

COLUMBUS RURAL FIRE DISTRICT #3
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
MONTHLY MEETING Minutes
January 13th, 2025

CALL MEETING TO ORDER: Meeting was called to order at 5:35 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: Braden Talarico, Ret Bruner, Mat Keating, Alan Fisher, Andrew Porter, Joe Griffin, Ron Martinez

PUBLIC COMMENT: Joe Griffin and Ron Martinez, from Yellowstone Bank, presented a letter/Real Estate Loan proposal to the Board for consideration. Curt asked if the bank name would be required on the appraisal and Ron said they have all the details worked out now but if one was required the bank would cover all additional fees. Debbie asked if there would need to be a lien on the property and Ron said yes. Debbie asked if there would be any ramifications or restrictions when we remodel/renovate the building and Ron and Joe didn't see any potential issues. Curt reminded Ron that the Board would need to get this request on the agenda for a special meeting to take any action and he would get back to them as to the timing of that meeting.

APPROVE MINUTES: Minutes for the meetings of December 9th, 2024 and December 16th were approved as presented.

TREASURER REPORT: The treasurer's report was presented. See attached report. Income of \$243,312.88 (does not include the loan funds from InterCap) and expenses of \$568,868.26. The expense total included the payment for the building purchased, truck repairs, and lighting systems for the trucks purchased from DNRC. **There was a motion made by Chuck to pay the bills in the amount of \$568,868.26. Debbie seconded the motion, motion carried.**

CHIEF REPORT: See attached. There was discussion around a potential co-op maintenance position that could be shared with other departments. Red Lodge has expressed an interest, Laurel may also be interested. The board agreed this could be a good initiative to investigate and would like more information on what it would look like.

MISCELLANEOUS COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Park City/Columbus potential merger update: Chief was invited to attend a meeting in Park City this Wednesday to share information and answer questions. There was discussion on the process to approve a merger, should we get to that point. It is something both Boards can vote on to approve/decline, and if approved, the timeline and procedures for a merger would then be driven by State statute.

NEW MEMBER APPROVAL: None

OLD BUSINESS

Grants update

Building purchase update/Building designs

NEW BUSINESS: None

Northwest Leadership Seminar: Nick would like to take one other person to attend the Northwest Leadership Seminar in Portland. **Chuck moved to send 2 attendees at a cost of up to \$3,000. Brent seconded the motion, all in favor and motion carried.**

SAFER Grant Application

CFSI approval: This trip is in February. If approved, costs would be split with Fire Chief's Association, VCOS and CFR. **John moved to approve the CFSI trip for Chief Cowger, Debbie seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.**

OTHER MEMBERS BUSINESS: John requested the Board move into an Executive Session. Session started at 6:47 PM and ended at 6:59 PM.

ANNOUNCEMENTS/Public Comment: None

ADJOURN: The meeting was adjourned at 7:02 PM

NEXT MEETING: February 10th 2025 – 5:30 PM Firehall

Minutes submitted by Lisa Westervelt



Chairman: Curt Robbins



Secretary: Debbie Parod