

COLUMBUS RURAL FIRE DISTRICT #3

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

MONTHLY MEETING Minutes

August 10, 2026

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

Present Curt Robbins, Chuck Kronz, Brent Parkin, Debbie Parod, John Patterson

Assistant Fire Chief: Nick Jacobs **Admin Assistant** Lisa Westervelt

Visitors Travis Goddard, Morgan Stoppel, Brooklynn Zweegman, Dan Otis, Alex DeVilbiss, Colin Smith, Andrew Porter, Andy Lacy

PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS: None

Presentations or Communications

APPROVE MINUTES Minutes for the meeting on July 13th were approved as presented.

TREASURER REPORT The treasurer's report was presented. See attached report. Income of \$299,591.72 which includes grant income, restitution, ambulance services, contract fire reimbursements and the final California EMAC reimbursement. Expenses were \$352,155.02, which include payrolls, contract fire expenses. **There was a motion made by Chuck to pay the bills in the amount of \$352,155.02. Debbie seconded the motion, voted all in favor, motion carried.**

CHIEF REPORT See attached.

MISCELLANEOUS COMMITTEE REPORTS

- **PCRFD/CRFD Consolidation – Committee Update** – The board is ready to move forward with a joint meeting of both boards to vote on the consolidation plans. Due to some scheduling conflicts, the meeting was moved to September 7th at 6:00 pm, at Special K Ranch. This would meet the Tuesday deadline for notice in the paper.

NEW MEMBER APPROVAL: None

OLD BUSINESS

- **New brush truck build – Skid Unit Grant** The grant for \$28,000 for a new skid unit was approved. We need a new truck to put it on. Nick got an updated quote for a new crew cab and chassis, gas engine, for \$69,310. Delivery would likely be November/December. This could replace 416 as a line deployable truck and the current 416 could then stay local. A lighting and radio package would also need to be purchased to get the truck ready for use. There are funds in the Capital Improvement account, and there are more funds coming in from our contract fire deployments. **Brent made a motion to approve the purchase of the new crew cab and chassis, gas engine, from Beartooth Ford, for \$69,310. Chuck seconded the motion, voted all in favor, motion carried.**

COLUMBUS RURAL FIRE DISTRICT #3
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
MONTHLY MEETING Minutes
August 10, 2026

- **Patriot Mechanical Invoice issues:** Letter from Kate was available for the board to review. The board would like Kate to send it from her office.
- **Payroll signature process:** A proposed process for approving the use of signature stamps in the event that two board members aren't available to sign payroll checks in a timeframe that meets the deposit timing requirements for payroll was presented. Debbie said she is opposed to the use of signature stamps, regardless of processes put in place. There was discussion around the process to clarify that it would be a backup process only, and for the sole purpose of approving payroll checks. There is concern from the board over the possibility of misuse and board members not being comfortable with the liability. It was asked if there was any way to pre-fund the payroll, and questions were then raised on what account those funds would come from to do that, and concern it would tie up funds that can't be used for general budget needs. A comment was made that there could be a new board coming soon if the consolidation is approved, so any stamps ordered now would not be valid. It was then suggested that board members look over the upcoming payroll schedule and sign up for dates they can commit to sign checks. **A schedule for the remainder of this calendar year was provided and board members reviewed scheduled and signed up to be available to sign payroll checks. The board asked Lisa to send recurring meeting notices to all board members, to include cell numbers for everyone, and if someone is no longer available, they are responsible for finding a signer to take their place.** Nick confirmed that the board members will take responsibility to make sure 2 people are available to sign payroll checks, and that understanding was confirmed.

NEW BUSINESS

- **2026/27 Budget:** **Debbie made a motion to approve the budget as presented. John seconded the motion, voted all in favor, motion carried.**
- **Permissive Health Care Levy:** There was discussion on the amount of increase to request. Our insurance provider is anticipating increases of around 20% but they don't have formal quotes for our policy yet. It was asked if there are penalties if we over estimate the increase, and there should not be. The levy amount can be adjusted. **Debbie made a motion to approve a 25% increase in the permissive mill levy. John seconded the motion, voted all in favor, motion carried.**
- **Scholarship Match for Connor Hunter:** The Columbus Fire Association gave a scholarship award of \$1,000 to Connor Hunter for his paramedic program expenses. There is a request for a matching scholarship award from the District. **Debbie made a motion to make a matching award of \$1,000. Chuck seconded the motion, voted all in favor of the matching scholarship award, motion carried.**

COLUMBUS RURAL FIRE DISTRICT #3
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
MONTHLY MEETING Minutes
August 10, 2026

OTHER MEMBERS BUSINESS: None

ANNOUNCEMENTS/Public Comment items not on agenda: None

ADJOURN: The meeting was adjourned at 6:47 PM

NEXT MEETING September 14th, 2026, 5:30 PM Fire Station 944 E. Pike Ave, Columbus

Minutes submitted by Lisa Westervelt



Chairman: Gurt Robbins



Secretary: Debbie Parod