

COLUMBUS RURAL FIRE DISTRICT #3
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
MONTHLY MEETING Minutes
November 9th, 2020

CALL MEETING TO ORDER: Meeting was called to order by Curt at 17:30

Present: Curt Robbins, Chuck Kronz, Steve Hopsiter, John Patterson, Debbie Parrod
Fire Chief: Rich Cowger **Assistant Chief:** Nick Jacobs **Batt Chief:** Travis Hansen
Admin Assistant: Lisa Westervelt

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

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

TREASURER REPORT: The treasurer's report was presented. There was some discussion over the bills – noted that there were 2 payrolls included in the expenses, repairs for one truck, lodging fees that will be reimbursed. No Cares monies showing up yet. **There was a motion made to pay bills in the amount of \$132,290.14. Motion passed unanimously.**

CHIEF REPORT: See attached.

MISCELLANEOUS COMMITTEE REPORTS: None

NEW MEMBER APPROVAL:

OLD BUSINESS:

Broken equipment saga and updates: B436 needed repairs in CA, \$16,000. On Troublesome Creek fire: B440 and B236 breakdown in Riverton, Wy. B440 was repaired, B236 had an injector problem, needing a new or rebuilt engine. New is \$500 less than a rebuild. B426 went to rescue crew in WY and head to fire. Had trouble with transfer case on the way home, looking at rebuild. Bottom line though, engine revenue covers repair expenses. After talking with the repair shops, there really wasn't much we could have done different to prevent these breakdowns. At their recommendation, will be trying some additives to see if that will help. Also plan to drive the trucks once in a while.

Have a quote from McCandles for repairs to B236 for \$28,551. This would be a rebuilt engine. **Motion from Deb to rebuild the engine as quoted, John seconded. Motion was approved.**

Fire/ Severity update

COVID relief funds At the last Commissioner's meeting, they did approve releasing the CARES Act funds to the department. Still waiting to see the funds in our account. The CARES act is now eligible to cover health care costs, retroactive to March, so we will be applying for that as well.

Planning issues- where do we go
Land Purchase updates/ proposal

Cadet Program Update: We will be re-evaluating the program and looking at how to move forward.

Grants status AFG/SAFER: We were turned down for the AFG (new ambulance) and SAFER (2 full time positions) grants, in part because we've been successful in getting grants in the past.

NEW BUSINESS:

Health Insurance: Our current plan with BC/BS has been a good plan for coverage. We recognize the board has paid 100% of the premiums to date and are very appreciative for that. We also recognize that at some point, as premiums increase, employees may need to pay some of the monthly premiums. New plans from BCBS were reviewed, and there was a **motion from John to approve the renewal of the current plan from BCBS at 100%. Deb seconded and the motion was approved.**

Personnel Travel Pay and Reimbursement Clarification: After some of the travel this fire season, some new issues came up that we should address and clarify policies or develop new policies for. Lodging/meals will be paid on the way to and the way home from assignments. If there are "days off" on an assignment, where do we charge time to? Charge to fire, "day off," base 8 hours, etc? It was suggested by Deb and Curt that we cover per diem and lodging, and then follow other mandates/policies – follow those of the assignment.

For resident stipends, a question came up about paying the stipend if the residents are on fire assignments for the month. Consensus from Curt, Deb and John was Yes, continue to pay the monthly stipend. For those helping cover when residents are gone, we can pay residents for ambulance transfers if they are picking up extra shifts to help cover shifts.

Equipment list from Nick: Nick provided a running list of projects/needs and their status. John asked for current value of the assets on the list. The power cot has been received. Airbags are probably the 1st to address.

Other: We have an interested party for the motor off our old boat. Possible price of \$3,000. Curt may know someone interested in just the boat.

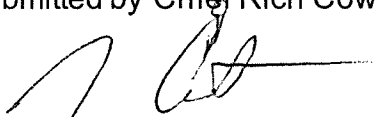
OTHER MEMBERS BUSINESS:

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

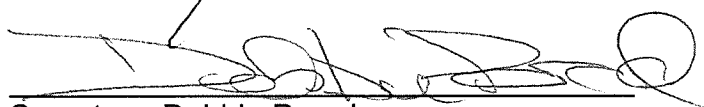
ADJOURN: 18:43

NEXT MEETING: December 14th, 2020 5:30 PM FIREHALL

Minutes submitted by Chief Rich Cowger



Chairman: Curt Robbins



Secretary: Debbie Parod