

## LA VETA FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

### MINUTES SPECIAL MEETING

October 12, 2015  
4:00 P.M.

Present: Directors Brunner, White, Nielsen and Littlefield were in attendance.  
Staff: WMS Project Manager Paul Branson and District Secretary Pezze  
Guests: Huerfano County Commissioners Vezzani, Cisneros and Garcia, Cnty. Adm. John Galusha, Asst. Chf. Dave Mower and David Rinehart from The Signature Newspaper were also in attendance.

Pledge of Allegiance was given.

Board President Brunner welcomed the guests and asked Director White to conduct the meeting proceedings.

#### Public Comments

None.

#### New Business:

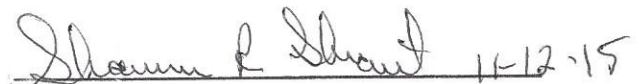
Director White thanked the Huerfano County Commissioners and County Administrator John Galusha for their attendance. Director White explained that Huerfano County has been awarded two grants for fire mitigation purposes within Huerfano County. The first grant is from the Colorado, Division of Natural Resources (DNR) in the amount of \$300,000.00. The second grant is awarded by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) in the amount of \$380,700.00 and is also for creating defensible space around homes inside the La Veta Fire Protection District (LVFPD). The DNR funding will be used as matching funds for the FEMA grant. Director White asked Adm. Galusha to explain how the LVFPD fits into administration of the grants, in particular the FEMA grant. Adm. Galusha and Comm. Vezzani advised that the County desires LVFPD's help in the administration and supervisory aspect of the FEMA grant. The term of the FEMA grant is September 15, 2015 to December 31, 2017 and ultimately 270 to 330 properties could possibly be mitigated with the current grant funds from both grants. In regard to administration allowance, Adm. Galusha stated that the \$30,000.00 administration allowance in the FEMA grant could be matched by an additional \$30,000.00 from the DNR grant for a total of \$60,000.00 to cover the administrative costs associated with homeowner interviews, assessments and developing contracts, marking trees, qualification and training of contractors, reviewing contractor proposals, documentation, reporting etc. required by the FEMA requirements.

Adm. Galusha advised that possibly Theresa Springer could be contacted to help with understanding the FEMA grant processes and reporting. She has worked extensively on Federal grants connected to rehabilitation after major fires in Colorado and is familiar with the system.

A discussion ensued about the LVFPD's participation and Director White concluded that LVFPD would like to do the job of project coordination with Paul Branson taking the project coordinator role and help qualify contractors first and then develop the Request for Proposal for those qualified contractors, along with other duties as stated above. There is also a clause in paragraph 6.2.2 (a.) through (c.) of Exhibit B of the FEMA grant that precludes the LVFPD mitigation crew from being a contractor of the actual ground clearing work. If there can be an exemption to the clause in Exhibit B the LVFPD mitigation crew could possibly be recognized as a contractor to do mitigation of properties. The County and LVFPD will need to enter into an Intergovernmental Agreement for all this to transpire. Adm. Galusha was tasked to outline operations of the grant, contact the FEMA representative to see if the provisions and ideas discussed would be possible and if the exemption can be granted. And lastly, develop the necessary Intergovernmental Agreement. Director White offered to help and review Adm. Galusha's rough drafts of the requests. Adm. Galusha asked Paul to send him a list of criteria for training of contractors.

More grant particulars were discussed and it was stated that properties in Wahatoya Canyon could incur higher costs than average due to the difficult tree cutting around existing power lines.

MSA: Meeting adjourned at 5:10 P.M.

 Shawn R. Shout 10-12-15