

# Mosier Fire District Board Meeting

Thursday, February 10<sup>th</sup>, 2021 at 6:00pm  
Held as a Zoom meeting

## Minutes

### Attendance

- **Board members:** Phil Evans, Joanne Rubin, Todd Reeves, Steve Fisher. Kris McNall excused.
- **Staff:** Chief Mike Renault, Maggie Goter
- **Others:** Witt Anderson, Colleen Coleman, Wayne Haythorn, Jim Appleton, Carol Goter, Joe Sacamano

### Call to order at 1802

### Agenda additions or corrections

- Discussion of brush engine - Chief Renault
- Budget committee volunteers - Evans
- Reschedule Vote on MFD Board comment policy to next month

### Comments from the public

**Jim Appleton:** Questions whether public comment policy has been reviewed by our attorney. Does not think board members or volunteers should chime in. Strictly public comment.

### Consent agenda

- Financials: brief discussion: we currently have >\$337,000 in our First Interstate Bank acct. We had spoken about moving extra balance at the end of the budget cycle into Capital Reserves, and we did not do that. Also we always get a bunch of tax income around this time of year which makes our balance high, but that gets spent down over the next several months. Debt service is very high because we sold and paid off the Squad.
- **Motion:** Fisher moves to approve consent agenda, Reeves seconds. Passes unanimously.

### Business:

1. First Interstate Account viewing authorizations - Evans

Evans has set up Reeves & McNall to have viewing privileges to our First Interstate Bank account. December 15th: \$260,000 intake as first chunk of this year's taxes. Before that, we had about \$63,000 - that's about what we could move to savings (LGIP General Fund). Interest in LGIP account is low, but it's cleaner to have our savings not mixed in with our operations money. We can also move \$23,000 from UP to savings.

2. Update on Business Oregon loan application - Evans

Submitted preapplication about 3 weeks ago. Still working through preapplication, including a couple questions about O&M. Not into official application yet.

3. Stipend policy - Goter

SAFER grant extension has been fully approved & processed. We have until May to finish spending. Absolutely no possibility of extending it beyond that. We've reallocated funds so we can give stipends to volunteers who have been training and responding. Details of stipend policy still have to be worked out - we need more data from the company we used to use for reporting to make sure we don't go over allotted funds. The policy will be retroactive from the beginning of the grant, which means we're going to be able to pay volunteers for the responses from Nov 2017 through May 2022. Chief Renault is working on getting that data from the reporting company.

Next month we will have to pass a budget amendment to approve spending the money, then we can give stipends to vols, then we get reimbursed from grant. FEMA has approved spending over \$100K for stipends.

We have 3 months after the end of the grant to turn in paperwork and do all reimbursements and reports.

We may want to pay stipends for duty shifts as well as responses for the last few months of this grant.

Fundamentally, the SAFER grant is about recruitment and retention. We can't spend the money on equipment or other goods except in a few specific circumstances (mostly turnouts for newly recruited volunteers), which is why we're allotting so much for stipends. This is a 4 year grant and we have 3 months to spend ~70% of it.

4. Vote on MFD Board comment policy - Goter

Deferred until next month.

5. Vote on total commitment from MFD capital reserves and UP funds to JUF - Evans

Evans reviewed amounts in various MFD funds from the balance sheet.

Wants to commit from the following funds: JUF fund \$545K, dry hydrant fund \$276K, Giswold Bequest, and Capital Reserve. Plus about \$38K from the General Fund which leaves us with a General Fund of \$150K.

That totals \$915K, including funds already committed by the board. Leaves \$150K in capital reserve, plus surplus in First Interstate and \$23K of UP funds. Would leave us a nest egg of just over \$200K.

This is in addition to the planned \$800K loan through Business Oregon which we'd raise taxes to pay back .

Total commitment would be up to \$1.715 mil.

Anderson: After this commitment, there will still be a funding gap of a little over \$1 million. JUF committee meeting will discuss ways to close the gap next week. Hard costs are probably going to be about \$5.5 million, but after design development phase we'll have more confidence in that number.

If we can't close the funding gap and the project does not go forward we do not lose those funds. But we are incentivized against that - we've already received \$750K for a grant for a joint facility.

Costs per square foot are just very high right now. John Day's \$1.9 million facility is 8 years old, so costs were less.

We've spent about \$400K in soft costs from the original \$500K state grant. 30% in soft costs is typical and we're on track to be below that.

**Motion:** Fisher moves to commit a total of \$915K to JUF from funds described above. Reeves seconds. Passes unanimously.

6. JUF ownership 190 IGA progress - Evans

IGA is in the early stages. Nothing to be presented at this meeting.

7. Chief's report – Chief Renault

12 calls for service this month. 3 fires, 3 EMS, 2 dispatched and canceled fires, 1 public assist, 1 dispatched and canceled EMS, 1 mobile vehicle fire, one alarm. All fires were helping neighbors. About 5:50 "out the chute"

On Monday, FF1 academy ends. We'll have 4 new Firefighter 1's. That brings us up to 13 interior-qualified firefighters.

Chief Renault completed NFPA Fire Investigator class and is working on the taskbook.

Finished ordering everybody's PPE at a cost of \$27,000 and change. Coats, boots, helmets, 2 nomex, 2 gloves. Half the department now has 2 sets of bunker gear.

Now is the time to start thinking about fire season. Last of hazmat gear has arrived.

In 2021: Mosier responded to 199 incidents. 81 were EMS, 25 were outside fires, 10 structure fires, 5 vehicle fires, 1 random fire. Losses from fires we worked on were 113.5 acres. No estimated dollar loss as there were no structure fires in our district. We're ahead of that trend for 2022 so we may break 200 calls this year.

8. SAFER update – Goter

Grant amendment/extension has been approved, but we only have 3 months to finish up our projects. Need to have received all goods & spent all money by May 25th. We'll then have 3 additional months to finish up reports & reimbursements.

Grant-funded items include PPE, duty uniforms, and physicals for new volunteers. Also firefighter training, instructor training, leadership & career training, marketing materials including a postcard mailing, gym memberships for volunteers, and stipends.

About \$214K left in grant out of \$274K grant.

We'll need a budget amendment to spend these funds. This is because for this grant we spend money out of our accounts, then we get reimbursed. Still waiting on data from our old reporting company to calculate stipends.

9. Volunteer report: no volunteer report was submitted this month.

10. Committee reports: no committee reports from this month.

11. Correspondence: regular mailings from SDAO.

12. Budget committee members - Evans

Barb Ayers, Tim Hudson, Wayne Haythorn have agreed to be on the budget committee.

13. Brush engine - Renault

Chief Renault wants to purchase a brush engine from ODF for \$8000. It also needs a new engine (which will have a 2 year warranty) at about \$20,000, then \$10-15K for radio, striping, outfitting. Will help us meet our needs for wildfire season. This is the Ford engine discussed last fall. Chief Renault proposes using excess money from selling old apparatus to pay for this.

Total expenditures will be \$51,000 for purchase, repair, and outfitting. Odometer is at 65,000 miles.

Reeves still has concerns about this style of Ford motor. Fisher thinks we'll get a lot of use out of it since we don't put a ton of miles on our vehicles.

We will also owe \$12.5K on the new command rig next year.

We can vote on this next meeting.

### Comments from the public

Appleton reiterates the request to have the public comment policy reviewed by the attorney and would like to see a public accounting or audit of those hours. Also does not think current staffing is sufficient for lengthy responses outside the district. Also does not think the excess dry hydrant funds should go into JUF.

**Adjourned at 1932.**

*Next month's board meeting will be on March 10<sup>th</sup>.*