money going to JUF we'd only have \$280K in capital reserves. A new vehicle would be \$70-75K if we can get/find a rig that works for our needs. Chiefs in local agencies have been waiting 2 yrs for vehicles - COVID slowdowns mean few vehicles available.

Also have \$11,500 fund from stuff we sold earlier this year.

Opportunity for a turnkey command vehicle we could pick up today from another agency. \$25K total. Could be leased and paid off next year. We could cover the cost for both vehicles next year then look at \$11K payment in budget next year for the 2nd payment for the command rig.

All we'd need to do is flash current radio, buy a new radio.

It's a pickup truck - would allow us to haul stuff. 30K miles.

Being able to get something turnkey quickly would be beneficial. It would last us 6-7 yrs.

The suburban has 189K miles right now. By the time we go through the budget process for a new vehicle it would be 200-225K mile range. "Getting kind of tired." Would like to keep it a little longer for rehab, duty officer, travel to classes. We're paying insurance on 13 pcs of equipment (9 fire apparatus, 2 we're getting ready to get rid of, 2 trailers).

Also wants to surplus Dodge sitting outside 12. That would also help fund 2nd ½ of command rig payment so we don't need to dig into coffers.

Last vehicle we sold was almost 40 years old. Our fleet is the best it's ever been, and we're able to keep vehicles for a while.

Issues we're having for rehab right now: We're the only type of agency running our current SCBAs right now so we need to be a little more self-sufficient.

- A) Brush engine: new motor would have 2 year unlimited mile warranty.
- B) New brush would allow us to keep B11 in district as it's our primary medical vehicle.

If everything goes well there's a chance for a free Type 3 coming available. If that happens we'd be able to get rid of the other Dodge or sell the fire pack and turn it into a utility rig.

If Chief Renault is authorized to spend \$40K for a brush engine and doesn't spend all of it, we can roll that over to offset the cost of a command rig.

Existing command rig (Suburban) was purchased for 10K in 2006 with about 80K miles on it. We're doing about 1100 miles a month.

Suburban: plan to keep it for a year for rehab, and if we don't use it we can sell it. At this point one more year of use doesn't really influence purchase price.

New one is a GMC pickup truck.

Reeves: would have appreciated this info in the board packet. Also highly advises the board doesn't buy any Ford product with 6.4 liter engine. Bucket trucks are giveaways because those motors are trash. Just talked to mechanic who said those engines are unfixable. Renault: new crate motor is the one with updated heads, pistons. "Bulletproof motor." Plus 2 yr warranty. He talked to more than one Ford dealership.

Evans: no direct feedback on 6.4L engine but doesn't see pushback on acquiring a Type 6. Reeves agrees.

Fisher: 6L engine had problems until they bulletproofed top end of motor, and after that it was good, but he's less familiar with the 6.4. They've since canned that motor, gone to 6.7. Reeves: 6.4 has half as many head studs, lots of power, hard to hold itself together.

Closest comp Renault can find is 2000, not 2008, and more miles.

We're talking about 3 vehicles, but the ODF Type 6 would replace the Squad.

Several board members requested Renault's apparatus plan in writing ahead of being asked to make decisions. Consensus is that Renault has a great history acquiring good equipment. There is an existing apparatus inventory list which will be pushed out again.

Evans: Philosophically board operates at policy level. He does not want to get into the weeds of operational performance, e.g. engine brands/models.

We also got sold on Squad and it turned out to not be great. Possibly would be to our benefit to have review for large purchases. Renault: brings more to the table, knows how to source equipment. McNall: doesn't want to second guess Renault's decisions; from what she sees he's done fantastic. Philosophical question: does board want one person or more than one person looking over these big buys. What should board oversight look like? Evans thinks that falls on Renault's shoulders.

First half of payment for pickup would come from Squad lease payment budgeted this year. We've already got the 27K budgeted this year for the lease payment from the Squad. To clarify, lease would have to be paid off in December this year so we won't have to pay it. Renault: neighboring agency is holding the pickup for us and giving us a good deal so he wants to move quickly.

Motion: Fisher moves that we purchase the pickup truck from West Side Fire as a new command rig for \$25K with \$15K to be allocated this year and \$10K to be authorized next year. Evans seconds.

Vote: In favor: Fisher, Rubin, Evans, Ayers. Opposed: Reeves. Motion passes.

3. Chief's report – Chief Renault

See written report for more details.

Drill moving to Wednesdays.

Re timing: we're focusing on a team response.

The other day, we had a call with 2 minutes out the gate and 4 min on scene with a team of 3. Outcome wouldn't have been as good with 1 person.

Within 4 minutes, if somebody doesn't answer on the radio that call has been received it gets toned again and Chief Renault gets a phone call from dispatch.

New app (First Due) allows us to see directly who's responding to a station.

We always want to send out a team. Waiting the extra 30-60 seconds to get another person on the apparatus means we can get a lot more done.

Single occupancy vehicles make it harder for command & control. Less direct oversight, more people doing their own thing.

Previously, information cited included specific pieces of equipment that responded 30+ minutes into a call, e.g. tenders. Or averages of every piece of equipment on a particular call, including tenders. Not initial time on scene.

Ayers: Safety is first. She worried about the "I'll just jump in a rig and go myself" mentality in the past since that's how people get hurt.

McNall: One more way previous admin Mike has done a lot to get rid of lag from dispatch, which is another way we're working better as a team.

First Due working well, everybody likes it, better system. 24 ppl have signed up for Community Connects so far.

4. SAFER update – Chief Renault, Goter

Goter: Still moving forward with reimbursement. Held up due to technical issues with grant portal. We've also emailed the extension/amendment draft to our grant officer per their preferred protocol. Waiting to hear back. Grant is set to sunset at the end of November 2021.

Evans & Renault have been working on getting issue with SAM.gov sorted.

Next update will be Nov 4th: the regular board meeting will be moved up to accommodate the holiday.

Our grant officer can directly approve an extension of up to 6 months herself, so that likely would take less time to move through federal bureaucracy than a 12 month extension.

We have a 90 day period after end of the grant to submit final expenses, e.g. last paycheck & health insurance paycheck.

5. Volunteer report

See written report from Volunteer Association President Tom Oswald (at end of minutes). Some discussion of new JUF plans ensued as they were referenced in the volunteer report.

6. Committee reports

a. JUF Committee

Chief Renault reported that updated plans are available from the architect. Chief Renault thinks retooled space will better meet volunteer needs. Colleen Coleman shared plans with the board. Footprint has not changed. No feedback yet on whether this will change the budget. Bathroom and kitchenette were removed. See plans attached to minutes.

Coleman asks that the board vote to move forward with the Design Development phase at a cost of about \$180K. Risk is that if we move forward but don't get funds we're hoping for then we'll have to adjust and make the building smaller. But if we don't move forward, we won't be showing progress to the state that we're moving forward spending funds we already received. Fisher thinks it's important to keep momentum moving forward on this project.

New Market Tax Credit application in progress. \$1.5 mil federal money looks promising; Sen. Merkley coming to fundraising event planned for the last Timbers game of the season. Board will receive invites to that event on Nov 7th.

Design Development phase is more research into materials, geotech - it will give us a more sure cost estimate. Still about \$2.5 million short of final total, but Coleman reports good donations and that NMTC will bring in \$1.3-1.7 mil. Current total budget is about \$6.5 mil but they're hoping to have \$7 mil available in case more is needed.

Motion: Fisher moves the board move forward with the Design Development phase. Evans seconds.

Vote: All in favor. None opposed. Motion passes.

b. Finance Committee

McNall: Most of what the Committee discussed was covered at the Monday meeting. Evans asked the Finance Committee to work on a budget format that would be easier to understand so McNall took numbers from this year's budget and put them into a draft one page format. LB forms provide good detail but can be confusing - a one pager might help with the big picture.

7. Correspondence

We received a card from a local agency for the work we did on a funeral.

The board thanks Ayers for her service to the board.

Comments from the public

Adjournment 2047

Next month's board meeting will be on November 11th.

Volunteer Report for October 14, 2021

We have four volunteers that are in Firefighter One Academy; they are saying that they are learning a lot and enjoying it at the same time. They are now on their second month of this journey.

Last night I seen the newest drawings for the JUF. I believe the volunteers would be happy with their input being added to the building. Again the volunteers appreciate being thought of during this adventure with the JUF.

Thanks

Tom Oswald

Mosier Fire Volunteers Association President