

Mosier Fire District Board Meeting

Thursday, July 11, 2024 at 6 pm
Held as in-person and Zoom Meeting

Attendance:

Board Members: Carol Goter, Kris McNall, Rob Miller, Todd Reeves, Joanne Rubin
Staff: Chief Michael Carlson

Call to order at 1805 by Todd Reeves

Agenda additions or corrections: Chief Carlson reported that the Profit and Loss provided by bookkeepers was not correct in that it was July to date, rather than June 2024. He requested and received the correct financials for June. Goter also requested the correct financials and added them as well as what was originally provided to the Board Packet drive.

Comments from the public:

Consent agenda

McNall noted that a correction to the AA&L invoice was incorrectly totalled. The check has already been sent so we will need to look for a credit on that.

McNall questioned whether the July 4th crawfish boil go into Volunteer Support rather than Chief Discretionary. Chief Carlson said that he accounted for that similarly last year and it did not seem to be a problem. McNall also pointed out that the June expenses for the seasonal firefighters was not added to June expenses by our bookkeepers. Chief will get that corrected.

Motion made by McNall to approve Consent Agenda with the corrections and at Chief's discretion regarding the expense category for the July 4th event. Seconded by Rubin. Approved by all Board members.

Business:

1. **Volunteer Report:** None

2. **Board**

a. Open meeting law discussion: Reeves read the email from SDAO rep (forwarded to other board members and Chief Carlson). He summarized that the way Rubin requested feedback for the purpose of Chief's annual evaluation was in accordance with the law, in the opinion of George Dunkel of SDAO. Similarly, one Board member working with the Chief on the MOU is also in accordance with the law. Decision made to put on next month's agenda after the Board has an opportunity to read and study on their own.

b. Board representative to August drill: Rubin and Carlson reported that there was no drill the first Monday of July which Rubin was to attend. She will be out of town for the first drill in August. McNall volunteered to go.

3. Financials

a. Review of balance sheet, financial commitments, and capital spending: McNall emphasized that in reviewing our financials, we need to remember that significant funds are being contributed to the JUF, including the Business Oregon loan of \$800K, which once received, will require loan repayments of \$36K-37K per year, representing MFD's biggest budget line. In addition to that, we can expect major capital expenses coming due to station upgrades and an updated vehicle replacement plan being worked on by Chief Carlson. The current plan is based on keeping engines/tenders for 40 years. With the delay of the construction of the JUF and MFD not having to make the Business Oregon payments yet, we are able to meet that plan. If we need to replace equipment sooner than that, MFD will need to come up with a plan to get funding.

b. Revised Budget Resolution: Chief Carlson explained that (for the first time) the County Tax Assessor office is requiring that MFD have a line item for Unallocated Funds in the amount of \$556,120. Chief explained that in the shorter term those funds will need to be used for operating expenses until property tax revenue is received, halfway through our budget year. McNall and Chief Carlson further explained where these amounts can be found in three different places in the Budget forms, labeled as "future expenditures."

Motion made by McNall to pass Amended Resolution 2024.07-1. Rubin seconded. Unanimously passed by Board.

Because of the Amended Resolution, **motion** made by McNall to approve Resolution 2024.07-02 to levy taxes at \$2 per \$1000 per assessed value for operations (no change from when this was approved previously). Seconded by Reeves. Passed unanimously.

4. JUF Update

a. MOU Revisions: The Board expressed gratitude to Board Member Miller for reviewing and making suggested revisions.

McNall requested that MFD is assured access parts of the building other than the one office and the bays, for example, bathrooms and the meeting room.

Concern was expressed by several board members about the MOU specifying that the District is sole owner of the Fire Apparatus Building (FAB), provided that the parties agree that the District has to provide sufficient funding to fund the construction of the FAB, questioning whether this was actually a concern over the District's financial contributions. Miller explained that this language follows the USDA requirement that all funds have to be in hand before construction is started.

Miller also explained the District's ongoing financial obligations based on "actual use" rather than square footage, and clarified that phrase applies only to the main building, not the FAB.

Discussion continued regarding the landscaping. McNall asked if the Main Building and the Plaza are treated as one. Miller stated that the Plaza is not mentioned in the MOU and speaks only of the Mosier Center consisting of two buildings and the land upon which they rest. McNall suggested that appropriate landscaping for the FAB could be lava rock, but since the District doesn't own the land, the City may choose something less basic and more expensive than lava rock. Rubin expressed concurrence with how the City is completing landscaping on current projects and Reeves offered that the City

has to work within their means as well. McNall requested specific language that the District is not responsible for the Plaza costs.

Miller suggested that these details be written into the MOU and allow the City to accept or respond, and agreed to add language that reflects the District's version of addressing these issues. Miller, McNall, and Chief Carlson will meet to fine-tune the concerns and include them in the MOU. They will return to August meeting with the final version for the Board to approve.

b. Other Updates: Bids have come back and the cost is still \$8M, still with a shortfall of approximately \$1M. The City will schedule a meeting based on responses to a poll of acceptable times. Reeves offered information he'd received from various sources as to what has driven costs up, and suggested that the Chief look at PBSBuildings.com to see how much a similar footage building would cost. Reeves stated that he would like to start over and look at other options that are within the currently available funds because the longer it's delayed, the more the price will go up.

5. Chief's Report: In addition to his written report, Chief discussed the new system for putting out calls/pages. Some of the bugs are still being worked out.

Chief will not be able to apply for the Firehouse Sub grant for a UTV because of influx of calls. Another update is that it was discovered that Tender 11 has a leak, a mechanic will be come by to look at it.

It is the final phase of the FEMA store-related grants. Chief is waiting for update on estimates for Station 12 upgrade.

Reviewed recent rescue from Mosier Plateau. Also reviewed response to sick campers at Memaloose, originally thought to be heat related, but was actually food poisoning. Nine patients were transported. The rest went to a cooling center in Hood River.

The seasonal wildland firefighters are working out very well and he's received good feedback from the community about them.

Reeves commended Chief for the July 4th event.

6. Correspondence: Chief received a thank you from Made for Mosier committee for providing the fire engine rides.

Comments from the Public: None

Adjournment at 1955