

**LA VETA FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT**  
**La Veta Community Center**

**MINUTES**

December 10, 2015

6:00 P.M.

Present: Directors Brunner, White, Nielsen and Shrout were in attendance.  
Staff: Fire Chief DeTray, Wildfire Mitigation Manager Paul Branson and District Secretary Pezze.  
Guests: Don Mercier, Huerfano County Communication & Emergency Services Director, Brian Risley of CRP Architects and Ernie Garcia from H.W. Houston Construction Co. were in attendance through the initial portion of the meeting.

**Call to Order**

The Pledge of Allegiance was given and Director Brunner welcomed the public. The majority of the usual, monthly, operational issues and reports were conducted at the December 4, 2015 special meeting.

**Minutes**

**MSA:** \* Minutes of the December 4, 2015 special meeting were approved as presented.

**Correspondence**

The quarterly report from CRG, in regard to the La Veta Oil contamination remediation, was reviewed and no Board action is needed at this time.

**New Station Owner's Representative Report**

Brian Risley, CRP Architects and Ernie Garcia from H.W. Houston Construction addressed the Board and gave a report on the new Fire Station construction. The concrete on the west apron will be poured on Friday, Dec. 11 and the east end apron should be poured the week of Dec. 14. Corsentino Construction, the company erecting the metal building, currently has a crew working on the roof bracing and a separate crew will start constructing the walls. The Town of La Veta has completed the water line installation. Brian advised that the electrical fixtures package is being delivered in increments and being stored in a local, secured garage until the fixtures are needed. Ernie Garcia, H.W. Houston Construction, presented an updated construction schedule and advised that major duct work and ceiling conduit work should start in the near future also, as soon as the roof panels are complete. Two building columns were fabricated incorrectly and the correct columns should arrive soon. There are hopes that the walls might be complete by Christmas. The windows have been ordered but might not arrive in time for usual installation. If they do not arrive in time, Houston will secure window openings with plywood until they are delivered. Houston will try to schedule multiple sub-contractors to work on the building simultaneously in lieu of one following the other. The completion date has been moved back to approximately February 7 to 10, 2016 due to recent snow storms and weather delays. Brian expressed his appreciation to Houston Const. for their efforts to move the project forward. Ernie stated that he wants to have a quality finished building even if construction time runs longer than originally expected.

**Public Comments**

Don Mercier, Director of Emergency Services which now covers both Huerfano County Communications and the Office of Emergency Management introduced himself to the Board. He advised of changes in operations and staffing at the County level with combining the Communications and Emergency Management services. The issue of the past and recent railroad derailments not being reported was discussed. Don has contacted the railroad multiple times regarding the lack of communication but he has not received any response from railroad personnel.

Don stated that he would like to determine if the LVFPD has been named as the Designated Emergency Response Authority for the Town of La Veta. State statute states that a local fire department is the default DERA unless the Town or County establishes a separate DERA. Chief DeTray advised that Asst. Fire Chief Dave Mower is currently researching that issue. Don stated that he would also forward the actual State statute for the Board to review.

**Wildfire Mitigation Service (WMS) Report - Supplemental**

Paul Branson advised that the proposed, updated Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) has been sent to all pertinent entities for a one month review process. The final revision will be completed in January of 2016 and it will then

**\*MSA = Moved, Seconded and Approved (unanimously unless otherwise indicated).**

be the operative CWPP. Paul is continuing his discussions with John Galusha in regard to the County's FEMA mitigation grant. There is a concern for the County's capacity to have proper administration of the grant and conversations are being held with FEMA to address the problem. Current plans will have Paul in the roll of the LVFPD grant supervisor and also have another, separate County mitigation/hazard coordinator or manager. That County manager would also have connections to the grant and work on building and expanding the mitigation programs into the remainder of the County. Additional grant funds (\$140,000.00) have been secured for the second position. Director White expressed his concern for not getting the promised I.G.A. from John Galusha and he advised that he would talk to Commissioner Vezzani about the situation.

#### **Fire Chief Report – Supplemental**

- 1) Asst. Chief Mower is currently working on a repeater, patch, system that would merge the VHF and the 800 digital radios resulting in dependable, better quality, and continuity in radio communications especially in the mountainous regions of the District. Current reimbursements to Asst. Chief Mower for the equipment that he has purchased is \$340.00. Market value of commercially produced patch systems is approximately \$3,000.00 to \$5,000.00.
- 2) Presented an application from Mark Worgan who currently lives in Cuchara.

**MSA:** The Board approved reimbursing Asst. Chief Mower \$340.00 for the patch system equipment expenses.

**MSA:** The Board approved accepting Mark Worgan as a Firefighter contingent upon clear background checks and drug test results.

#### **Old Business**

The final 2016 Budget was presented for approval and adoption. The District's 5.903 mill levy will generate \$207,184.00 in property tax revenue.

**MSA:** The Board approved and directed the Chairman of the Board to execute, on behalf of the District, the Resolution to Adopt the Budget, including the Budget Message, the Resolution Certifying the Mill Levy to the County Commissioners, and the Resolution to Appropriate Sums of Money as reflected in the Budget.

**MSA:** The meeting adjourned at 7:38 PM.



Shannon R. Shrou, Secretary

1-14-16