

COLUMBUS RURAL FIRE DISTRICT #3
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
MONTHLY MEETING Minutes
May 11th, 2026

CALL MEETING TO ORDER Meeting was called to order at 5:35 pm.

Present Curt Robbins, Brent Parkin Debbie Parod, John Patterson

Fire Chief: Rich Cowger **Assistant Fire Chief:** Nick Jacobs **Admin Assistant** Lisa Westervelt
Visitors

PUBLIC COMMENT None

Presentations or Communications

APPROVE MINUTES Minutes for the meeting on April 13th, 2026 were approved as presented.

TREASURER REPORT The treasurer's report was presented. See attached report. Income of \$65,806.64. Expenses were \$207,706.85, which include payrolls, contract fire expenses, ().
There was a motion made by Debbie to pay the bills in the amount of \$207,706.85 Brent seconded the motion, voted all in favor, motion carried.

CHIEF REPORT See attached.

MISCELLANEOUS COMMITTEE REPORTS

- **PCRFD/CRFD Consolidation -Committee Update:** The consolidation plan documents are finalized and ready for approval from both boards. There was discussion around a date for both board to meet, possibly around June 22nd. Rich will reach out to Bill and Ty. Park City board members will be sworn in on the first Tuesday in June, will look for a date after that.

NEW MEMBER APPROVAL: none

OLD BUSINESS

- New brush truck build
- **Credit expense card: Debbie moved to approve selection of Western Securities Bank's Purchasing Card program and application for 10 cards with an overall credit limit for the District of up to \$50,000. Rich will manage individual card limits. Brent seconded the motion, voted all in favor and motion carried.**
- **Medical Director update:** Proposed new Medical Director is Dr. Tim Bickmen, who is an Emergency Physician. Ed Scheils will be an assistant and will report to Dr. Bickmen. Nick is working with them on the process of getting Dr. Bickmen set up. There is a possible cost of approximately \$5,000 to cover liability insurance. Nick is still checking on this.

NEW BUSINESS

- **Architectural RFQ: draft for advertisement/ Grant update:** Chief Cowger will work on a schedule for the RFQ process, to include when responses need to be submitted and reviewed by the board or a committee. There was discussion about setting up a specific

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RFQ email vs sending to Chief Cowger's email. There was also a reminder that there is no financial commitment with the RFQ process, it's a required step in the process to select an architectural firm to assist with project plans. Brent made a motion to move forward with the RFQ process. John seconded the motion, voted all in favor and motion carried.

- **Funding Navigator Proposal:** Chief Cowger presented a proposal from Funding Navigator to help identify potential funding opportunities for the building projects. Focusing specifically on Fire Service. Curt has a contact in Bozeman who raises funds for big projects and will reach out to see if this is something they can help with. Brent made a motion to pursue fundraising firms, to include Funding Navigator and/or Curt's contact if he is interested. Debbie seconded the motion, voted all in favor and motion carried.
- **Officer promotion pay increase approval:** There were recently openings for both a Captain and Lieutenant position within the department. Job descriptions and posting were advertised internally, and formal interviews were held. Colton Cowger was promoted to Captain, and Travis Goddard was to Lieutenant. Chief Cowger stated he recused himself from the promotion process for Colton. District policy says these promotions include a 10% increase in pay. Debbie made a motion to approve the 10% pay increase for Colton and Travis Goddard, effective with pay period that started on May 3, 2026. John seconded the motion, voted all in favor and motion carried.
- Mill Levy/Bonding Potential: bring in experts

OTHER MEMBERS BUSINESS:

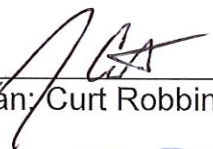
John moved to approve funds transfer of \$35,334.55 from the 7216 account to the 7210 account. Debbie seconded the motion, voted all in favor and motion carried.

ANNOUNCEMENTS/Public Comment items not on agenda: None

ADJOURN: The meeting was adjourned at 6:52 PM

NEXT MEETING June 8th – 5:30 PM Fire Station 944 E. Pike Ave, Columbus

Minutes submitted by Lisa Westervelt



Chairman: Curt Robbins



Secretary: Debbie Parod