

**COLUMBUS RURAL FIRE DISTRICT #3**  
**BOARD OF TRUSTEES**  
**MONTHLY MEETING Minutes**  
**April 13th, 2026**

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

**Present** Curt Robbins, Chuck Kronz, Brent Parkins via cell phone, Debbie Parod, John Patterson

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

**Admin Assistant** Lisa Westervelt

**Visitors** Colton Cowger, Peyton Smith, Morgan Stoppel, Josh Bergland

**PUBLIC COMMENT** None

**Presentations or Communications**

**APPROVE MINUTES** Minutes for the meeting on March 9<sup>th</sup> were approved as presented.

**TREASURER REPORT** The treasurer's report was presented. See attached report. Income of \$306,658.73 which includes ambulance revenues, property tax revenues, entitlement levy, and CA EMAC deployment reimbursement. Expenses were \$229,694.50, which include payrolls, Florida fire assignment expenses. The VFIS insurance funds (130,597.83) were moved to 7215 account. **There was a motion made by Chuck to pay the bills in the amount of \$229,694.50. John 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** – Committee met and reviewed copies of the consolidation plan, by-laws, and our attorney has reviewed the documents as well. No formal approval yet, but Park City's board has 3:1 in favor so far. The consolidation plan needs an effective date, and a name for the new organization and then can be presented to both boards, in a combined meeting, for approval to go forward or not. If it's decided to move forward, the County Commissioners would appoint the new Board, likely following recommendations of the Committee. Rich will get a meeting date for the committee to meet again.

**NEW MEMBER APPROVAL** Kelly Hunecke, Sean Sapone, and Jaxsyn Baker are new Fuels crew members. **Chuck moved to approve Kelly, Shawn, and Jackson, John seconded the motion, voted all in favor, motion carried.**

**OLD BUSINESS**

- Project Priority List:
- **Insurance policy, upping coverage cost, deductible:** Chief Cowger is recommending no action at this time. The potential benefits to increasing deductibles don't outweigh the costs to the district. The board suggested we shop the policy at next renewal, keeping a VFIS policy but possibly a different carrier.

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- Federal Funding Grant update (Fire stations)
- **New brush truck build:** Quoted price good until 2027 models come out (Sept/October) 4 month delivery. There is no benefit for our purposes to go with a locking differential.
- **Credit expense card:** Debbie asked us to look at Chase Bank's purchasing cards. Silversmiths use them and they work well, and support seems better than their interaction with Bill.com. Preference would be to go with a more local option over the Bill.com vendor.
- Employee Benefit Ideas

**NEW BUSINESS**

• **Funds Transfers:**

- Debbie moved to approve a funds transfer of permissive levy funds in the amount of \$5922.30 from the 7219 account to the 7210 account. Chuck seconded the motion, voted all in favor, motion carried.
- Debbie moved to approve a funds transfer in the amount of \$21,613 from the 7216 account to the 7210 account for new brush truck build capital expenses. Chuck seconded the motion, voted all in favor, motion carried.
- **Medical director update:** Nick is working on finding a new Medical Director since Dr. White left and Dr. Bell is also leaving soon, leaving SBC without an MD/DO. We can look for a provider from Billings Clinic or St. V's. There may be a fee involved, could be around \$7500, just depends on the provider. Nick will have more information at the next meeting.
- **Architectural RFP:** Draft for advertisement: Chief Cowger reviewed the concept drawings from the architect, and the overall concept plans for remodels that have been presented so far. There could also be a need for some work at the maintenance building for the fuels crew. Our application for congressional funds has been submitted, and Rep. Downing said our application made his priority list and is being sent to the Appropriations committee. The district has \$160,000 in our Capital improvements account, and the city has approx. \$150,000 in capital accounts that could possibly be used, with City Council approval. The Mayor also mentioned that bonds less than \$1,000,000 may not require a public vote, something to look further into for specifics. The District still may need to go to the taxpayers for operational increases. The next steps could involve going to bids to get actual project costs. Bond decisions could be made at that point. Chief Cowger would like to invite Mike, the architect, to a special meeting to discuss project plans and next steps. We could also invite the representative from DA Davidson to discuss bond opportunities. **The board asked Chief Cowger to set up an informational meeting with the architect and DA Davidson to discuss next steps and answer questions.**
- **Mill Levy/Bonding Potential:** bring in experts

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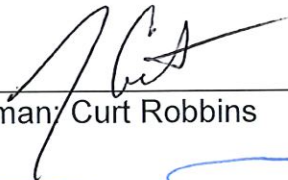
**OTHER MEMBERS BUSINESS:** None

**ANNOUNCEMENTS/Public Comment items not on agenda:** None

**ADJOURN:** The meeting was adjourned at 6:48 PM

**NEXT MEETING** May 11th, 2026 – 5:30 PM Fire Station 944 E. Pike Ave, Columbus

Minutes submitted by Lisa Westervelt

  
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Chairman: Curt Robbins

  
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Secretary: Debbie Parod

