

# TRINITY CENTER COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

## Regular Meeting

Jan. 5, 2010

The meeting was called to order by Glen Ahmann at 6:33 p.m. Other members present: Mike McHugh, Dewey Baird, Hal Pflueger. Virginia Allin was absent. 9 members of the public were also present.

Minutes of the previous meeting were passed out. It was moved by Dewey Baird to accept the minutes as posted and it was seconded by Hal Pflueger. The minutes were accepted as written.

CSD Financial report was handed out and the balance was read.

TCVFD Financial reports were handed out and the balances were read. Wyatt Ribarich inquired as to if the money that is being donated for the annexation fees is being accounted for separately? They are. Mike McHugh showed on the TC VFD report where it is listed. It is under account #4010.00. There is a balance of \$1642.00 in that account.

### Unfinished Business

New Fire House Building Report- Dewey Baird reported that there is no new news on the Stimulus Grant application from FEMA. Dewey received an e-mail from Jeannie Bonamini of the Trinity County Planning Dept. informing him that the rezone was approved, the lot merger is complete and use permit was approved last month. Dewey reminded the Board that some of the grant award funds have been returned because the awardees projects were not "shovel" ready. Kelli Gant provided Dewey with three sample RFP's. Having these documents on hand will make drafting our RFP easier.

Annexation Committee Report-Mike McHugh reported the committee met mid month last month. They did a status check on where the committee is with respect to the signature gathering. The next activities will be to continue assessing community support for the project through signature gathering and schedule a town hall meeting in Trinity Center. Mike reported that there was an error in the report last month regarding the number of signatures gathered so far. Mike went through the signatures to validate them and assure they were being accounted for properly. The actual numbers are: 27% of registered voters within the district and 55% of registered voters in the purposed annexation areas have signed the petitions. Mike will report back when more voters in the district have been given the opportunity to sign the petition. Per the County's suggestion, there will be another town hall meeting in Trinity Center for a question and answer session. At that time the committee will present updated information on additional activities since the last meeting. A discussion on a policy regarding the fire hydrants in the annexation areas will be looked at and placed on a future CSD agenda. This will address the conditions under which the CSD might assume ownership of any new hydrants. The town hall meeting should be within the next 6 weeks if scheduling permits. There was also discussion about gathering signatures at the town hall meeting as well as near the post office.

Propane cost/change of provider's update-Dewey reported that after the Dec. meeting the Board was ready to change propane providers pending Dewey making some further inquiries with Northwestern and Campora. Dewey had a personal emergency and while he was out of town Northwestern left notification on his machine stating that they had the tank scheduled for switch out. Dewey made it very clear to Northwestern before he left that nothing was to be done without Board approval. When Dewey returned he saw that the tank has been installed by Northwestern and Campora had picked up their tank. Dewey did not authorize the change and called Northwestern. The manager was aware of the

mistake. Campora was not notified by anyone on the Board to pick up their tank and have not been contacted by the CSD as of yet. If approved the service agreement for Northwestern needs to be sent in. Dewey recommends the Board approve the change, send in the service agreement and pay the Northwestern bill since the Fire Dept has been using the propane. Dewey explained to Northwestern how the CSD bills are paid and they told him they do not charge late fees. Dewey requested Jan Bellinger call Northwestern and remind them of payment schedule and procedure for the Board. Northwestern has offered the volunteer members of the TCVFD and FEAT a discount of \$.10 per gallon on their personal propane if they use Northwestern. This offer will NOT apply to the CSD Board members as it would cause a conflict of interest. Dewey verified with Northwestern that they would continue to charge the CSD a commercial rate for the propane and that the tank rental would remain \$1.00 per year. Dewey will run a spread sheet on the usage and rates charged to keep track of them. Dewey made a motion to adopt Northwestern as the new propane service provider and allow the discount for the TCVFD and FEAT and exclude CSD Board members from the discount. The motion was seconded by Hal Pflueger. The motion passed. Roger Chatterton will notify the members of the TCVFD and FEAT of the discount. Jan Bellinger will fax the service agreement and list of volunteers to Northwestern tomorrow.

### Communications

Letter from AT&T canceling lease on cell tower-Jan Bellinger read a letter from AT&T stating they would not be pursuing the cell tower and are canceling the lease. Glen Ahmann thanked the prior members of the Board for their work on this agreement and commented that even though AT&T did not pursue the lease, they had paid the CSD about three thousand dollars over the last few years and they installed an aircraft warning light on the tower for us.

Notice of Intent to Lien from MCHD-Jan Bellinger reported a letter was received regarding a notice of intent to lien. Jan called MCHD and the matter has been resolved.

Letter from DOT regarding Notice of Intent to Adopt a Mitigated negative Declaration for the Proposed East Fork Road at Halls Gulch Bridge Replacement Project-Glen Ahmann briefly read the letter regarding the proposed replacement of the bridge at East Fork road and Halls Gulch. This is public notice only and there is no response required from the Board. The public can comment at the County level if they want to.

Letter from State Controller-Jan Bellinger read the letter from the State Controller regarding claims that need filed with LAFCO. The CSD does not have any claims to file.

### Public Comment

None

### New Business

Election of Board Chairman and Vice Chair-Glen Ahmann reported that at the first meeting of the year the Board is required to elect a Board Chairmen and Vice Chair. There was brief discussion. Hal Pflueger made a motion to keep Glen Ahmann as the Chairman and Mike McHugh as the Vice Chair. Mike seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Roger's recognition for service to the County Chief's Association-Judy Pflueger read the resolution presented to Roger Chatterton by the County in recognition of his 6 years of service as the head of the Fire Chief's Association. There was discussion where all expressed their appreciation for all Roger has done.

Grand Jury Questionnaire-Jan Bellinger read the questions on the questionnaire. There was some discussion. Glen asked if any one on the Board knew of any major problems that need to be addressed. There were no problems identified by the Board at this time.

Roger indicated this questionnaire may have stemmed from the problems the County has had at Post Mountain. There was general discussion. The new fire house project and annexation project need to be included on the questionnaire where they ask for future plans. Martie Mullen added the shortage of responders was a problem and it was resolved by Glenn Koby giving classes to train new responders locally increasing the number of people able to receive training. Glen requested the Board give approval to have he and Jan fill out the questionnaire and mail it in and report back to the Board at the next meeting. The form can be amended if needed. The Board gave its approval.

Discuss/Approve CSDA membership renewal-Glen Ahmann reported that it is time to renew our membership with CSDA. The membership dues are \$490.00. Last month he handed out paperwork with the benefits of joining the CSDA. He read some of the benefits such as financing organization, risk management organization, affiliates for investing money, utility cost control, 1 hour of legal consultation, help with the Prop 1A securitization plan application and weekly newsletters. CSDA has not offered a discount on our membership this year as they did last year. Glen has written a couple of letters to them stating for a small district like ours \$490.00 is a lot of money, but the rate remains the same, it is the lowest fee they have on their schedule. Bill Beermann commented that the CSDA represents smaller communities like ours in the State Legislature where they tend to think all Fire Departments are big. The CSDA lobbies for the smaller Fire Departments. Mike McHugh said he was inclined to support a lobby group who supports small districts as well. Judy Pflueger suggested it may be beneficial in the next few years with upcoming State issues to have membership with CSDA. Kelli Gant said another good thing about a lobby group is that LAFCO is anti Special District and that CSDA helps keep LAFCO from getting legislature passed that weakens Special Districts. Hal Pflueger commented that the CSD should support the lobbyist who support small districts. Dewey made a motion to renew the CSDA membership for one more year. Mike McHugh seconded the motion. The motion passed.

The membership fees are due by Jan. 15 and will be added to the list of bills for approval at this meeting.

### Fire Dept. Report

Roger Chatterton- Roger passed out and read the Fire Dept. report (see attached).

Roger also passed out the annual report. Roger reported that he is submitting a grant application for Coffee Creek VFD for a set of the new generation Jaws of Life. He explained that the newer cars have high strength steel in some of the key structural parts that the current equipment is not able to cut. There is no way to retro fit the current equipment for the required amount of power. There are no fire departments in Trinity County that have the new set of the Jaws. Roger submitted the grant request for a number of different sources on behalf of Coffee Creek VFD because Coffee Creek derives no tax revenue and would have a better chance of obtaining a grant. The grant is for 55% of the cost and Roger must show where the funding for the other 45% will be coming from. In March or April when the next FEMA grant cycle comes around Roger will submit a grant application on behalf of Trinity Center VFD.

Roger reported the Worker's Comp reimbursement will only be \$1795.00 this year which is down from \$3300.00 last year.

Roger reported there would be an upcoming expense. The blower on the vent in the equipment bays is not running. He contacted Trinity County Heating and Air Conditioning and they will come out and replace the motor.

There was discussion about the annual report.

### Bills for Payment

The list of bills to be paid was passed out. After brief discussion a motion was made by Dewey Baird to pay the bills as listed with the amendment that the \*CSDA be added for \$490.00. The motion was seconded by Mike McHugh. The motion passed that the following bills be paid:

### **Regular Expenses**

Trinity PUD- Electric-Fire Hall	\$47.16
Trinity PUD- Street Lights	\$156.76
TDS Telecom-Telephone	\$49.95
Jan Bellinger- Salary/Office Supplies-Copy Paper	\$364.61
Roger Chatterton-Travel	\$50.00

### **Special Expenses**

Northwestern Propane-Propane	\$985.21
Jaktri Market-Fuel	\$147.26
TC VFD-Reimburse-State Controller-Lewiston fire	\$2,946.86
Rieke's Construction-Hydrant Repair	\$845.00
*CSDA-Membership	\$490.00
Total	\$6,082.81

### Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 7:57 p.m.

### Items for next meeting agenda:

Building Committee report

Annexation Committee report

Approve payment to Water District for purchase of fire hydrants

Next Meeting: Feb. 2, 2010

Jan Bellinger – Secretary

## **TCVFD Report for Jan 2010**

### **Activity for Dec**

#### **Medicals**

**Coffee Creek - 2**

**Trinity Center - 1**

**CM-LFE-LC – 1**

#### **Traffic collisions**

**Trinity Center - 2**

**Trainings – 1**

**Total responses = 7**

**Info on grant app for CCVFD for new generation Jaws of Life.**

**Work comp reimbursements to be \$1700/dept this year compared to \$3300 last year.**

**Annual report – questions.**

### **COFFEE CREEK VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT TRINITY CENTER VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT**

#### **ANNUAL REPORT AND STATISTICS FOR 2009**

	<b>2009</b>	<b>2008</b>
<b>FIRES</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>MEDICALS</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>41</b>
<b>TRAFFIC COLLISIONS</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>MISC (incl FIREWATCH)</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>AIR CRASH</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>SEARCH &amp; RESCUE</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>TRAININGS</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>31</b>

**TOTAL EMERGENCY RESPONSES FOR 2009 = 75 (2008 = 70).**

**TOTAL RESPONSES FOR 2009 = 122 (2008 = 117).**

**2009 activity has been consistent with 2008, and again well below 2007 (107 emergency responses, 177 total responses). Tourism was down in the region again during 2009. While fuel prices had dropped, the economy had not yet started to recover. Perhaps far worse is the fact that this was another year of drought, with the attendant diminishment of Trinity Lake. Trinity Lake is the primary tourist attraction in the region, so if the lake is down so will be tourism.**

Two questions that have come up during the year have been the location of origin of calls, and the relative numbers of resident v. non-resident patients and victims. Each monthly report has set forth origin of calls by area. For tracking purposes the area was categorized into Coffee Creek, Trinity Center, and Covington Mill-Long Canyon-Lake Forest Estates for the entire south area to the limit of our response area at Cedar Stock. For 2009 the call volume by area (for emergency and applicable miscellaneous responses) was as follows:

Coffee Creek = 30  
Trinity Center = 45  
CM-LFE-LC = 16

Note that this is by location of call only. Thus if a Coffee Creek resident were involved in a traffic collision at Estrellita, the call location would be CM-LFE-LC.

A similar question has been raised as to resident v. non-resident service provision. Anyone with at least a part-time residence in the north lake area was considered to be a resident. Using the same example as set forth above, a Coffee Creek resident involved in a traffic collision at Estrellita would be classified as a resident. Using this criterion, residents accounted for 55 calls for service, non-residents 22.

Converting this data to percentages indicates the following:

Call volume by area:  
Coffee Creek = 32.9%  
Trinity Center = 49.5%  
CM-LFE-LC = 17.6 %

Call volume by resident/non-resident:

Resident = 71.4%  
Non-resident = 28.6%

2009 fortunately did not have the cataclysmic wild land fires that wrought both death and devastation during 2008. There was one major fire (1200 acres, no residences lost) in August in Lewiston that was human-caused. TCVFD assigned a team for mutual aid air attack support during that fire. In September a wild land fire started approx four air miles directly west of Trinity Center. A quick attack by USFS with mutual aid support from both CCVFD and TCVFD resulted in the fire being contained to 35 acres.

CCVFD – TCVFD train and drill extensively in the wide range of skills necessary to provide fire/EMS/rescue services in an isolated area with extremely rugged terrain and a wide range of weather conditions. Our operative assumption is that we must be entirely self-sufficient unless or until additional resources reach us. That means CCVFD-TCVFD personnel must be prepared to make all decisions pertaining to tactical operations and patient care. Sometimes it seems that very long periods of time pass without having to utilize certain specialized training, and then responders will be called upon to apply that training in multiple incidents. For this year that description characterizes rappelling. Every year training is conducted to refamiliarize personnel with rappelling techniques, and to teach it to new personnel. This year our volunteers have had to apply this training on a number of occasions. Regardless of the initial nature of an incident, adding the

factor of a vertical drop greatly complicates the mission. The Trinity County Sheriff's Search and Rescue Team is trained for rappelling extrication rescues, but their long response time is excessive (albeit unavoidable) for timely patient care so CCVFD-TCVFD personnel must assume this responsibility. This is an example of the self-sufficiency necessary to function effectively in our environment. All training and drilling is directed at maintaining this level of self-reliance.

With the switch to Golden State Risk Management as the insurance carrier for both departments, FEAT was able to come off hiatus and return to duty. Fortunately the leadership and membership of FEAT was dedicated enough to continue their training so that they were immediately ready to roll. There have been a number of FEAT call-outs since they resumed responses, and in one of their most recent they were not just a useful adjunct, but were critically necessary to allow all VFD personnel to handle an extremely complex rappel-extrication. In the final analysis that was the rationale behind the creation of FEAT, and they have acquitted themselves admirably.

CCVFD-TCVFD have continued with outreach programs that benefit the communities we serve. For the last several years we have distributed free smoke detectors and fire extinguishers. This year we acquired a supply of N-95 specification re-usable flu masks and have distributed these throughout the region. Most recently, in concert with all VFDs in Trinity County, we have initiated a blue dot reflector program where residents can identify and mark water sources available to firefighters. In addition to these distribution programs, the FIREWATCH patrols have continued during the declared fire seasons as a means of preventing illegal party and campfires from evolving into wild land fires. All of these programs are on-going.

Coffee Creek VFD is down on personnel for the second year in a row due to several retirements. Unfortunately, due to the aging demographic of the area, qualified candidates are very difficult to even locate, let alone recruit. Given the demands made on volunteers under the most adverse of circumstances, quality cannot be compromised.

At present TCVFD has far more staffing than does CCVFD. Offsetting this is the fact that two TCVFD responders are out for extended time periods due to injuries. One advantage to TCVFD (and thus the entire north lake region) has been enhanced recruitment from the CM-LC-LFE area due to anticipation of possible annexation. Three of the current TCVFD volunteers reside in this area. The volunteers of both departments maintain extremely high standards of performance, and anyone hoping to become part of this team must have the requisite level of commitment necessary to meet these performance standards. This does not come easy, nor should it.

While we may be short on quantity, we give away nothing in quality of personnel. The performance of our personnel, on call after call, is compelling proof of the quality of these volunteers. Combine the ability, loyalty, and dedication of this team with the tremendous level of support from our ancillary entities (FEAT, CCVFD Fireflies, TCVFD Auxiliary) and a north lake community that really steps up for us, and I am most privileged and honored to be Chief.

Roger Chatterton  
Chief  
Coffee Creek Volunteer Fire Department  
Chief  
Trinity Center Volunteer Fire Department