

COLUMBUS RURAL FIRE DISTRICT #3
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
MONTHLY MEETING Minutes
July 8th, 2024

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

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

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

Battalion Chief: Travis Hansen

Visitors:

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

APPROVE MINUTES: Minutes for the meeting of June 10th, 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 \$198,263.33. Debbie seconded the motion. Motion was approved.**

CHIEF REPORT: See attached.

MISCELLANEOUS COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Park City/Columbus potential merger update

NEW MEMBER APPROVAL: **Motion from Chuck to approve Kaleigh Olson, Chase Smith, Robert Bruner as new volunteers. Brent seconded the motion, motion carried.**

OLD BUSINESS:

Current Grants Update: We haven't heard anything yet on the SAFER grant. The CIH grant is closing

Feasibility study of Fire Station upgrades: Discussed adding onto current station, no work on storage station, and utilizing the building next door if purchased. Station 1 remodel could include 4800 square foot addition. There was also discussion on moving forward with a first right of purchase on the building across the street. **John moved to, Deb seconded the motion, motion carried.**

Audit Review: The auditors review for the last two fiscal years is complete.

City Interlocal Agreement: The proposed new agreement is done and is at legal now for review and edits.

NEW BUSINESS:

Budget Discussion/Contract Fire Wages/Wage Discussion: Option 3 sheet. Severity costs are on the DNRC payscale. New sheet is higher than last years agreement. We can change the numbers if Board members want to amend. Debbie moved to approve the new rates.

John seconded the motion, motion carried.

Budget committee: Last year was Curt and Brent. It was decided to keep the committee members the same this year. Committee will look at meeting the week of the 22nd.

Rescue Equipment Purchases: Travis presented a request to upgrade and new rescue equipment purchases. Upgrading airbags, add additional stabilizing equipment, which would be about \$35,000. There is also a need for confined space/rope tech equipment, which includes tripods and a rope winch. The total for these would be about \$10,000. We can use funds from Montana Gives, \$6,000 and other donations of \$13,000. There is also a possibility for other commerce grant funds. The ropes and tripods would be the first priority, and airbags and stabilizers would be second. There was a motion from John to approve the purchase of the ropes and tripods with the funds from Montana Gives, and utilize grant funds for the airbags. Brent seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Executive Session: Executive session started at 6:31 pm and ended at 6:45 pm. Motion from Brent to deny LWOP 90 day extension request. Employee would need to return to work by July 20th or have the option to resign. John seconded the motion, motion carried.

OTHER MEMBERS BUSINESS:

ANNOUNCEMENTS/Public Comment: None

ADJOURN: The meeting was adjourned at 6:46 PM

NEXT MEETING: August 12th, 2024 5:30 PM FIREHALL

Minutes submitted by Lisa Westervelt


Chairman: Curt Robbins


Secretary: Debbie Parod