

COLUMBUS RURAL FIRE DISTRICT #3
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
MONTHLY MEETING Minutes
April 14, 2025

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

Admin Assistant Lisa Westervelt

Visitors Kyle Starr, Connor Hunter, Colin Smith, Cheyenne Turner, Marsha Olson, Robert Bruner

PUBLIC COMMENT None

Presentations of Communications None

APPROVE MINUTES Minutes for the meetings of March 10th, 2025 were approved as presented.

TREASURER REPORT The treasurer's report was presented. See attached report. Income of \$50,904.99, expenses of \$241,466.86. The expenses include 2 payrolls and those include fire incidents, a \$50,000 extra payment on E430, and our cost share on the grant ambulance. **There was a motion made by Chuck to pay the bills in the amount of \$241,466.86. 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: Curt and Rich attended a working group meeting in Park City that was very productive. Four committees were formed to work on specific issues: Board, EMS/Ambulance, Association, Operations.

NEW MEMBER APPROVAL None

OLD BUSINESS

Grants update:

Building design proposals – project overview and estimates Rich provided some very preliminary costs from the architect for proposed fire station work at our current building and the new building. There were 2 options included, the main difference being an addition for 3 apparatus bays at the back of the new building. This was discussed and the consensus was that this wasn't necessary with the "maintenance" building we also have. Leaving this off and going with the second option would save roughly \$2 million in total project costs. We will need to give the architect some direction as to our plans moving forward.

There was discussion around work needed at the "maintenance building" to get it ready. Estimates for total costs are roughly \$125,000 to \$130,000 vs the \$2 million for the 3 bays in new building. The work could be done in a couple phases, concrete flooring and a lean-to-expansion. We have 2 bids for the concrete floor with a drain, one for \$30,220 and one for about \$25,000. Their availability looks to be end of July. Cleary has package deals for a 30x48 lean-to building, pricing information wasn't available before the meeting.

John asked if the next board meeting could start early so we can look at the buildings and discuss plans.

Fleet information

NEW BUSINESS

Preliminary Mechanic/Maintenance Position Discussion Chief present a draft of a consortium mechanic position and scope of work. This would be a full-time position, with any OT being charged to the organization who uses it. Mechanic would prioritize jobs if requests for service overlap. There could also be an opportunity to have the mechanic be a "mobile mechanic" during fire season. There was discussion about liability the district would carry if the mechanic was our employee and what happens if departments use more hours than are covered at the tier they buy into. Starting wage was discussed, is it enough? It can be adjusted as needed, and there is the opportunity to increase pay as more certifications are earned. The board agreed that this idea makes sense to pursue further.

Permanent Seasonal Positions Discussion There was discussion to consider a seasonal permanent position, to help with staffing for contract fires. This would be similar to what the Forest Service and BLM have. It was agreed that this is something to keep looking into.

Appreciation Dinner Approval April 27th at 6:00 PM. Chuck moved to approve the Appreciation dinner meeting, costs not to exceed \$2,700. Brent seconded the motion, all voted in favor and motion carried.

First Due Due to continued support issues with ESO, our current reporting software vendor, we would like move to a new provider. We have a proposal from First Due for an annual price of \$8,100, which is less than what the current contract prices with ESO, and they have better support available. If we move to First Due, we will contact ESO to cancel our current contract and request a refund due to breach of contract issues. Debbie moved to switch to First Due. Chuck seconded the motion, all in favor and motion carried.

OTHER MEMBERS BUSINESS


ANNOUNCEMENTS/Public Comment None

ADJOURN The meeting was adjourned at 7:00 PM

NEXT MEETING May 12th 2025 – 5:00 PM Firehall

The meeting will start ½ hour earlier than normal to look at the buildings and to discuss plans

Minutes submitted by Lisa Westervelt


Chairman: Curt Robbins


Secretary: Debbie Parod