

COLUMBUS RURAL FIRE DISTRICT #3
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
MONTHLY MEETING Minutes
February 9th, 2026

CALL MEETING TO ORDER Meeting was called to order at 5:32 pm.

Present Curt Robbins, Chuck Kronz, Brent Parkins, Debbie Parod, John Patterson

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

Admin Assistant Lisa Westervelt

Visitors Dan Otis, Travis Goddard, Raven Goddard, Colton Cowger, Steven Derby, Mat Keating, Braden Talarico, Dawson Otis, Peyton Smith, Morgan Stoppel

PUBLIC COMMENT None

Presentations or Communications

APPROVE MINUTES Minutes for the meeting on January 13th were approved as presented.

TREASURER REPORT The treasurer's report was presented. See attached report. Income of \$348,450.24 which includes ambulance revenues, contract fire reimbursements, payment from the City for the interlocal agreement, property tax revenues and grant reimbursement. Expenses of \$136,944.84. Next month we can submit an invoice for payment of the special levy funds for increased health care expenses. **There was a motion made by Chuck to pay the bills in the amount of \$136,944.84. Debbie seconded the motion, voted all in favor, motion carried.**

CHIEF REPORT See attached.

MISCELLANEOUS COMMITTEE REPORTS

Park City Fire and Ambulance/Columbus potential merger update – The Park City board is ready to move ahead and work on consolidation plans, to include topics such as employment and volunteer policies, position descriptions and responsibilities. These plans would eventually be reviewed by legal counsel and then both boards would decide if we continue with the developed plans. Debbie asked about the EMS/Ambulance districts. These are separate issues, separate organizations and it would be a different process to consolidate the two EMS/Ambulance districts in the future if we choose to pursue that. **Request was made for committee appointments from Columbus Rural Fire board to work on the consolidation plans with the committee from Park City board. Curt and Debbie were appointed.**

NEW MEMBER APPROVAL Travis presented a list of new volunteer and resident members for approval. **Chuck made a motion to approve the list of new members. John seconded the motion, voted all in favor, motion carried.**

Curt swore in new Lieutenants, Mat Keating, Dan Otis, Travis Goddard, Steven Derby.

OLD BUSINESS

Maintenance building update:

Project Priority List:

COLUMBUS RURAL FIRE DISTRICT #3
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
MONTHLY MEETING Minutes
February 9th, 2026

Insurance policy, upping coverage cost, deductible: Waiting to hear back from insurance agent.

Architect engagement approval – Rich requested approval to have the architect workup some concept documents and visuals on project plans for current station and new building, based on floor plans they've presented previously. These would be shown with the potential Congressional visits related to funds requests. **Chuck moved to approve up to \$5,000 for architect engagement, Brent seconded the motion. Voted all in favor, motion approved.**

NEW BUSINESS

New Brush Truck build: Rich presented some costs for a brush truck rebuild. Ward Apparatus has a new cab and chassis for sale at \$63,000. Grants could help to pay 1/2 of the pump, new skid unit on a new build, estimated to be about \$13,000. **John moved to approve the proposed replacement budget and purchase the new cab & chassis from Ward Apparatus. Chuck seconded motion. Voted all in favor, motion carried.** It was mentioned to ask if they have 2 available so one could also be used for a new brush truck build.

Seasonal Employees: Proposal was presented for up to 4 seasonal/full time and part time employee positions. The goal would be to build some additional depth and capacity in positions, and hopefully retain some of the residents who have done some of that work for us in the past. These positions can help with fuels mitigation work (grant funded), as well as contract assignments (DNRC reimbursed). The wages in the proposal are based on DNCR rates, and is at the Engine Boss w/PERS rate, and would be a projected max of \$134,962.24 for the district, but most likely at least 2/3rd or better of that would be recoverable. **Brent moved to open up 4 positions for 6 months. Debbie seconded the motion, voted all in favor, motion carried.** Debbie noted she has some concern about budget for these positions.

WUI Conference Attendance – Rich would like to send 3 attendees to the WUI conference. Attendance costs would be grant funded and reimbursed back to the district. Attendees would be Colton Cowger, Travis Goddard, and Mat Keating. **Chuck moved to send 3 attendees to the conference, John seconded the motion. Voted all in favor, motion carried.**

Appreciation Dinner: We're looking at late March or April to host our Appreciation Dinner. John asked that once we have a date set, to invite Congressman Downing, and invite him to the station for a tour.

Other: John asked about the mechanic truck, if it's used 24x7 or daily. Rich said it's a daily use truck by the mechanic, unless he's planning to use it at a different location the following work day and then he would be able to drive it home overnight. Laurel is still interested in

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participating in a consortium agreement, will be adding that to their next budget and has said to bill them directly for any hours used for now. Sweetgrass County is also interested.

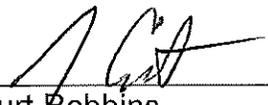
OTHER MEMBERS BUSINESS:

ANNOUNCEMENTS/Public Comment items not on agenda: None

ADJOURN The meeting was adjourned at 6:47 PM

NEXT MEETING March 9th, 2026 – 5:30 PM Fire Station 944 E. Pike Ave, Columbus

Minutes submitted by Lisa Westervelt



Chairman: Curt Robbins



Secretary: Debbie Parod

