



## Pliocene Ridge Community Services District

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### **NOTICE OF SPECIAL MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**Tuesday February 1, 2022 6:30 pm**

**VIA Phone Conference call 978-990-5144 Access code 6919768**

#### 1. ESTABLISH QUORUM, CALL TO ORDER

##### ACTION ITEMS

#### 2 ALLEGHANY FIREHOUSE IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

Consider applying for an Emergency Rural Healthcare Grant administered by USDA

Written report provided.

#### 3. TITLE III MONEY'S REQUEST

Decide what to request from the Sierra County Board of Supervisors.

Written report provided.

#### 4. ADJOURNMENT

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# Pliocene Ridge Community Services District

Staff report for 2/1/2022 special meeting

Prepared by Rae Bell Arbogast

## AGENDA ITEM 1. ALLEGHANY FIREHOUSE IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

### Cost comparison to new firehouse

Shortly after our January 20<sup>th</sup> board meeting I contacted Matt of BRCO constructors and Mike Vukas our USDA rural development representative looking for recent firehouse construction projects. This was to get an idea of what a new firehouse would cost for comparison with this project.

USDA recently funded a new firehouse in Newcastle for 4.5 million dollars. The size is 6,950 square feet. This works out to \$647 per square foot.

Matt found a project on the contractor's exchange for 8.95 million dollars for a 9,000 square foot firehouse and metal building. This project works out to \$994 per square foot.

- Based on the footprint of the Alleghany Firehouse (including the footprint of the proposed walkway) 1,680 square feet at \$647 per square foot comes to approximately 1.1 million dollars.
- At \$994 per square foot it comes to approximately 1.7 million dollars.

We are not comparing “apples to apples” for several reasons such as: the project for the Alleghany Firehouse will not result in a NEW FIREHOUSE. I don't know if the other projects included tearing down existing structures or not. I do know that construction costs are typically higher for projects in Alleghany than in urban areas because of travel time to and from the job site. Prevailing wage rules are applied to all travel time to the worksite. These numbers do give us a “ballpark” idea of what the cost of a new firehouse would be.

BRCO constructors provided an estimate of \$200,000 for the Alleghany Firehouse Project last fall. I included a summary of the scope of the project on the meeting web page.

### Possible Funding Source

Mike Vukas called me after receiving my email because there is a “pot of money” available thanks to COVID that he thinks we could use for this project. It is called Emergency Rural Health Care. This money is intended for response to the pandemic and the original deadline to apply was last October but there is still money left.

The criteria that make the firehouse eligible for this money are:

1. The fact that the building is used for “food bank” distributions.
2. The fact that Sierra County Social Services has held vaccination (flu shot) clinics at the firehouse and they have done other outreach there including providing COVID-19 test kits.

I have reached out to the Sierra County Dept. of social services for a letter of support.

This grant provides 100% funding for disadvantaged communities like Alleghany. There is no match requirement. Mike encouraged us to submit our application as soon as possible. There is no guarantee that our application would be funded but I am willing to donate my time to give it a shot.

Because the grant provides 100% funding, I propose that if we do apply, we include some repairs to the existing structure in our application. (if it qualifies) Specifically, replacement of the rotted-out section of the west wall, screwing the tin roof back down and painting the front of the building. I asked Matt with BRCO if he could provide an estimate for this additional work. He said that he could get me something next week.

A different set of USDA rules kicks in for projects over \$250,000 so we probably want to stay below that threshold. If awarded, the project must be completed within 3 years.

\$200,000 is the threshold for formal bidding under The California Uniform Construction Cost Accounting Act (CUCCAC). It is best to assume that we would need to use formal bidding procedures for this project.

The job would also have to be registered with the Department of Industrial Relations.

## AGENDA ITEM 2. TITLE III FUND REQUEST

As noted at our January 20<sup>th</sup> meeting, the Title III money can be used for things other than water storage. The letter on this topic is included in the meeting documents.

As discussed last month, staff moved forward with getting a quote from Peter's Well Drilling for installing two 5,000 gallon tanks at the Pike Firehouse. Jim Buckbee met with Luke Hale of Peter's earlier this week. Luke is waiting for a price on some couplings but he said he should have the estimate to me by Monday (in time for our meeting).

Another idea is to request up to \$15,000 for a new firetruck for the Alleghany fire department, with the district committing to a 50% match for a total of up to \$30,000 for a new (used) firetruck. The district's match ability is thanks in-part to the AVFD non-profit's \$8,000 donation a few years ago.

Currently Alleghany's newest engine is call #7150 a 1981 brush truck (41 years old this year). The other engine is call # 7181 a structure truck vintage: 1975. The goal would be to find a newer structure truck to replace both 7181 and 7180, the 1968 International that was declared surplus last year.

Staff recommends requesting both items, one for each department and see what the Board of Supervisor's (BOS) say. If the BOS approves either or both requests there would still be the 45-day public comment period before the funds could be allocated.

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**Question: What are the Title III reimbursable costs for search and rescue functions on eligible federal lands?**

- Salary or wages of emergency response personnel deployed during an emergency response.
- Replacement of equipment, material and supplies expended, damaged or destroyed during an emergency response.
- Repair of equipment damaged during an emergency response.
- Maintenance of vehicles, equipment, and facilities during an emergency response.
- Purchase of capital equipment such as the purchase of a fire engine, a search-and-rescue snowmobile, or other emergency response equipment
- Expenses of training personnel to respond to emergencies on national forests.
- Expenses of equipment and supplies to be kept on hand for response to emergencies on national forests.
- Expenses of non-disposable personal protective equipment and electronic aids such as GPS devices in anticipation of responding to emergencies.
- Purchase of equipment for 911 emergency systems.

**However, the following uses remain unauthorized and may be not be reimbursed:**

- Expenses for capital improvements such as construction of a fire station or emergency services dispatch center.
- Purchase of land (real estate) such as for a fire station or an airport to be used primarily for fire suppression on national forest and other nearby forested lands.
- Maintenance or upgrade of an airport, dispatch center or other facility used primarily for emergency services.
- Repair or reconstruction of a road after a storm event.
- Salary or wages of fire patrols or emergency response personnel during routine duties and scheduled patrols.
- Maintenance or operating costs of fire patrol and emergency response equipment during routine duties and scheduled patrols.
- Development or maintenance of a 911 emergency system, unless carried out under a community wildfire protection plan.



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Good afternoon Mr. McLeran,

I hope you are well, I received a request to answer some questions in regards Title III funding.

1. May Title III funds be used by a county to reimburse other non-county local governmental agencies within the county (e.g. fire districts) for their costs related to search and rescue, and other authorized emergency services on federal lands?
2. Can the county use Title III funds for reimbursement of eligible costs that were incurred prior to the approval of the proposal for the use of funds – i.e. can the proposal seek eligible reimbursement for costs already incurred prior to the plan being approved?
3. May reimbursement for eligible activities on the designated federal lands include such federal land that is in other nearby counties?

Question 1- Yes under the discretion of the participating county regulations and complying with the 45 day public comment period explained below.

Question 2. No. Before using any Title III funds eligible counties must had a 45 day public comment period before using funds in any projects.

Question 3- As long as the Federal Land benefiting is national forests and certain Bureau of Land Management (BLM) lands in Oregon. The activities and projects must had the required 45 day public comment period explained below.

I am attaching here our website where you can read on some common questions. Title III funds are disbursed and executed following county regulations and the below requirements under the law for Secure Rural Schools

Secure Rural Schools - Categories | US Forest Service (usda.gov)

Title III - County Projects

Funds received under Title III are used to:

carry out activities under the Firewise Communities program  
reimburse the participating county for search and rescue and other emergency services, including firefighting and law enforcement patrols  
cover training costs and equipment purchases directly related to the emergency service  
develop and carry out community wildfire protection plans.

**The County is also authorized to use Title III funds to carry out the following “community wildfire protection plans” (not sure we have these, but thought I would include just in case):**

- Hazardous fuels reduction projects such as creating fuel breaks outside the home ignition zone, creating water sources for fire-fighting purposes, and establishing a 911 emergency response system.
- Wildfire mitigation assessments of the homes in an at-risk neighborhood identified in the CWPP.
- Tree removal, tree trimming, or removal of dried grass and brush and other such vegetation identified as contributing to fire risk in the CWPP.
- Removing hazardous fuels along powerline rights-of-way identified in the CWPP, regardless of the person or entity responsible for the removal.

Conducting a community volunteer work day focused on implementing fire mitigation measures outlined in a CWPP



• **Question: What are the reimbursable costs for Firewise Community programs:**

- The County may use Title III funds to carry out the following Firewise Communities program activities that: **(1)** educate homeowners in fire sensitive ecosystems about techniques in siting (positioning or locating a home, constructing a home, landscaping and maintenance around the home that will decrease risk of injury or death and decrease the risk of damage or destruction of a home as a result of a wildfire in the area surrounding the home, or **(2)** assist homeowners in implementing these techniques. Disseminating Firewise information with door hangers, print or radio advertisements;
- Making Firewise information available at community events;
- Holding Firewise educational workshops for homeowners;
- Creating or distributing videos on Firewise principles related to the home ignition zone and fire-resistant building materials; and
- Outfitting and staffing Firewise trailers or mobile units to educate homeowners about the Firewise principles related to the home ignition zone and fire-resistant building materials.

Examples of mitigation assistance to homeowners include:

- Assisting communities with Firewise planning, including conducting a Firewise community assessment;
- Hosting "clean-up days" to encourage homeowners to remove brush and other vegetation from around their homes;
- Assisting communities with applications for Firewise Communities recognition;
- Providing grants or partial funding for removal of vegetation from around homes;
- Salary and transportation costs for youth crews removing vegetation from around homes;
- Supervision, transportation and related costs for parolees or prisoners removing vegetation from around homes; and
- Providing chippers to treat hazardous vegetation within the home ignition zone.

**Examples of activities not authorized by section 302(a)(1) include:**

- Clearing vegetation along emergency evacuation routes;
- Clearing vegetation from county lands, parks, schools or cemeteries or other larger swaths of land not directly associated with home siting;
- Clearing fuel breaks or removing understory vegetation from large linear areas surrounding communities beyond 200 feet from homes.
- Purchasing address and street signs to make it easier for firefighters and emergency responders to locate homes, cabins and businesses;
- Updating a 911 emergency response system;
- Purchasing or installing water tanks or hydrants to be used for fire suppression;
- Purchasing or installing fire danger signs to display the current level of wildland fire danger;
- Educating youth about the Firewise program and other issues related to wildland fire; and
- Purchasing informational materials and supplies to be used to educate people about the larger issues of wildland fire beyond the home ignition zone.

Specific examples include:

- **Note:** Expenditure of such funding is limited to Firewise activities that are carried out in the following communities:
- Activities carried out in a community that is Firewise Community/USA Recognized Site.
- Activities carried out by a community to become recognized as a Firewise Communities/USA Recognized Site.
- Activities necessary to renew recognition as a Firewise Communities/USA Recognized Site.