

**COLTON RURAL FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT #70
MEETING OF THE BOARD
MARCH 8, 2011 (Approved)**

*The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. with the flag salute and invocation.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Rex Rice, Danny Fine, Don Vicars
Jim Postlewait, Ivan Maluski

OTHERS PRESENT: Fire Chief Beau Beaudoin, Assistant Fire Chief Gary Anderson, Assistant Fire Chief Kevin Donegan, Clyde Musty, Tim Behrens, Dennis Stafford, Brad Kuhn, Kent Carroll, Joyce Parker, Brandon Parker, Thomas Parker, Matt Fenstermacher, Laura Fenstermacher

Don Vicars stated very few public meetings start with the pledge of alliance and he's proud that Colton Fire District still does this.

Rex Rice recognized members of Pak 257 for attending the meeting.

*Ivan Maluski stated he has two changes to the February 8th board minutes as follows:

Page 3, third paragraph should be changed to "someone should contact Tim Behrens to determine the status of the volunteer association" since he did not say he would contact Tim.

Page 4, under New Business, second paragraph "The board consensus is that the community has lost their investment. A letter will be sent to former volunteer Brad Kuhn addressing this issue". Ivan Maluski stated the first sentence should be deleted, as he does not believe there was a consensus that the community has lost its investment with Mr. Kuhn. Ivan did not object to sending a letter to Mr. Kuhn, but he had concerns about being punitive to the fact. Ivan Maluski said if the paragraph reads, "A letter will be sent to former volunteer Brad Kuhn addressing the issue" that would be accurate.

Board members Danny Fine and Don Vicars disagreed with Ivan Maluski by both saying a consensus was reached.

Rex Rice said as he understands it the whole thing was predicated on a win-win situation and as a board he doesn't think the board thought it was a win-win situation.

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Ivan said his argument is there is time for that to be sorted out. And, there are opportunities to mend fences that need to be mended and to make sure that volunteers who have departed more recently aren't just pushed out the door but feel as if maybe there are opportunities in the future to be welcomed back into this department. Ivan believed he articulated that at the last meeting saying he was very concerned that the board was sending a message that they were being punitive.

Ivan said on the issue of the board having a group consensus where all agreed that the investment had been lost, Ivan doesn't believe that reflects what he was trying to say. Ivan said he agreed to send a letter, but in terms of saying the investment was lost, that was not what he was trying to say. Ivan was saying there are opportunities to mend fences.

Rex Rice said there isn't any question on that, that all are in agreement that the opportunity is there. Rex said in this particular situation, the win-win situation isn't a win-win.

Ivan Maluski said he thinks that's a separate issue from what the minutes from the last meeting say. Ivan said he doesn't believe the sentence that says, "we had a consensus that the community has lost the investment," reflects the opinion of all five board members.

Danny Fine said a consensus is not a unanimous vote, there's a difference. A consensus is a general majority.

Jim Postlewait said consensus means generally in agreement, not in absolute agreement.

Ivan Maluski said if meaning of "consensus" here is not unanimous then that would mean that this would be an accurate sentence. I am interpreting it to be unanimous, that's my understanding of the word consensus - unanimity.

Don Vicars said consensus is the majority and Jim Postlewait said he didn't think it's a majority but it's generally.

Ivan Maluski asked board members if they don't want to change this piece of the information in the minutes and Danny Fine said no, I would object and Don Vicars said he didn't see any need to change it.

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Ivan Maluski said at a minimum he wanted to state for the record that he didn't want anyone being confused that consensus in this case meant unanimity because he did not feel that way.

Danny Fine made a motion to approve the minutes with the correction Ivan Maluski made on Page 3, Paragraph 3. Don Vicars seconded the motion. The motion carried by unanimous vote of all board members present.

***Financial Report:** Clyde Musty reviewed the Financial Report through the end of February 2011. Total expenditures for the month of February were \$20,027. The 15-year bond was paid off last week in the amount of \$51,000 and will be reflected on the March financial report since the expenditure was made in March. A check to West Coast Bank in the amount of \$8,200 reflects a transfer from the money market account to the general checking account.

Clyde Musty clarified that \$1,645 spent in February on legal fees was for work done in December 2010.

Bank statements were reviewed.

Danny Fine made a motion to approve the Financial Report as received and Jim Postlewait seconded the motion. The motion carried by unanimous vote of all board members present.

Public Comment: Dennis Stafford suggested holding the Fire Chief's coffee and donuts at the Colton Café because he thought more discussion would come forth from the patrons if held on neutral ground. Dennis said Angela, the owner of Colton Café is agreeable to the idea. Ivan Maluski this event should be planned ahead of time and advertised in the newspaper so there is an opportunity for advanced publicity.

Danny Fine said he's told patrons to stop in the fire station to talk with the Fire Chief or volunteers and to not think they are interrupting.

Chief Beaudoin said when people come into the station they are made to feel welcome. By showing them around the station and telling them a bit about what is done here that will help squash rumors.

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Rex Rice read a letter from a local family addressed to Colton and Molalla Fire Departments and paramedics for the amazing effort in trying to save the father of the family.

(The agenda sequenced changed due to a call being toned out)

***Volunteer Association President Report:** A packet was passed out to the board for review to bring them up to speed on what is going on within the association.

***Old Business:**

Budget Committee Vacancies: Ivan Maluski suggested Dean Claeys of 29807 S. Hult Rd., Colton as his budget committee appointment. Discussion followed on giving Brian Moore an opportunity to serve again as Ivan's appointment.

The meeting recessed at 7:10 p.m. for five minutes so Ivan Maluski could contact Brian Moore to determine if he is again interested in serving on the budget committee.

The meeting reconvened at 7:15 p.m.

Jim Postlewait made a motion to reinstate the following budget committee members: Ann Miller, Position #1 and Brian Moore, Position #3. Danny Fine seconded the motion. The motion carried by unanimous vote of all board members present.

Board Vacancies/filing: Board members up for re-election as still contemplating filing.

Policy review: Will be held at a public meeting on Saturday, March 12th beginning at 9 a.m.

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***Old Business, continued:**

Farmer's Market/Crafters Proposal - Ivan Maluski said there is a conflict for Kendra, the market manager, to attend tonight's meeting. Discussion followed on holding the farmer's market at the Colton Fire Station as it was held two years ago. Rex Rice asked how ColtonTel handled holding the Farmer's Market on their property. Discussion followed on finding out what the District's insurance company covers or doesn't cover regarding the Farmer's Market being held on District property since there were concerns about liability issues regarding public health concerns with foods that might be sold or accidents. Discussion followed on vendor's having liability insurance. Dennis Stafford said as a vendor he had to purchase event insurance at a cost of \$350/yr.

Ivan Maluski was asked to contact the District's insurance company and ask appropriate questions about liability issues. Ivan will also find out how ColtonTel handled issues with getting the farmer's market set up on their property and if they had any concerns. This will be placed on April's agenda.

Rex Rice said at the last board meeting it was directed that a letter would be sent to Brad Kuhn relating to funds paid for his training. Rex read the letter to Brad Kuhn dated February 9, 2011 and Brad Kuhn's response dated February 20, 2011.

Rex Rice said when Acting Fire Chief Benthin presented the request for Brad Kuhn's reimbursement for training in the amount of \$1,081.11, Kerry Benthin apologized that a proper procedure had not been followed, but he thought it was beneficial to the taxpayers and it would be a win-win situation for the District. At that time, the Board discussed that the taxpayers would get a better-trained person and they were willing to pay for Brad's training given that scenario.

Rex Rice said Brad Kuhn's response doesn't address anything about win-win, it's just about policy and that there is no policy in place that requires a length of time in which he'd have to repay the \$1,081.11 for training. Rex said Brad is correct there is no policy, but the board knew up front that there wasn't a policy.

Rex said if the board had taken Brad's position to begin with, the board would not have given the money to Brad because the situation wasn't handled properly. The Board's position was do the right thing and the right thing as the Board looked at it was this was a win-win, so let's give the money and go from there. Rex said Brad is taking the position that it's a policy thing - if the policy doesn't require me to do it I'm not going to do it - it doesn't have anything to do with win-win.

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Don Vicars said he's disappointed in the letter as it doesn't speak to anything other than no policy, too bad. What about the ethics, the honor, the loyalty to the department? What about all those things? Don said he's upset about the letter because the board went out of their way. Don said in a volunteer association there are going to be expenses incurred by those volunteers and once that investment is made then the department turns around and trains with the expectation after the training that the organization is going to have a volunteer for some time.

When the board openly says we're going to pay for your books and pay for your schooling, the citizens of Colton should expect that the volunteer will be here and that whatever was learned the citizens would get some benefit from that. Don said he checked with the courts and that a judge could make a decision about the reimbursement if need be, but the volunteer has quit because he was unhappy with the way things were going in the department. Don said some negotiation (on the reimbursement) would have been agreeable with him.

Jim Postlewait said he agreed with what Don Vicars says, but a policy is needed to address this situation. Jim said he could address this to any taxpayer and say there was a cost to getting this department to where it is now compared to where it was. It's the cost of doing business and that door is shut now and he'd like to get it bolted and locked.

Danny Fine said he agrees, it's a question of honor and integrity. The department has progressed from where the department was 6 or 8 months ago.

Don Vicars said even though there is no policy, small claims are based on the judges' decision on fairness and it's civil law. The judge makes the decision instead of the people in Colton. It's the cost of doing business. Changes have been made and some people weren't happy with those decisions. Don said let's close the door.

Rex Rice agreed with Mr. Postlewait. It's an issue to the taxpayers and he wants the taxpayers to know what's happened and the department would like to have the money back or part of it back. Personally, Rex said he would prefer to get away from the past and continue to move forward and close the matter.

Rex Rice asked Ivan Maluski if he had any comment on the above issue and Ivan did not.

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***FIRE CHIEF'S REPORT:**

Chief Beaudoin referenced the thank you from a family regarding a call response and commending volunteers from Colton and Molalla Districts for doing cpr for 45 minutes to try and save a family member.

Estacada Fire District has asked Colton to respond to any first alarm responses, including major car accidents or residential/commercial fires. Colton will be responding within Estacada city limits proper.

A live fire exercise will be held in Salem on Sunday morning. This is a voluntary drill and not all those participating will be able to go inside the building, but they want to be there to learn. Chief Beaudoin said this reflects where the department is at and the commitment level from the volunteers.

1. Activity Report – Assistant Fire Chief Gary Anderson reported there were 25 calls during the month of February.
2. Turnout washing machine – Assistant Fire Chief Gary Anderson said the machine is installed and is being used. It has a 30 lb. Capacity.

Chief Beaudoin said the turnout washing machine cleans toxins and blood borne diseases from the turnouts. Turnouts are the pants and jackets the volunteers wear when responding to calls.

Assistant Chief Anderson said the old septic tank was pumped and removed; two squares of concrete were taken out. The bill will be between \$7,000/\$8,000 because there will be more asphalt and concrete needed for the repairs.

3. Engine purchase from Estacada – Having this engine will enhance the District's ability to provide service at a reasonable cost. Eventually this engine will be located at the Elwood station.

Ivan Maluski made a motion to enter into a Lease Agreement for Personal Property with Estacada Fire District regarding the purchase of a 1991 Grumman Pumper as laid out in the document provided by Estacada Fire District. Jim Postlewait seconded the motion. The motion carried by unanimous vote of all board members present.

***Fire Chief's Report, continued:**

4. Cost breakdown for physicals – Chief Beaudoin said representatives from Wellsprings have been met with and shown what competitors are offering at a lower rate. Molalla Fire District has decided to do some in-house tests that would save some money on each physical. That information was provided to Wellsprings and Wellsprings is going to figure out what Colton could do in-house and then come back with a price for what the physicals would cost. Chief Beaudoin said we're going to try to get the most bang for the buck by doing what can be done in house. These figures should be available before the budget process.

Danny Fine pointed out that the amount of time spent on calls by staff last month was 881/3 hours. This is just time on calls with no training included.

Rex Rice said he knows that Chief Beaudoin and his staff have been doing a great job and he recognized that Chief Beaudoin is putting in a lot more time than what he's being paid for.

***NEW BUSINESS:**

Danny Fine said he observed one of the night drills and the crew was doing a hose load of the truck. Danny noticed that flashlights were being used and that was inadequate. Danny Fine has talked to Chief Beaudoin and Assistant Fire Chief Anderson about the need to install high intensity lighting on both buildings to make the area a safer nighttime working environment and for nighttime security. It was mentioned that the area by the fire hydrant needs lighting too.

Chief Beaudoin will research lighting options and costs involved with installation and maintenance.

*The meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Ivan Maluski, Secretary-Treasurer