

COLUMBUS RURAL FIRE DISTRICT #3
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
MONTHLY MEETING Minutes
February 8th, 2021

CALL MEETING TO ORDER: Meeting was called to order by Curt at 17:38

Present: Curt Robbins, John Patterson, Chuck Kronz, Debbie Parrod – via Zoom Mtg
Fire Chief: Rich Cowger **Admin Assistant:** Lisa Westervelt **Guests:** none

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

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

TREASURER REPORT: The treasurer's report was presented. **There was a motion made to pay bills in the amount of \$85424.74 Motion passed unanimously.**

CHIEF REPORT: See attached.

MISCELLANEOUS COMMITTEE REPORTS: None

NEW MEMBER APPROVAL: None.

OLD BUSINESS:

COVID relief funds/EMS equipment: We have received all of the CARES equipment that was ordered.

John wanted to recognize Chief for handling our COVID funds well, saving our taxpayers money by handling the funds responsibly and doing things the right way.

As we have quarterly loan payments due this month and looking at the COVID relief funds we have and other funds coming in from DNRC, EMAC, Cares Act, etc, Chief started discussions on how best to use some of those monies. It looks like it will be approximately \$75,776.97 to pay off the full debt balance. This debt is for the new Command pickup, the tender, and the brush truck. **John moved to pay off the debt in full, Deb seconded the motion. Motion was approved.**

With this, we don't have to amend the budget, but we should so we can show how the loans were paid and how the COVID relief funds were used.

Next month, Chief would like to start line item planning, for example, EMS, Land, Capital Improvements. So we are setting the funds aside for specific areas and plans.

Planning issues-Strategic Plan:

Land Purchase updates/ proposal: Chief did get a chance to visit with Christine and neighbor, he is favorable to the idea. Chief and Dan have been playing phone tag, working on getting a first right of refusal written up.

SAFER Grant updates: This grant opened this week. We will be applying for 2 positions thru the grant like we did last year. Senator Tester's office has asked if we need letters in support of the our application.

NEW BUSINESS:

Resident Program updates: 1 applicant so far for the resident position. We are looking at reworking our resident program some, and our goal would be to build it up to having 6 residents. Residents would have same shifts as our staff (48/96), so they can be in more of a learning mode. We would also like to look into helping with college costs, similar to how Laramie is running their program via grants, etc. Could there be some remote class options, class fees reimbursed after classes completed, provided GPA is at or above specified levels, etc.

New AFG Grant opens soon – Ambulance. This grant closes this week. We are finishing up the application. A new ambulance approximate cost is \$250,000, and the grant would require a 5% match from us.

Executive Session Started at 1824, ended at 1847

Wildland Positions: Chief expressed an interest in making some changes to our wildland program. It was moved, and seconded to give the go ahead to revamp the program and come back to the board with proposed plan and financials for the changes. The motion was approved.

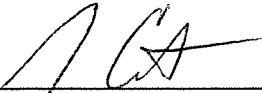
OTHER MEMBERS BUSINESS:

ANNOUNCEMENTS:


ADJOURN: 1900

NEXT MEETING: March 8th, 2021 5:30 PM FIREHALL

Minutes submitted by Chief Rich Cowger



Chairman: Curt Robbins



Secretary: Debbie Parod