

LA VETA FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

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

September 12, 2024 @ 6:00pm

Present: Directors Schmidt, Alt, and Lacy, Brunner and Valdez were in attendance.

Staff: Fire Chief Ron Jameson and Administrative Assistant Tressan Passarelli was in attendance. EMS Director Dave Mower joined via zoom

Guests: Eric Guadagnoli, Justin Jameson, Christina Guadagnoli, Mark Lancaster, Laura Jameson, Brian Jameson, Lukas Dearmin and Sue Alt all joined via ZOOM

Call to Order – Pledge - Roll Call

Approval of Agenda:

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Minutes

- July 11, 2024 Minutes; Motion to approve made by Lacy. Seconded by Brunner. Motion Carried
- August 8, 2024 Minutes; Motion to approve made by Brunner. Seconded by Alt. Motion Carried
- August 26, 2024 Minutes Special Meeting; Motion to approve made by Valdez. Seconded by Lacy. Motion Carried.

Public Forum

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Guests, Correspondence, and Presenters

- \$100.00 Donation made by Ms. Shumate.
- Museum Director extended an invitation to us and the FD to do a walk through to look at the building. So if there is ever a fire, we can see what is there and what we would have to work with. Schmidt will forward the invite to everyone.

Treasurer's Report

- Alt provided a projected end-of-year report.
- Motion to accept the treasurer's report made by Valdez. Seconded by Lacy. Motion carried.

Fire Chief Report

- FEMA Grant; Alt: This is the first I have heard of this. When did we receive this? Schmidt: I accepted it on August 16, 2024. WE all talked about the actual grant application and we all saw some problems. I called Ted Young who is our Fire Program Specialist with FEMA. I laid out everything to him. I asked for his advise to go forward. We don't want to compromise the integrity over this. If we were to get audited by FEMA, Ted Young would be the one to do it. He was not shocked to hear the problems with the grant writing company. They use a template and do this all the time. It's not uncommon. He stated we can turn back the grant and not accept it, or go forward. He stated we need to document in our grant file all the discrepancies in the submission. Then if there is any questions, you have the information that you contacted me and you acknowledge your errors. He recommended we process the grant and we will be fine. Alt: Do you think there is zero liability? Schmidt: I'm just telling you what he told me. Schmidt: We will also include what time I called him and everything he said. According to Ted Young, we will be fine. Alt: Well that's some what comforting. I'm not sure I'm convinced. I just happened to google something called filing a false application to FEMA for assistance. Can result in criminal charges including a felony and a maximum of 30 years in prison and \$250,000 in fines. Passarelli: Is that for grants or FEMA help for disasters? Alt: It doesn't specify. Passarelli: It sounds like FEMA help for disasters. Alt: I don't think it makes much difference. We are falsifying information to the federal government. I point that out because several months ago we were sitting here and said lets find out if we can retract or amend the application. So we proceeded knowing that there was the potential that we could actually get the grant and the possibility knowing we could get audited. It's grate that you talked to Ted Young. But is that sufficient enough to keep us legal. I wished we hadn't gotten this far. Brunner: What sort of time frame are we on? Can you talk to Bart Miller and see what he thinks about this? We have this documentation and he is willing for us to put the corrected application in our file. Schmidt: No he wants us to put an explanation of discrepancies in our file. Brunner: But ultimately it will be a correct application. That would be the place to go with it. Here are the correct things. We want to put in the correct application. Valdez: They won't accept it. Brunner: I'm not saying that. But that's a good way to go about it. The best way to do it is go through the application again and take out what's wrong and put in what's right. Schmidt: Essentially that is what he wants us to do. Only we will put it in our file here. He doesn't want a copy of it. Brunner: I didn't hear that. Schmidt: He stated he is the one who will do the inquiry. So we have to correct the record by putting something in our file. Valdez: We can put a copy of tonight's minutes. Schmidt: Yes, everything that pertains to the grant. He has it on record that we spoke with him. Brunner: What kind of time crunch are we under? If we are not, why not ask Miller? Jameson: The only thing is part of the time crunch is the free SCBA Bottles. That ends the end of September. Valdez: I feel comfortable with what Ted Young said. We can put all the notes in our file. Schmidt: I do to. I don't think Miller will tell us anything we already know. Alt: It's probably the worst case scenario, but it probably hurts the integrity of the department. Schmidt: I don't think it hurts the integrity of the department. We called and admitted to our errors. We talked to FEMA. They gave us instructions to go forward. Brunner: Can we get anything in writing from Ted Young? Or a recording of what he said? Schmidt: I can send him an email and say pursuant to our conversation we have brought it to the board and put the information in our file. Alt: I agree that dragging Miller into this wont get the result we are looking for. I agree with Brunner. We need to pair the conversation with him in writing. At least we get it in black and white I would feel a little better. Ted might be at the bottom of the rung and his

supervisor will say he was wrong. Schmidt: There is always that chance that someone will trump Ted and someone higher will trump him. There is no end to this. Brunner: You would agree we need to protect ourselves. Valdez: We did. Schmidt: We got instruction on how to protect ourselves. I think if I email Ted and when we get something back, we are good. Alt: you can just say we have a board that is skeptical and we need something in writing. It doesn't mean we have to miss the boat on these quotes. I don't think we are going to spend 30 years in jail, but we shouldn't fool ourselves that we are free and clear. Schmidt: Once again, I think we are making a mountain out of a mole hill. Alt: Jameson, this will give us some time to digest the quotes. This is the first time I have seen these. Jameson: ok, I just put a lot of work into this in the last 3 weeks. Alt: I haven't had a chance to look at this and neither has anyone else on the board. Jameson: I guess you will probably need to have another Special Meeting this month. Brunner: The board meeting is October 10th. Valdez: We will miss the 9/30/24 date on ROI quote. Schmidt: I'm not opposed to getting something from Ted and calling a special meeting if everybody wants to sit down and go through these. Valdez: What about if you get everything from Ted and we give you authority now to just do it? Alt: that doesn't really give us a chance to digest this. Doesn't give us a chance to update the application and get it in a file. Schmidt: That can be done at any time. It doesn't have to be done before we spend the money. Alt: Are the quotes apples to apples? Jameson: They are the same. Schmidt: Where we will leave it as the grant is accepted. I will email Ted. I will send his response to everyone as soon as I get it. Do we then want to schedule a special meeting to keep rolling? Valdez: I suggest we keep rolling with it. Schmidt: Unless you want to discuss all the quotes tonight and approve one of them. Valdez: Why don't we do this tonight instead of having a special meeting?

- Jameson explained the quotes. Motion to move forward on the grant with Fire Chief making the decision on the vendor of his choice made by Valdez. Seconded by Lacy. Alt: I would like to offer an amended motion. We go with what the Chief wants provided we get something in writing from Ted Young. Schmidt: Valdez would you like to add that to your motion? Valdez: Motion to move forward on the grant after receiving an email from Mr. Young. Schmidt: My question is what will satisfy you on what the email should say. If I get him to send me something, what do you want it to say? Alt: Certainly I would like to see him say specifics on what you talked about. Schmidt: Here is what I am going to put in my email. "As per our discussion on September 12th, the board took it up at our meeting last night. We will put into our file all the corrections of our grant application. It will be on file here at the station as you suggested. Thank you so much for your guidance in this. If he says Thank you in response, is that going to be good enough? Brunner: I would rather see something along the lines of following your recommendation on the report. Schmidt: I will put that in the email. Alt: He needs to read what you write and acknowledge your conversation. Schmidt: If I don't get a response, I will call him. Motion to move forward with the FEMA Grant with the Fire Chief to make the decision on the vendor to use, upon receipt of communication from Ted Young on his instructions to go forward made by Valdez. Seconded by Lacy 5 votes yes. Motion Carried.
- Cavin McCay is up for membership. Motion to make Cavin MCCay a member made by Valdez. Seconded by Brunner. Motion Carried.

- AmeriCorp will be using the station for the Juniper Crew to stay at while they are doing fire mitigation up by Cuchara.

EMT Director's Report:

- Lukas Dearmin is requesting the department defer his shifts for EMS. Motion to defer his EMS Shifts made by Schmidt. Seconded by Brunner. Motion Carried.
- Students who are not fulfilling their obligations to the contract they signed; Mower: I would like to demand payment of \$1050.00 in a letter requesting they pay their tuition. We would give the money back to the QRT. Alt: I kind of agree with the arithmetic. Brunner: I think the SOPs absolutely give us direction on what a member in good standing is. If Mower wants to terminate, that is in Mower's job description. I would suggest we don't terminate until we get some money back. Schmidt: I would send a letter stating that their probation runs until such date. Upon the requirements of the tuition agreement, you are not going to be a member in good standing, and you are subject to termination during your probation period. Additionally, if you are not going to preform, consider this a letter of demand for repayment of tuition. Brunner: The Board, at the request of the Fire Chief and EMS Director can terminate a member for non-participation. Schmidt: Even if they are not members, that doesn't absolve them of the tuition agreement that they signed. I think we should pursue this with the other ones that have taken the training and are not responding at all. Valdez: We need to move forward and get a letter out to them. Schmidt: I'm for requesting the whole \$2300. We need to give the QRT their amount but put the rest into future classes. Mower: As soon as I get back, I will draft letters. Lacy; can you just submit them? Schmidt; We are fine with you handling it. Mower will send a letter of demand for those who have no intent of fulfilling their obligations under the contract for the training as an EMT it will be for the entire amount of the training. \$2300 each.

Administrator's Report:

- Auditor; Todd Mehilech in Pueblo has agreed to do our audit work. Alt: What is he charging us? Passarelli: I don't know. He is going to look at it and was not going to charge as much because I had everything ready to go. I will get a charge amount. The state will keep in contact with Mr. Mehilech now.

Old Business

- Radios: Brunner; we have 20 missing radios now. Everything that hasn't been turned on with-in a year we will remove from the state system. We will get rid of those. The junk radios will be removed. Any radio that has been turned on with in 12 months. We will ask them to stun those radios. If one shows up, we can have them reactivate them. We will then have 34 radios for new members. With the new list it will be up to J. Jameson and R. Jameson to keep up with it. We are getting to a point to where we can put this to rest.
- Billing for FD; Still working on this. Put in next month. Jameson found a company that could do this. He will work on getting a presentation set up for county wide.

- Kitchen update: The Auxiliary has submitted a letter stating that they are rescinding their money for the project. We will defer on this project for now.
- Procurement Policy: Schmidt: I sent around an email to all the board members. I will send it again. And talk about it next month.
- USDA Grant: We will move this to the next meeting. We need to rethink what we want to request what we want on that grant based on the FEMA grant.
- Postings on website: Motion to put the minutes with reports, SOPs and Bylaws on the website up to our contract limit made by Brunner. Seconded by Lacy. Motion carried.

New Business

- MOU with Pueblo County: Alt: I will say again. It would be nice to have these things ahead of time to review them. Jameson: I sent them out as soon as I got it. I sent it to all the board members. Brunner: I think what Alt is saying we need to get our reports the Monday before the meeting. I don't remember getting it. Jameson: It was a few weeks ago that I sent it out. I went straight to the board members so you would have time to review it. Alt: The last thing I got was the debit card issue. Jameson: It was before that. Valdez: It was September 3rd when Jameson sent it. Motion to sign the MOU made by Brunner. Seconded by Valdez. Motion carried.
- Budget: Schmidt: Miller emailed the budget compliance calendar. If you didn't receive it, I will send it around to everyone. October 15th we need to have the proposed budget and set a date for hearing.

Executive Session – not needed.

* **MSA:** The meeting adjourned at 8:32pm



 Mike Lacy, Secretary

Chiefs Report 9-12-2024

Department meetings

Second Saturday of each month at 8:00 AM.

Training for the month

Stonewall Century Ride

Truck and equipment

Grant

FEMA grant bids.

Volunteers

Need to approve all new members that have met the requirements,

County information

Stations

Time and Miles

Hours 82

Miles 178

La Veta Fire Protection District
Monthly EMS Report- August 2024
September 12, 2024 BOD Meeting

Training: Training occurred on August 6, 2024. Trauma was the subject following a short Staff meeting. The training was not well attended because of a mistake on my part caused by the that we changed training to the Tuesday of the week of the BOD meeting. That date fell 6th and according to IaR training was scheduled for 9/13. This is the only time for the remainder of the year that this occurred. The remaining training will be on 2nd Tuesday of the month.

Maintenance: No maintenance was required for August.

Applications: No membership applications have been received this month

Shifts: Shift have been discussed for quite some time. My position is that every EMS provider needs to be covering shifts during the month. Furthermore, the people that attended the EMT Class have not begun covering any shifts as was explained to them prior to taking the class. Lukas Dearmin is currently able to cover shifts for medical reasons. Emily Holliday and Nicole Sudderth are refusing to cover shifts and are now saying they don't ever remember shifts being a requirement. I will discuss this with Board in detail. There remain 3 students that have yet to pass the NREMT test. They will be testing again next week.

Billing: All billing for August has been billed by SDW. Mark Brunner, Jim Alt and I met to review the Outstanding Open Accounts that were left over by QMC. We filtered those out into separate categories. There is a group that will be

submitted to be billed, and a group that will be requested to be re-billed. I have not been able to submit those to SDW yet. I will be submitting them shortly.

EMS Calls: There were 23 calls for service in August. 20 Patients were transported to SPRHC ED for treatment. 3 Patients refused transport. See attached report.