

**COLUMBUS RURAL FIRE DISTRICT #3**  
**BOARD OF TRUSTEES**  
**MONTHLY MEETING Minutes**  
**December 9<sup>th</sup>, 2024**

**CALL MEETING TO ORDER:** Meeting was called to order at 5:30 pm.

**Present:** Curt Robbins, Chuck Kronz, Brent Parkins

**Fire Chief:** Rich Cowger                    **Assistant Fire Chief:** Nick Jacobs

**Admin Assistant:** Lisa Westervelt

**Visitors:** Kyle Starr, Colton Cowger, Braden Talarico

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** None

**APPROVE MINUTES:** Minutes for the meeting of November 11<sup>th</sup>, 2024 were approved as presented.

**TREASURER REPORT:** The treasurer's report was presented. See attached report. Income of \$507,208.37 and expenses of \$196,815.65. The expense total included the \$45,000 earnest money payment for the property being purchased. **There was a motion made by Chuck to pay the bills in the amount of \$196,815.65. Brent seconded the motion, motion carried.**

**CHIEF REPORT:** See attached

**MISCELLANEOUS COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

Park City/Columbus potential merger update

**NEW MEMBER APPROVAL:** None

**OLD BUSINESS**

Grants update

**Building purchase update/Building designs**

We did meet with the architect about some conceptual ideas for remodeling our current station and the building across the street. These could include

- Remodeling upstairs to become just sleeping quarters – 12 rooms and 3 bathrooms with showers.
- Downstairs would transition to day room/dining room, expanded kitchen area/clean gear locker. A shower could be added to the bathrooms
- Chief's current office could become a "dorm room" of sorts – duty crew office with sleeping quarters if needed. Then we'd be ADA compliant and no need for an elevator.
- Admin office/training room would be moved to building across the street.
- Maintenance office/area could be setup at the "storage building" OR moved to the new building and sell storage building.
- Early estimates from architect suggest about a \$2M bond – compared to a new station in Helena at \$6M.

## Loan Options

- **Yellowstone Bank** (Ron) said they would waive the 1% origination fee, loan would have a variable interest rate, currently a 3-year fixed 5 ¾% but Ron said they could work with us to adjust at different times if changes came up.
- **InterCap** – rates are reviewed every February and then locked for 1 year. A resolution document would need to be signed and is almost ready for us.

Brent said he would like to keep local if we can. We can revisit each year with rates, and always have the option to refinance with InterCap loan if Yellowstone Bank doesn't match rates. Curt said he is also leaning to keep local if possible. Curt asked that we email John and Debbie with options and the plans discussed to get their thoughts.

Rich will talk with the attorney to see if there are issues with private lending and would we need something comparable to the resolution that comes with the InterCap loan.

**NEW BUSINESS:** None


**OTHER MEMBERS BUSINESS:** Curt and Debbie got notices for Trustee elections in May. Filing opens December 12.


**ANNOUNCEMENTS/Public Comment:** None

**ADJOURN:** The meeting was adjourned at 6:09 PM

**NEXT MEETING:** January 13<sup>th</sup> 2025 – 5:30 PM Firehall

Minutes submitted by Lisa Westervelt

  
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Chairman: Curt Robbins

  
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Secretary: Debbie Parod