

COLUMBUS RURAL FIRE DISTRICT #3
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
MONTHLY MEETING Minutes
August 10th, 2020

CALL MEETING TO ORDER: Meeting was called to order by Curt at 17:36

Present: Curt Robbins, Chuck Kronz, Steve Hopsiter, Debbie Parod,
John Patterson

Fire Chief: Rich Cowger **Assistant Chief:** Nick Jacobs **Batt Chief:**
Travis Hansen

Admin Assistant: Lisa Westervelt

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

APPROVE MINUTES: Minutes for July's meeting were approved as presented.

TREASURER REPORT: The treasurer's report was presented. See attached report. The month's bills were reviewed. It was noted that the total included 2 payroll cycles, and Fuels crew and DNRC Severity payroll, which will be reimbursed. **There was a motion made to pay bills in the amount of \$138,634.77. Motion passed unanimously.**

CHIEF REPORT: See attached

MISCELLANEOUS COMMITTEE REPORTS: None

NEW MEMBER APPROVAL: **Motion from Deb to approve new members Ian Ross, start date of August 24th. Chuck seconded and the motion was approved.**

OLD BUSINESS:

- **Fire/Severity Update** – Severity staffing going well, allows for a quick local response. Looking to be a busy season.
- **Covid relief funds** – The CARES funds have been received by the county; the next step is to submit a request to have the funds transferred to us from the county.
- **Roof Status** – Project is completed. Will bill the county for their portion of the costs.
- **Planning issues**
- **Land Purchase updates/ proposal:** Chief visited with Christine, she is still interested in selling half the property, but we can still probably work something out. She declined the \$125,000 offer, and Chief isn't sure the \$145,000 is going to get us their either. Curt suggested offering the full \$145,000 and see what she says. Deb also suggested including an option lock for first right of refusal. Chief brought up USDA guaranteed loans that we would qualify for, would work with local bank then the USDA Rural and

Economic Development loan would back/guarantee the loan. Chief will follow up with Christine again.

NEW BUSINESS:

- **Budget Update:** Budget and ambulance district was submitted for \$225,000. Chief had concerns on the state property tax revenue amount, but the taxable valuations from that the state have come in and everything looks to be up from last year, so the budget should be ok.
- **DOD Boat/Old boat sale/trailer purchase:** The new (to us) boat is here. It needed a trailer because it was delivered on a "bunk." New trailer was purchased from Riverside Marine and Cycle in Miles City. We can sell the old boat as soon as possible to recoup the cost, net cost to us for the new boat could end up at about \$500. Chief also said that the Polaris dealer in Miles City asked about a side-by-side for the department. They have an in-house program where we could get a new side-by-side every 6 months, we just have to insure it, and advertise where it's from. Several area departments have them. Deb asked to check the fine print, but the consensus was to look further into the program.

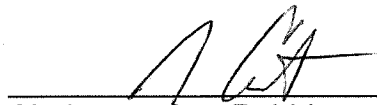
OTHER MEMBERS BUSINESS:

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

ADJOURN: 18:25

NEXT MEETING: September 14th 5:30 PM FIREHALL

Minutes submitted by Chief Rich Cowger



Chairman: Curt Robbins



Secretary: Debbie Parod