

# Mosier Fire District Board Meeting

Thursday, August 8, 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 1802 by Todd Reeves

**Agenda additions or corrections:** Chief Carlson requests addition to Financials for purpose of re-signing resolution approving expenses for seasonal firefighters because the previous one wasn't done in time.

**Comments from the public:** None

**Consent agenda** - Question about OFDDA bill accounting category (Volunteer Support). Chief Carlson explained it's to put Mosier volunteer fire district on state rolls of volunteer districts (annual membership). Questions about Carson Oil and radio reprogramming bills asked and answered. McNall requested correction to July minutes, 3b - Revised Budget Resolution. References to unallocated funds should be a required line item, not a required account. **Motion** by Reeves to approve Consent Agenda with change; seconded by Goter; approved by Goter, McNall, Miller, and Reeves.

## Business:

1. **Volunteer Report:** None
2. **Board**
  - a. **Board Representative to September drill:** Rubin will be asked.
  - b. **SDAO wrap-up, if necessary, regarding Open Meeting laws and SDAO email discussed at July meeting:** Review of recent activity with Miller and McNall working with Chief Carlson on MOU, Chief has to be on that committee and has to make the presentation to the Board, regardless of who in the committee did the work, and this committee meeting does not have to be noticed as it was a non-public meeting. Discussion and clarification as to what constitutes a public meeting, which must be noticed, and what is a non-public meeting, which does not have to be noticed.
3. **Financials**
  - a. **Review of spending to date on seasonal firefighters:** Chief Carlson shared the 2024 WFS Grant Personnel Report (spreadsheet) showing expenses to date. As of this date, approximately \$11K has been spent, \$19,758 remains. There may be money left over. Chief has opened up shifts to the volunteers, but no one has opted for that.
  - b. **Move funds from LGIP to First Interstate:** Tax revenues will not be received until mid-November and First Interstate checking account balance is running low. Considering expenses due between now and November (including personnel and Station 12 modifications), McNall recommends moving \$100K. **Motion** by McNall to authorize

bookkeeper to move \$100K from LGIP to First Interstate; seconded by Reeves; approved by Goter, Miller, McNall, Reeves.

**c. Authority to move funds between accounts:** McNall recommends that a process is established where Chief Carlson and/or the board treasurer have authority to move a certain amount of money from LGIP funds into the checking account when it's getting low, alleviating the need to call a board meeting to do this. Currently, one of the bookkeepers has sole ability to move money out of LGIP, which is not acceptable. Reeves advocated putting formal controls on transfer of funds. Chief Carlson suggested that the chief not be one of the individuals authorized to move funds. Reeves wants to know if LGIP can implement a trigger which would notify all board members when money is being moved out. McNall will look into this and confirm current processes with the bookkeepers and we'll discuss the details of this at the next meeting.

**d. Discuss who should have access to LGIP:** Along with previous item, deferred to next meeting.

#### 4. JUF Update

**a. MOU Revisions Update/Board approval:** Deferred to next meeting.

**b. Other updates:** Chief Carlson stated that the bid for JUF has come back at \$8M and he'd heard unofficially that start of construction may be delayed until next year. Discussion about starting over, contacting other builders, City Mayor and Reeves' letter to Oregon legislative representatives restating the need for funding for this structure. Miller pointed out that MFD and the City of Mosier have been going back and forth on the plans and the costs for quite a while, and considering recent and future fire activity, our need for a new structure is urgent -- should the MFD look at pursuing another plan, contractor, path forward. Reeves offered the idea of MFD contracting with someone to get a fresh look at the JUF. Chief has already been in touch with vendors regarding Station 12 modifications and offered to pursue this with the total JUF in mind, barring more fire activity in the district.

Mayor Witt Anderson and City Manager Jayme Bennett joined the meeting. Mayor Anderson provided an update on the recently received JUF bid. A bid range was provided from a low of \$7.4M which includes VE (Value Engineered) scrubs, to a high of \$8.5M, which includes a third bay and a larger kitchen. The mid range is \$8M (no third bay or large kitchen). Regarding additional City funding, Mayor Anderson added that while their stormwater loan will be for \$300K instead of \$600K, this will be offset by a DEQ grant of \$300K, which may be used for the JUF. Ultimately, this still leaves the project at about \$1M short. He added that the City has received a significant donation of \$30K, and there may be more. He thinks a JUF meeting will be scheduled in the next week or two.

**5. Chief's report:** In July 33 calls were received, compared to 19 last year. He's looking for quotes for training/certification in rope rescue, since no one has that here and it has recently been needed. Hasn't heard back from Gary Sinese Foundation (for SCBAs). FEMA grant for storm related damages is in final phases. Engine 11 and Brush 12 are out of service.

Regarding Microwave Tower fire, no homes or lives were lost, several outbuildings were damaged or lost. ODF is responsible for investigation of cause of fire. No update yet on when the Twin Tunnels will be reopened.

Chief Carlson made a presentation on the Microwave Tower fire t-shirts he's designing. Proceeds from sales will go to the UTV fund. He's already received requests from other teams for shirts.

Miller offered appreciation to the Chief and all involved for the well-managed fire-fighting efforts given on the fire. He added that community members did have some concerns about the intentional burn that was done several days after the fire started, and what appeared to be the

lack of communication provided to MFD and community members. Chief Carlson provided the background to this, stating that at the morning meeting on the day of the controlled/intentional fire, the plan was for the preparation to be done that day, and the burn done the following day. However, this plan was changed, likely due to weather conditions. The Wasco County Sheriff's office was notified one hour before that operation began and put out a Facebook post. MFD was not notified at all. Chief was called by the Mayor who saw the flames. He immediately sought information from ground crews. The following day at the morning meeting he expressed his concerns regarding the lack of notification. The Operations Manager apologized for the lapse in communication and thereafter, MFD was kept in the loop. At the community meeting at Mosier School, a representative from Wasco County's emergency management admitted that they had dropped the ball in not notifying MFD about their having learned of the controlled burn. Chief Carlson, Mosier Mayor, and Mosier City Manager will meet to debrief. He will report back to the Board next month.

**6. Correspondence:** Notification received regarding decrease in unemployment insurance to 1%.

**Comments from the public:** None

**Adjournment:** 1946