

LA VETA FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

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

February 13, 2025 @ 6:00pm

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

Staff: EMS Director Dave Mower, Justin Jameson Captain and Administrative Assistant Tressan Passarelli were in attendance.

Guests: Brian Jameson, Dr. Ellias, Laura Jameson, John Z (Eddie Ray), and Sue Alt joined via ZOOM. Cindy Jameson, Norma Mower, Lukas Dearmin, and Shane Clouse were in attendance.

Call to Order – Pledge - Roll Call

Approval of Agenda

- Motion to approve agenda made by Schmidt. Seconded by Brunner. Motion carried.

Minutes

- Minutes from December 12, 2024: Motion to approve the minutes made by Brunner. Seconded by Alt. Motion Carried.
- Minutes from January 9, 2025: Motion to approve the minutes made by Alt. Seconded by Brunner. Motion carried.
- Summary of IT Workshop January 30, 2025: Motion to approve the summary made by Alt, Seconded by Schmidt. Motion Carried.

Public Forum

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Guests, Correspondence, and Presenters

- Dr. Ellias: Spoke about HIPPA Compliance. Recommended Norma Mower as Administrative Assistant to Dave Mower. Advised that Norma Mower can work as a PA on the ambulance. He stated that he would use his stipend with the department to promote EMTs. D. Mower: I just want to clarify, we spoke to Norma Mower being the Assistant Director, Not the Administrative Assistant. We have an Administrative Assistant already. Dr. Ellias: Yes, I apologize. That's the title that would make the most sense.
- Shane Clouse with Opium Harm Prevention: We do CPR Classes and give out free Narcan. We would like to borrow your CPR dummies? Mower: I have no problem with that. We can work out something to get them to you. Brunner: I would ask for a MOU between us and OHP. Schmidt: We can generate a MOU. Motion to have Shane and Mower get together for the CPR dummies and sign a MOU made by Brunner. Seconded by Lacy. Motion Carried.

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

Treasurer's Report

- Motion to accept Treasurer's Report as read made by Lacy. Seconded by Brunner. Motion carried.

Fire Chief Report Attached

- Report given by Justin Jameson:
- IQS & IROC: Justin Jameson will be taking over this to get our volunteers their Red Cards.

EMT Director's Report Attached

- Letter from Nicole Sudderth: Motion to accept the payment of \$1,235.00 in a one lump sum payment by February 24, 2025 and consider the agreement fulfilled. Seconded by Alt. Roll Call vote. 5 yes, motion carried. Lacy will collect.

Administrator's Report Attached

- Cuchara Station Phone: Do not turn off, contact Josh Wehe with JADE to see about getting their service up there.

Old Business

- Election Update: Cindy Jameson gave an update on the election. Self-Nominations are due by February 28, 2025. March 7, 2025, the ballot content needs to be certified. We will need absentee ballots and envelopes. If you go with the sales tax question, Cindy would need to contact the attorney. There is more to the election if we add the sales tax.
- Tax Question: Schmidt: The lawyer sent over the first draft for the sales tax question. The May election would be hard. The November election would give us more time to sell it to the community. Brunner: To me if we have to defend this. I would not want to use the boiler plate language the attorney has. I would want the priority stated a little different. We are going to sell this to our neighbors, we have to be able to defend it. Right now it doesn't fit my priorities or what I think my priorities are for the board. I would want to change that. I threw out last time, a whole percent. I think that's a little ambitious. Now that I had looked at the taxes and just the nature out there of the prices. I don't think we can get one percent. I would say that the chance of it passing would be slim. We would have to word it well and drop the amount so that we it kept the tax under 10. If you go buy something now and the sales tax is over ten percent, you say I'm not ever going to buy from there again. Valdez: How often does a person even look at the sales tax? If you need the product, you buy it. Schmidt: 1% would double our revenue. .5% would generate about 80k. Brunner: I was surprised there are 6k vendors. So, it's not just Charlie's. Schmidt: Every company that collects sales tax in our district, that what we would get off it. If we want to get it on the May ballot, we have to decide on the language tonight. Nobody wants to put this on the ballot for May. We will wait till November. Alt: Do we want to put a committee together for the sales tax question? Schmidt: I think we should just have a workshop. Everybody bring their suggestions.

- New System for FD: Alt: There is a lot of research that one needs to do to see if this is worth it. I'm on information overload. I need someone to get what the pros and cons are, the benefits, the cost, and what it means to us. I don't have the time to do the analysis. At this point I can't buy into this because I don't know how it's better than what we got. I'm not convinced that the cost is justified. Brunner: Maybe Justin can answer this, the price went down from \$720 to \$520, is that's because nobody else wanted to join in? J. Jameson: I don't know. Maybe it was a promotion. Brunner: It has just one FDID. So, I take it, it is just us. We would be the one FDID and it's \$570 a month. The monthly amount is \$570. I think we are going at it by ourselves now. Schmidt: I think we should move this to next month till we find out where all the rest of the departments are at. (Justin and Vonnie's mics are not working. Unable to pick up what they are saying) Alt: Can we ask the Chief to itemize what the benefits are for this? Schmidt: We will ask the Chief for a narrative and put it on the agenda for next month.
- System Update with Joe Camacho: Alt: I have pulled together IT backup material. This is my idea of what we need for IT. We can put this out to get another quote. Going through Camacho's proposal, it started at the Cadillac price, then we went to the Chevy price and then the Volkswagen price. Even the Volkswagen price is too much. We don't have this in our budget. Jim went through his list of what we will need to cover what we have at both stations. D. Mower: We need to add the HIPPA requirements. We need to make sure we have encryption and security to meet HIPPA requirements. Whoever gives us a bid, they have to be up to speed on HIPPA requirements. Alt: I didn't call it encryption, but I put it in paragraph 3. I pulled the info off the first bid and used it to put this list together. I know one IT vendor, but I don't object to 2 or 3. I will update my list to add the HIPPA Encryption. Schmidt: Are we going to publish this in the paper? Brunner: I think we have to get more bids. I like Comacho, but we don't have the 10k a year in our budget. Schmidt: I would send this to Camacho also. Motion to request proposals for IT upgrades made by Brunner. Seconded by Lacy. Motion carried.
- FEMA Grant: Move to next month
- USDA Grant: Move to next month

New Business

- EMS Officers: D. Mower: I am making a formal request of the board to put Norma Mower on as Assistant EMS Director. There are multiple reasons, not because she is my wife. She is a PA, has extensive knowledge and background of compliance, extensive knowledge in medical care, a great mentor and Dr. Ellias highly recommends her for this position. He also recommends her to be the Chief Compliance Officer for us as well. Motion to appoint Norma Mower as Assistant EMS Director made by Schmidt. Seconded by Valdez. Discussion: Lacy: Can we see the job description? D. Mower: Yes, I will print it. Alt: So, we have had this issue before. One of the ways that it can be accommodated, and I do believe we need a Chief Compliance Officer for EMS and the whole district, I would offer or suggest that we name the position the Assistant to the EMS Director. I know it's splitting hairs, but I believe that's kind of what Dr. Ellias was alluding to. D. Mower: But Dr. Ellias misspoke because we talked at length. Alt: Excuse me! Well ok, maybe you did, but that's not what he said. Schmidt: We have a job description for that position. We don't have a job description for Assistant to the EMS Director. Alt: Why not create one? Schmidt: What's the point Jim? Alt: The point is we would have an assistant, not an officer. That would be the distinction. I am against having another officer in the EMS. That's what the distinction is.

Brunner: I guess Schmidt, it was you though that said we don't have an Assistant Chief or Assistant Director and we are going to do away with it. We won't have one on fire or EMS.

Schmidt: I don't recall saying that. Brunner: Maybe it wasn't you, but we got rid of both of those positions. Schmidt: Apparently you didn't because there is still a job description for it.

Brunner: The board voted to get rid of those positions so we wouldn't have this argument.

Schmidt: When was it? Brunner: I would have to look it up. I didn't know anything about it, so I will have to look it up. I'm all for Norma helping us. I have worked with Norma for a long time. We absolutely need compliance. D. Mower: I'm not arguing about compliance. According to Dr. Ellias, she can do anything I can and do everything Dr. Ellias can do.

Schmidt: Here's the way to go forward. We can take that job description we have and re-ratify it or resurrect it since you say it doesn't exist. I think it probably does. Then we can do it all in one swoop. Brunner: I can't remember the exact language or who was sitting there, but we did away with that because there was a huge argument. The board did away with assistant fire chief and assistant EMS director. We can look it up, but it's in the minutes. I would want to look it up. Schmidt: It's a moot point. If we want, we can re-establish the position tonight. Valdez: When Eddie Ray was here, Brunner weren't you the Assistant EMS Director? Brunner: When they got rid of it, then I fell into the spot as the captain.

Valdez: We are going to have to fill that position. If you run for the board, you can't run as an officer. We are going to need someone. Brunner: Right, if I run again, I can't as a responder. Valdez: As a Captain or officer. Brunner: Right. I don't have a problem putting Norma on. Valdez: I don't recall it being taken out. (Brunner gave a background on why the positions were taken out.) D. Mower: Being in the fire service for as long as I have, I have never heard of an "Assistant To" anybody. What does "To" mean? Brunner: So, in that role here at the district, that person did everything. They did scheduling, just everything an assistant would do. Valdez: An assistant to the assistant. That doesn't even make sense.

D. Mower: That is not Norma. That woman has more medical training and background than anyone in this room. Brunner: That's not what we are calling into question. D. Mower: I hope not, but making her as "assistant to", makes it sound like she is a secretary. That is not who she is. Alt: No, it's not. It's an analogous to the Chief of Staff to the president of the United States. Brunner: Norma, are looking into a position that you will respond when Dave is unavailable or on vacation. When we have 3 people down on a traffic accident, would you run that scene. N. Mower: Yes, I could. Brunner: You could, but typically you would like to go with Dave. Schmidt: Wait a minute, this is getting ridiculous. All the EMTs go if they want to or they don't if they don't. Brunner: That's a difference for an officer. Schmidt: You are throwing a bunch of stuff in. You are an officer. You go if you want to, you don't go if you don't want to. Brunner: Not really. So, what an officer would do, if you are an Assistant EMS Director, you would take Dave's place if he is not here at the scene of a call? Do you have the willingness? Do you have the desire to do it? (Norma is not speaking loud enough for her mic to pick up.) Do you want to? D. Mower: Why are we having this conversation? Because you don't want her. Brunner: No, no, no. I am asking Norma simple questions.

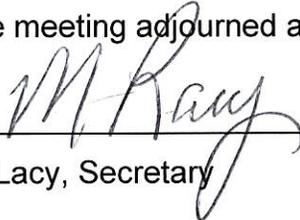
Lacy: Its good for me to hear it, because I don't have any background on her. Brunner: Norma and I have gone on many calls. She has used me as a shield. I'm not asking for qualifications, or anything like that. I'm asking if she has the desire. I do have a question. With what Dr. Ellias has said, as a PA does that mean that you get to do more cool things than what Dave gets to do? (Norma answered) So on the ambulance you can perform up to a paramedic level? So you can perform to a PA level now with the written permission from Dr. Ellias and the State of Colorado. That's cool. Schmidt: Has everyone had a chance to

review this job description for Assistant EMS Director? Motion to approve this position under this job description made by Valdez. Seconded by Lacy. Motion Carried. Motion to appoint Norma Mower as the Assistant EMS Director made by Lacy. Seconded by Valdez. 4 Ayes, 1 Nay. Motion Carried.

- DFPC Grant: This is 20k, no out of pocket money from the district for bunker gear and heat sensor. 100% covered. 4 sets of Bunker gear, 4 sets of TekGen, 1 heat sensor. Passarelli, Morningstar, McCay and one more. Motion to apply for the DFPC Grant made by Alt. Seconded by Lacy. Roll call vote, 5 yes. Motion Carried
- HIPPA Policy: Motion to add HIPPA Policy to SOPs under Article V (5) made by Brunner. Seconded by Lacy. Motion Carried.

Executive Session – not needed.

* **MSA:** The meeting adjourned at 9:03pm



Mike Lacy, Secretary

Chiefs Report 2-13-2025 Updated

Department meetings

Second Saturday of each month at 8:00 AM.

Starting to implement EMS's and Fire Fighters on a rotating every third day shifts.

Training for the month

Burn pile training.

Truck and equipment

Grant

FEMA grant update, every thing should be here by the first of March.

Volunteers

No new applications

Burn Permits

14 for the month.

County information

Stations

Need to upgrade email.

Need a new computer for the Fire Station

Time and Miles

Hours 96

Miles 189

La Veta Fire Protection District
Monthly EMS Report
January 2025
BOD Meeting February 13, 2025

Training: EMS Training for January was cancelled on short notice due to my being ill.

Maintenance: I worked for several weeks to achieve getting the damage repaired that occurred on 12/09/2024 on La Veta Pass. I have called and left messages without responses. I finally reached a supervising adjuster from Progressive who moved the case forward. **UPDATE:** Rescue 1 was delivered to Trans West Heavy Duty Services in Brighton, CO on Sunday 02/02/2025 for repairs. They received the ambulance into their Service Center on Sunday for security reasons and began assessment and repairs on Monday 02/03/2025. Parts have been ordered, and repairs are underway. I expect to have possession of R-1 by approximately the third week of February. Trans West will send the invoice directly to Progressive for payment.

Personnel: I have had contact with Gave Vigil regarding his testing for National Registry. I have met with him to assist him with studying. He continues to tell me that he is going to arrange to test in the very near future. I have explained that time is passing and that he needs to get this complete ASAP. Justin Jameson is participating in his required remedial training. Once that is complete, he will apply for the test again.

Applications: I have received no new applications.

EMS Calls: There were 18 calls for service in December. 14 Patients were transported, 4 calls were no-transport & unbillable. See the attached report.

Current Events (February): Dr. Ellias and I met on Friday 2/7/25. Dr. Ellias indicated that it is necessary to provide coverage for many Items regarding compliance. Also, we discussed issues regarding documentation on PCR's and Orientation.

Administrator/Administrative Assistant Report

- Bathroom Use
- Copier
- Cuchara Phone
- HP.com
- Billing Company Complaints & Billing
- Grant Writing Workshop
- More Hours 10 more a month \$2400 per year
- Payroll Question
- PayPal Account