

Meeting called to order at 7:40 p.m. on Tuesday January 22, 2008. Considering the short notice, the attendance was fair—around 25 people.

Roger Debenham explained that Big Thompson Canyon VFD has donated a 1976 Dodge one-ton Brush truck to SMERT. We are meeting to determine if enough of the community will commit to insuring another vehicle. He introduced Bill Powers, resident, paramedic and former FDNY fire fighter.

Bill Powers explained this truck has more power than Engine 61 because the 250 PTO pumps water using the truck's engine. Engine 61 has a separate, small engine that runs its pump. He explained the difference as Engine 61 being more mobile and able to access areas the Dodge (to be called Engine 62) cannot. This truck only has 30,000 miles on it. Bill introduced Richard Baumeister who has volunteered to manage the upkeep of SMERT's vehicles.

Richard has taken the position of Fleet Mechanic and is now keeping Engine 61 at his place. This is a much better location—centrally located for the community. Engine 61 is now getting the TLC it deserves and its various problems have been diagnosed. He is working toward making it a reliable vehicle. He has gone over Engine 62 carefully and believes it is currently the better vehicle.

Discussion turned to finances—the reason for our meeting. Chris Brock explained that since SMERT's inception in June 2002 we have been able to operate entirely on community donations although funds in recent years have just barely been enough to meet expenses. Engine 61 costs \$800/year to insure. Engine 62 would cost roughly the same. Two years ago Glen Haven Volunteer Fire Department gifted SMERT with a rescue truck. This vehicle has not been put into service for lack of insurance. **[Our goal is to insure all three vehicles; to do that we need the community's commitment of \\$2500 PER YEAR in donations.](#)**

Everyone present at the meeting agreed we want this truck on our mountain. The decision was made to suspend the insurance on Engine 61 for now, putting it "out of service" until Richard can finish working on it. We will insure Engine 62 and make it our active vehicle with the goal of insuring all 3 vehicles as soon as possible.

Zachary Price, the newest member of our community, was enthusiastic about how far SMERT has come as a 501(c)(3) organization. He is familiar with grant writing in the forestry and fire community and says there is money out there. He offered to look into this aspect of raising money for us.

There are roughly 500 properties in our community. In a perfect world, \$5/year per property would easily support the 3 vehicles. The reality is we never hear from everyone. We received donations tonight of \$250 and several responses to our email of commitment once a dollar value was established. SMERT operates on a calendar year basis and insurance is always due in February.

Knowing our goal, please send your fair share every year to SMERT, PO Box 73, Drake, Colorado 80515. You can always call Roger at 970-593-1091 or email Karen at karen@debenham.com if you have any questions. We'd love to be able to send you a notice every year, but at the current postage rate that would take over \$200 out of your donations.

Other announcements made at tonight's meeting:

Pat Maslowski reminded us if you are a registered Republican or Democrat, the caucuses for our area will be held at the Estes Park High School of Feb. 3rd at 6:30 PM.

Bill Powers announced his training session scheduled for February 12, 2008 at 6:45 pm at the Debenhams garage. This is for everyone. Emphasis will be all about preparedness, PPE, Communications, and what to do for a call out.