

**COLUMBUS RURAL FIRE DISTRICT #3
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
MONTHLY MEETING Minutes
May 12th, 2021**

CALL MEETING TO ORDER: Meeting was called to order by Curt at 17:33.

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

Fire Chief: Rich Cowger

Admin Assistant: Lisa Westervelt

Visitors: None

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

APPROVE MINUTES: Minutes for the meeting of April 12th, 2021 were presented. **Minutes were approved as presented.**

TREASURER REPORT: The treasurer's report was presented. See attached report. The month's bills were reviewed. It should be noted that \$172,876 will be reimbursed from the county, Chief has a funds release request to be approved and signed tonight. **There was a motion to pay bills in the amount of \$286,650.32. Motion passed unanimously.**

CHIEF REPORT: See attached

MISCELLANEOUS COMMITTEE REPORTS: None

NEW MEMBER APPROVAL:

OLD BUSINESS:

COVID relief funds/EMS equipment/Fund Planning: The county has received the funds from the State for the EMS equipment. We have wired the funds to pay the 90 day note to cover the purchase of the EMS equipment and will be submitting a funds release request to the county for the reimbursement for those purchases.

Planning issues – Strategic Plan: Chief presented some information on a Strategic Plan proposal using an outside consultant. The consultant would facilitate a public meeting, SWOT analysis within the department, and generate a report from those findings. The cost, with discounts, would be about \$16,000. Funding for this would not come from our "normal" operational budget.

There are several other departments that have used these consultants and have seen positive changes from implementing their recommendations.

There was discussion about a plan coming from the board vs a plan from the consultants, and which would have more credibility to the community in making recommendations/requests.

The board would like to see stakeholder involvement/buy-off to build on what we do for our community and see value to the taxpayer community.

There was a motion from Deb to move forward with the Strategic Plan from the consultants, and to start scheduling with them. Steve seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Land Purchase updates/proposal: Chief gave a copy of a Land Purchase Proposal letter to Christine. The board feels strongly that the language for the First Right of Refusal needs to stay with "appraised value" rather than "market value."

The Board would still like to pursue the other property behind Christine's.

There was a motion from Deb to proceed with the proposal and get legal documents drawn up with the purchase price of \$105,000, first right of refusal at "appraised value." The Board will pay survey fees, split closing costs and the cost of a privacy fence, to be agreed upon before construction. Steve seconded and the motion was approved.

SAFER Grant updates: No word yet, but we do know the grant is being reviewed.

NEW BUSINESS:

Wildland Positions applications – update: We have filled one position for now, Colton Cowger accepted the Wildland manager position. Our fuels crew will be staffed with our residents, and the seasonal wildland positions we have advertised for.

Formation of Compensation Committee: We may need to look at some adjustments to wages as the state has increased EFF wages by \$0.50/hour. The board would like to continue paying the full cost of health benefits as long as possible, open to looking at a way to make the health benefits more consistent across the staff, as well as make us competitive with other similar agencies. May also need to look at something for benefits, possibly something like a cap for funds to use for health insurance premiums and/or a flex account.

Chief will send a survey state Chiefs in like departments regarding wages and other compensation/benefits and bring that to the board/committee. Curt and Deb volunteer for committee.

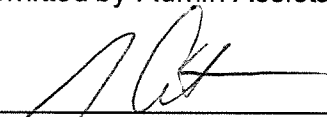
OTHER MEMBER'S BUSINESS: None

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Steve will be here in July, and hopefully August.


ADJOURN: The meeting was adjourned at 18:55.

NEXT MEETING: June 14th, 2021 5:30 PM FIREHALL

Minutes submitted by Admin Assistant Lisa Westervelt



Chairman: Curt Robbins



Secretary: Debbie Parod

