

COLUMBUS RURAL FIRE DISTRICT #3
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
MONTHLY MEETING Minutes
August 12th, 2024

CALL MEETING TO ORDER: Meeting was called to order at 5:38 pm.

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

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

Admin Assistant: Lisa Westervelt

Visitors: Dawson Otis, Mike Brewer, Andy Lacy, Jonathan Burke, Mat Keating

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

APPROVE MINUTES: Minutes for the meeting of July 8th, 2024, were approved as presented.

TREASURER REPORT: The treasurer's report was presented. See attached report. The month's bills were reviewed. **There was a motion made by Chuck to pay bills in the amount of \$315,822.21. Brent seconded the motion. Motion was approved.**

CHIEF REPORT: See attached.

MISCELLANEOUS COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Park City/Columbus potential merger update – There was a question about the limit of board members in the event of a merger. By statute, there is a limit of 5 board members.

NEW MEMBER APPROVAL: **Motion from Debbie to approve Amanda Ferster, Cheyenne Turner, Andrea Robbins as new volunteers, and Morgan Stoppel and Logan Smith as new paramedics. Chuck seconded the motion, motion carried.**

OLD BUSINESS:

Current Grants Update:

Feasibility study of Fire Station upgrades: Chief got some initial proposals back from the architects. Some options include extending the current building out 30' and encroaching on the street; looking at the other building across the street. It's also recommended to add an elevator in the event we remodel the current station. There are some revisions Chief would like to make to their plans. Next step would be to meet with them to review the plans and changes. The invoice for this first step was \$3700, which is over the \$2500 amount initially approved.

City Interlocal Agreement: Kate sent an updated version back for review.

NEW BUSINESS:

Building Purchase proposal: Mike would like to stay in occupancy until the end of September. USDA does have facility loans; rates are a fixed 4% for 40 years. We do have a building payment included in the new budget proposal. If we purchase the building across the street, we could sell our other storage building to help pay for the new building. An Intercap loan may be faster to get initially while waiting for the USDA loan process to come through. USDA loan could then be used to pay off an Intercap loan. There was a motion from Brent to forward with the purchase of the building, with an initial offer of \$400,000, pending appraisal value, and a \$1,000 earnest payment to hold our interest in the building. We will pay the appraisal fee. Curt and Rich or Nick have approval to continue with the process of purchase negotiations, not to exceed a purchase price of \$450,000 without board approval. John seconded the motion, all approved and motion carried.

Budget Discussion/Contract Fire Wages/Wage Discussion: City contract would increase to \$140,000 with the new interlocal agreement. Salaries/Wages included in the proposed budget are based on the committee recommendations. Insurance may go up some with the purchase of the new building. **Wage Discussion:** Curt shared that the committee's goal is to increase base pay to competitive levels: The committee is recommending an increase for everyone, and then stair-stepped merit increases to get everyone to \$25.00 by the end of the year. These steps for the merit increases will be discussed with each staff member. To do this, there will be a 9% increase for staff members, and a 4% increase for Rich and Nick. The wages included in the budget reflect the maximum wage amounts for the full year. The new wage rates would be effective in the next payroll. The committee is also recommending that the department continue to pay the health insurance costs.

Budget Approval: The proposed budget of \$2,092,197 was reviewed. Debbie moved to approve the budget as proposed. Chuck seconded and the motion carried.

Executive Session: None


OTHER MEMBERS BUSINESS:

ANNOUNCEMENTS/Public Comment: None

ADJOURN: The meeting was adjourned at 6:34 PM

NEXT MEETING: September 9th, 2024 5:30 PM FIREHALL

Minutes submitted by Lisa Westervelt



Chairman: Curt Robbins



Secretary: Debbie Parod