

COLUMBUS RURAL FIRE DISTRICT #3
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
MONTHLY MEETING Minutes
March 10, 2025

CALL MEETING TO ORDER Meeting was called to order at 5:34 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 Kyle Starr, Colton Cowger, Connor Hunter

PUBLIC COMMENT None

Presentations of Communications None

APPROVE MINUTES Minutes for the meetings of February 10th, 2025 were approved as presented.

TREASURER REPORT The treasurer's report was presented. See attached report. Income of \$82,775.91 and expenses of \$112,260.42. The income included a \$19,000 reimbursement for the Yellowstone River Ranch project. Balance in the 7210 account is \$449,318.53, the 7212 account balance is \$203,909.49, and the 7216 account balance is \$71,775.79. **There was a motion made by Debbie to pay the bills in the amount of \$112,260.42. Chuck seconded the motion, voted all in favor, motion carried.**

CHIEF REPORT See attached.

MISCELLANEOUS COMMITTEE REPORTS

Park City/Columbus potential merger update: Nick met with the Ambulance board in Park City. Meeting went well and they are interested in moving ahead. Rich met with Park City Fire and encouraged them to review the pros and cons on what a merger would look like for them. Going forward, a working group was recommended, to include: 1 or 2 members from each board, the Ambulance board, Fire Chiefs, EMS, governance board, training, apparatus, and membership. A vote of both boards would be required to merge the fire districts, followed by a public notice and protest period. If less than 40% of the property owners protest, a merger could move forward. An ambulance district merger can be approved at the County Commissioner level, with a petition with supporting signatures of 40% or more of the property owners.

NEW MEMBER APPROVAL **Motion from Chuck to approve Christopher Kline and Jordan Caoile as new members. Brent seconded the motion, all approved and the motion carried.**

OLD BUSINESS

Grants update: We will apply for the SAFER grant when it opens up.

Building design proposals: Chief presented some updated designs for the new building. We are getting close to needing to decide which direction we want to go. Increased public funding is an issue of concern. Debbie asked what the priorities are in terms of the projects being considered. In order of priority, those were said to be some work in the maintenance building, taking into consideration the Maintenance Consortium we are proposing. The new admin building would be next, followed by the current station. The board would like to see some cost estimates on what's needed for these projects to see what we can cash flow. It's understood that these estimates would be 'soft numbers' but would give a general idea to work with.

Fleet information

NEW BUSINESS

Capital Funds transfer motion correction: We need to rework the transfer motion from the last meeting. Funds can be used for debt service but not repairs. Debbie rescinded the motion to transfer \$48,000 from Capital improvement account to the Operating cash account. Brent seconded, all in favor and motion to rescind carried.

Debbie moved to transfer \$50,000 out of the Capital Improvement account (7212) to the Cash account (7210) to be used for an additional principal payment on the loan for E430. Brent seconded the motion, all approved and the motion carried.

Additional principal payment: There was a motion at the last meeting to approve an additional principal payment of \$175,000 for E430. Chief cautioned that this could reduce cash flow for operations in the summer, as we are still waiting on reimbursements from the EMAC deployments last year that total roughly \$236,000, and another \$130,000 for early EMAC deployment this year. Chuck rescinded the motion to make an additional principal payment of \$175,000 on E430. Debbie seconded, all in favor and motion to rescind carried. The board tabled any other debt service payments until another time.

Board interest in Workers Comp Cost Comparison

OTHER MEMBERS BUSINESS


ANNOUNCEMENTS/Public Comment None

ADJOURN The meeting was adjourned at 7:00 PM

NEXT MEETING April 14th 2025 – 5:30 PM Firehall

Minutes submitted by Lisa Westervelt


Chairman: Curt Robbins


Secretary: Debbie Parod