

LA VETA FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

La Veta Fire Station  
100 Birch St  
La Veta, Colorado  
MINUTES

July 11, 2024 @ 6:00pm

Present: Directors Schmidt, Alt, and Lacy, and Valdez were in attendance. Brunner was on an excused absence.

Staff: EMS Director Dave Mower, Fire Chief Ron Jameson and Administrative Assistant Tressan Passarelli were in attendance.

Guests: Jim Littlefield was in attendance. Sue Alt and Jim Berg joined via Zoom.

**Call to Order – Pledge - Roll Call**

**Approval of Agenda:** Alt requested the SOP issues be removed. Schmidt requested the Billing for the Fire Department be moved to next month.

Alt made a Motion to Accept: Lacy Seconded. Motion Carried.

**Minutes:** Alt: Pointed out that we are looking for an agreement with our Medical Director. Change to Agreement between LVFPD and the Medical Director for services. Motion made by Alt to accept the minutes as written. Seconded by Lacy. Motion Carried.

**Public Forum**

- Littlefield presented a donation from VS America Inc. for \$500.

**Guests, Correspondence, and Presenters**

- None

**Treasurer's Report**

- Motion to accept Treasurer's reports as presented made by Valdez. Seconded by Lacy. Motion Carried.

**Fire Chief Report (Report given in board packet)**

- Subdivision standards for fire hydrants. Schmidt: Isn't there an engineering standard between fire plugs? Jameson: 400 Foot. Schmidt: Do you know what stage with the PNC that the subdivision is in? Jameson: We are. I have been in contact with all of them on what we need. We are trying to negotiate to where the construction is done once. Schmidt: There should be a standard that all subdivisions follow. Jameson: The main is already there with a standard of 400 foot. I work with Jerry on that.

- Train Training: Valdez: How did the train derailment training go? Jameson: It wasn't derailment training. It was training on what to do when there is a derailment. How to approach and who to call. We need to clear the area and call the railroad. Basically, stay out of it unless there is life endangerment.

### **EMS Director's Report: (Report given in board packet)**

- Mower will contact Dr. Elias to get the agreement between LVFPD and the Medical Director for Services. He will also be meeting with him on Tuesday.
- R1 repairs: We ended up paying \$3,911.70 instead of \$7,800. We saved a chunk of money. Alt: you picked this up recently, have you put any miles on it? Mower: yes, it has been going on several calls.

### **Administrator's Report:**

- Mutual Aid Agreement: Passarelli will fix it and print it to be signed.
- Discussion on website. We are now compliant with ADA. Passarelli was informed that if anything like this comes up in the future, she is to call an emergency meeting and get approval from the board. Passarelli will get an estimate for next year to put in the budget. She will also get a new agreement with 1yr instead of 2 years. Also see if we can get on a calendar year agreement.
- Firehouse Grant: We cannot recall nor amend the application.

### **Old Business**

- Billing for FD: Next Month
- World Journal Announcement: Motion to accept the announcement and send to the World Journal made by Alt. Seconded by Schmidt. Motion Carried. Passarelli will send the announcement as soon as possible.
- Procurement Policy: Next Month
- Kitchen/Community Room: Moving forward slowly. I have turned in the application for the permit to the town. I Contacted the electrician.
- Radios: Alt will get the list together and send it around. Valdez: Each board member was to talk to the people they took off the list. I have not communicated my info to Brunner. Jameson: I have come up with 1 radio. Move to next month.

### **New Business**

- Attorney Bill: much discussion on board members making a bill for Conflict-of-Interest Letters for Jim Alt and Mark Brunner. Alt: Back in January when we talked with Miller and Terry. Both Brunner and I came away with the understanding that we would need to file the conflict of interest with the state. I simply sent an email to Miller for him to send us an example. I was surprised with the magnitude of this bill. We probably could have done this on our own, but it saved myself and Brunner a couple of hours. Time is money. Valdez: But this is district money. Schmidt: We agreed that the only contact person with the attorney



would be me. Had that been followed, this may not have happened. The attorney sent you a garden variety letter. You could have done it yourself in ten minutes. I'm not mad, but I don't think this is the districts bill. This is something that pertained to you and Brunner specifically as private citizens. This is not the districts responsibility. Alt: So, you think this is our bill? Schmidt: I do. Alt: I totally disagree. After that meeting in January, it was clear to Brunner and me that we were on the hook. You guys had all kinds of problems with us being on the board and on the EMS team and we had to protect ourselves. Everybody would nod their head that we needed to submit a conflict-of-interest form, so we did. Valdez: you can get that from the Secretary of the State and do it on your own and submit it. Alt: And it cost me time and money. Valdez: But this is District money. Alt: But it saved me time and my time is worth something. Valdez: So is mine, but that's why I'm a board member and responsible to oversee district money. It is not right to use that money for individual purposes. You can get that information from the Secretary of the State. Alt: That may be true, but we didn't know about it. Valdez: Maybe you can contact our attorney and negotiate it because #1 they didn't follow who they were supposed to communicate with and see if they can't just not charge us for this. Schmidt: I haven't tried to call them. I wanted to see if I was on the same page as the rest of the board members. Valdez: After you explain it, maybe they will agree. I just don't think that is appropriate for them to do legal documents for individual board members. Especially since you can get that information through the Secretary of the State. Alt: Never having done this before, I wouldn't have known that. Both Brunner and I filed with the Secretary of the State and pay the fee ourselves. So that was on us. Valdez: Schmidt, I would try and get the bill reduced or eliminated. Schmidt: I will contact the attorney. It's a good point. Just because they offered their help doesn't mean they can bill us for everything. Alt: Again, I don't know if I had any recourse or would not have known what else to do because I had never done one of these. We got an offer of support from our attorney, and you all agreed it was a good idea. Just like Passarelli, I will take the heat for it, but I'm sure as hell not going to pay for it. Valdez: IT's not fair to the district to pay for it. Alt: Sure it is. Schmidt: It's not Jim. It's not our bill. I'm not saying that we shouldn't pay for it. There's plenty of history of times that this sort of stuff has happened. Alt: So you want your cake and eat it too, is what it sounds like. Valdez: No, you want your cake and eat it too. Alt: No, No. You said that we have a conflict of interest and so I have to protect myself from you. Valdez: Yes, you can do that with the Secretary of State. There are all the forms on the website to fill out. Alt: And I would not have known what to do. Valdez: You are a bright man; you could have figured it out. Schmidt: I don't want to make a bigger deal out of this than it already is. Here is how I see it. You and Brunner needed to do it, because of your potential conflict of interest. It had nothing to do with the district paying for it and doing it for you. Or our attorney doing it for you. If you wanted to retain an attorney, you could, but you didn't have to. The fact that it turned out this way, I'm not saying that we shouldn't chalk it up to lesson learned. What I am saying is if you would have talked to me, or had they talked to me this would not have happened. I would have told you the same thing then and I would have told them the same thing. This is not the districts job to file the conflict of interest with the Secretary of State. This is your individual responsibility. Alt: But it's for business that occurs here at the La Veta Fire Protection District. If I wasn't on this board, I wouldn't have had to do this. Schmidt: But you are and so you did. It's part of your deal, not ours. Alt: And I don't get paid a whole hell of a lot to be on this board. Schmidt: That's beside the point too. The point is, if you are going to serve on the board, you do what you need to do. This could have been



something you drafted up in 10 minutes, filed with the Secretary of State and done. That's what it would have been if you had called me, or the lawyers would have called me like we had agreed. So, I will call the lawyers and see if we can't get it reduced. Otherwise, I think we chalk it up and pay for it. But please in the future, anything that needs to go to the lawyers, must come to me first. That keeps us from having misunderstandings and things like this. Alt: That fine as long as that whole message is applied equitably to everybody across this district. Schmidt: Yes. We hadn't had any reason to contact the lawyers or for them to contact us. District wide this has to happen. We don't want different people contacting our legal people and incurring billable hours. I'm not mad about it. Alt: I am. Schmidt: Alt I don't want you to be mad about it. I want you to take the point that this was not the district's responsibility. This was yours and Brunners. I will call and talk to Miller and ask him about this bill. They took advantage of you.

- Charging for Public Records: Resolution No. 2019-02-01 allows us to charge for CORA requests. Valdez: I would like to make a comment on this. It appears after our board meeting that we have board members or people listening online to go straight to E. Ray and tell him things. Ray then submits CORA requests. I would encourage Ray to come to our meetings. I do feel it is very unprofessional for board members or anyone online to run to him and try and recap what happened. It takes away administrative time. It takes district time for what we are doing. It just seems very immature and unprofessional. I don't know who's doing it. I would encourage Ray to join the meeting instead of doing these CORA requests. If he's that interested have him come to the meeting. We are board members. We need to be more professional. Alt: What does our SOPs say how much we can charge? Passarelli: We can charge \$30 per hour. Alt: The first hour is free. Schmidt: I do think in accordance with this policy Passarelli needs to bill those who have requested. We will put this on the website so those who want to request CORA know how much it is. Those who already have done, we won't bill, but going forward we will bill for any CORA requests.
- Garage Door: Discussion on the amount and not giving us a chance to get bids. Schmidt: Do we pay it? Lacy: We just had our garage door fixed and it was a fraction of what they are being charged. Ours was smaller, but not by much. Schmidt: I think this is a principle of the whole thing. I will contact Mrs. Whitley to discuss the bill we received. I want the blessing of the board on this. Alt: I agree. I think we should split the cost. We didn't get the opportunity to get bids on the repair. The door was in need of repair for a long time.
- Member in Good Standing: Schmidt: This is something I want to put in your minds for a future discussion. What do we expect of our volunteers? Can we require some level of participation to be called a member in good standing? Valdez: I think we do need some requirement. Schmidt: I just want us to think about that.

**Executive Session** – not needed.

\* **MSA:** The meeting adjourned at 7:57 pm

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Mike Lacy, Secretary

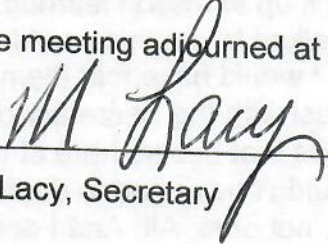


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Mike Lacy, Secretary

# Chiefs Report 7-11-2024

## Department meetings

Second Saturday of each month at 8:00 AM.

## Training for the month

6-7-2024 Railroad Safety Training

7-8-1-2024 Auto Extraction Training

7-10-2024 Live Fire Training

## Truck and equipment

Nothing to report

## Grant

Met with Jennifer Garcia on the USDA grant.

## Volunteers

Nothing to report

## County information

In the process of measuring the fire ponds in the county

## Stations

## Time and Miles

Hours 81

Miles 178



**La Veta Fire Protection District**  
**Monthly EMS Report- June 2024**

**Training:** No training was held in June Due to the completion of the EMT Class and my vacation.

**Maintenance:** Rescue 1 has been repaired and is back in service as the primary unit. The cost for repairs was considerably less than quoted by approximately \$3,200.00. The original quote included the replacement of the Exhaust Gas Recirculator which could only be evaluated once it was removed. It turns out that it did not require replacement saving the District money.

**Applications:** No new applications have been received for membership.

**Medical Director:** I have been trying to secure some time to meet with Dr. Ellias and set up training with him for the Team. Due to timing and his traveling assignments, it has been difficult to get together. I will continue to pursue this scheduled. There have been no issues with care and treatment of patients. Even though we haven't met face-to-face, we communicate regularly via phone and text.

**Billing:** Tressan and I discovered that there have been no deposits made by SDW yet for billing. In conversation with SDW, it has been learned that the CMS enrollment process has not been completed yet. We received the forms in May, and they were completed and submitted back to SDW but were apparently not received by Nicole Jones. Tressan re-submitted the forms early this week. Nicole has responded that they were received but there is additional information required. We are working through these issues rapidly to get this resolved.

**EMS Calls:** There were 12 calls for service in June. 11 Patients were transported to SPRHC ED and 1 was a patient refusal. The run list is attached.