

Mosier Fire District Board Meeting

Wednesday, February 26th, 2025 at 7:00PM

Attendance

- **Board members:** Carol Goter, Todd Reeves, Kris McNall, Joanne Rubin, Rob Miller
- **Staff:** Chief Michael Carlson
- **Volunteers:**
- **Public:** Steve Fisher, Dan Watson, Witt Anderson (Mayor of Mosier), Mid Columbia Fire and Rescue (Chief David Jensen and one other)

Call to order at 1900

Agenda additions or corrections:

Comments from the public: Todd asked for public comment.

Steve Fisher began public comment. He stated that he's a retired fire fighter and former board member. He expressed that Mosier Fire should consider merging with MCFR in order to provide better service for tax payers and more consistent support and training for volunteers. Dan Watson supported Steve's comments. Witt Anderson, Mayor of the City of Mosier, suggested that we analyze this option and specifically consider whether we would lose volunteers.

Consent Agenda: Kris moved to accept the consent agenda. Rob seconded. All in favor.

JUF: Todd asked Witt to give an update on the JUF. Witt stated that they were going to increase the ask from the legislature from \$2.1M to \$2.5M, but they probably wouldn't know if we will receive any additional funds until the end of the legislative session. There is an option to pay the architect an additional \$8500 to redesign the JUF to reduce the cost, but those savings would not be enough to match our current funds.

District Harassment Policy: Rob identified inconsistencies between the two policies (harassment and incident reporting) and will bring revision to next meeting for board approval.

Chief Coverage Discussion: The board discussed how to manage the district during the transition period. Todd stated that we are unusual as a small district with a single full time paid staff person. Kris stated that her concern is that with our budget of approximately \$360,000, of which approximately $\frac{1}{3}$ is used for staffing, we need to figure out how to make any cooperative agreement with MCFR mutually beneficial, as our tax revenues are substantially less than theirs due to our smaller population. Chief David Jensen of MCFR expressed willingness to meet with MFD to discuss options.

MCFR does not currently have any combat volunteers but would continue to use Mosier volunteers as first responders. In the past year, Mosier response has been less. MCFR is interested in being a part of Mosier activity.

The board agreed that Todd and another board member would meet with MCFR about how MFD could work with them. Kris suggested that Chief Michael Carlson should be included in these discussions, but Rob Miller said that could slow the process.

The board discussed also meeting with Wy'East Fire and/or other nearby districts.

The board discussed possible interim chief strategies. Todd said that he would talk to Tom Oswald about whether he might be willing to serve as interim chief again. Kris stated that we might need to advertise to meet our legal obligations.

Executive Session: *Began 2003. Ended 2034.*

The board announced that Mosier Fire will continue to collect resumes for the Fire Chief position; no other decisions were made.

Meeting adjourned at 2038