

**LA VETA FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT
SPECIAL MEETING
La Veta Fire Station**

MINUTES

December 4, 2015
4:00 P.M.

Present: Directors Brunner, Nielsen, Littlefield and Shroud were in attendance. Director White joined the meeting via teleconference about half way through the meeting.
Staff: Fire Chief DeTray, EMS Director Schmidt, WMS Manager Paul Branson and District Secretary Pezze.
Guests: Asst. Chief Mower, Kim DeTray, Mark Loveall and Mickey Schmidt.

Call to Order

Meeting was called to order at 4:16 due to confusion over the special meeting time on the Agenda. The Pledge of Allegiance was given and Director Brunner welcomed the public.

Minutes

MSA: * Minutes of the November 12, 2015 regular meeting were approved as presented.

Public Comments

None.

Correspondence

The District received notice from Pinnacol Assurance, the District's workmen's compensation insurance carrier that there will be a 17% increase in premium due to the experience modification factor.

Treasurer's Report

MSA: The Treasurer's Report and payments for the December 4, 2015 meeting were presented and approved.

District Secretary Pezze advised that a \$1,000.00 donation had been received from the Hole-In-The-Wall Ranch Property Owners Association.

New Station Owner's Representative Report

Director Brunner advised that the water and sand separator has been installed, the Town of La Veta has made both connections for the water and sewer taps and that project went well. The incorrectly placed sewer line along Moore Street has been moved to the north and is no longer on LVFPD property. All the major support columns are in place. Director Brunner advised that representatives from H.W. Houston Const. Co. will be at the December 10th regular meeting to answer concerns about the slowness of progress on the construction.

Wildfire Mitigation Service (WMS) Report

Paul Branson presented his Wildfire Mitigation Service monthly report and a copy of that report is attached to these minutes. WMS Manager Branson and the Board are anxious to receive the first draft of the intergovernmental agreement for the FEMA grant from County Adm., John Galusha. Expected date to receive the document is during the week of December 7th.

EMS Report

1. 9 EMS calls with no patients transported and no transfers. One training class with Jeff Torr on capnography.
2. The EMT students continue to make payments on their EMT class reimbursement obligation.
3. EMS Capt. Mower repaired the leak on the air dump system on Rescue 1 (2009 Dodge Amb.).
4. Rescue 1 is currently at Prism Paint and Body for repairs to the left side of the box.
5. Rescue 3 siren repair will be completed soon.
6. The LVFPD currently only bills patients who are transported. EMS Director Schmidt proposed a change in patient billing parameters to include 'Treat no Transport' (TNT) charge for patients who receive medical care and/or rescues but are not transported by LVFPD ambulance.

MSA: The Board approved changing the LVFPD billing policy to include charging for 'Treat no Transport' services.

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

Fire Chief Report

- 1) 5 fire calls: 3 MVAs on Hwy. 160, 1 smoke report that was a controlled burn, 1 Mutual Aid to Huerfano Cnty. Fire Prot. Dist. (HCFPD) for structure fire on West 6th St. in Walsenburg.
- 2) 2 Training classes: Nov. 11, 2015 on SCBA confidence, inventory and structure fire ops with 16 FFs and 4 Jr. FFs. Nov. 21, 2015 on HazMat Awareness with 16 FFs and 1 guest FF from HCFPD.
- 3) Advised that Cucharas Sanitation and Water District (CS&WD) is working to repair pressure valves. CS&WD is going to hire a contractor to replace the four inoperable hydrants. Plan to have 100% of the hydrant testing completed within two years but hope to complete testing by the end of 2016.
- 4) The HazMat training fee charged by the instructor, Terry Smith, was first thought to be \$500.00 plus mileage. However, when Mr. Smith presented the actual bill it was for \$1,000.00. Due to the quality of the class, the excellent participation with 16 LVFPD FFs and 1 HCFPD FF attending and it being a certified class, approval was given to pay the \$1,000.00.
- 5) The initial contacts on the pre-plans have been completed and there are only two businesses with construction changes. Those being La Veta Oil Co. and Two Fox Cabins on Oak Street.
- 6) Presented a spread sheet outlining proposed Capital Expenses for the next five years. Will have an Operational meeting on Dec. 9th to review department wants and needs including operational needs. Will provide an updated three and five year Capital Expense list and ideas for operational needs at the January, 2016 regular meeting.
- 7) Have received the 18 reconditioned SCBA packs, masks and cylinders. Fit tested 16 FFs for face masks with a machine loaned to LVFPD by MSA sales rep., John Wickersheim. John is also loaning, or providing, an addition 10 masks to LVFPD, however, a number of those masks need repair.
- 8) Will be working on the Division of Fire Prevention and Control Firefighter Disease Prevention Grant application. Deadline for submitting is January 12, 2016. The extractor and SCBA compressor will be two of the items requested.
- 9) Also working on the FEMA, Assistance to Firefighter Grant application.
- 10) Need to replace a battery in 7122 (1984 Chevy Kodiak Eng.). La Veta Oil has quoted between \$180.00 and \$220.00.

The Board concurred that two matching batteries need to be purchased. Director Brunner advised that purchasing locally is most desirable, however, Sam's Club pricing is \$150.00 per battery.

MSA: The Board approved purchasing two batteries for 7122 (84 Chevy Kodiak Eng.) for a maximum of 20% over Sam's Club pricing, or approximately \$360.00.

Old Business

The revised, preliminary 2016 Budget was briefly reviewed and discussed. Final approval and adoption of the 2016 Budget will be at the regular December 10, 2015 Board meeting.

The Illegal Drug/Alcohol Free Workplace and Testing Policy from Atty. Dino Ross was revisited. The main point of contention was the provision for random testing. After lengthy discussion, it was decided that Directors White and Littlefield will place a call to Atty. Ross to discuss the District's concerns and ask for clarification.

Director Nielsen advised that he has visited with Andrea Clausen and Todd Oberheu at Spanish Peaks Regional Health Center (SPRHC) in regard to medical physicals and testing for LVFPD members. They are in the process of determining which examinations and tests SPRHC can and cannot do considering costs and necessary testing equipment.

Director White inquired of Asst. Chief Mower the status of his investigation into the delayed authorization of the National Guard rescue helicopter for the Indian Creek/Raspberry Mountain rescue. Asst. Chief Mower advised that he is waiting for several call backs and that there has been no actual correspondence sent or received. He feels that it will be January, 2016 before he will have any solid information. He has determined that the Homeland Security and Emergency Management for the State of CO has the authority to request that resource. Authorization does not have to come solely from the Colorado Search and Rescue Board.

New Business

None

MSA: The meeting adjourned at 6:05 P.M.



Shannon R. ShROUT, Sec.

LVFPD Wildfire Mitigation Service-Monthly Report for 12/04/15

WILDFIRE MITIGATION SERVICE

-All DNR contracts are completed with all invoices submitted to Huerfano County (HC) for reimbursement. As per conversation with John Galusha on 11/24, HC has received monies from DNR to reimburse the first two batches of invoices. We expect the same for the final batch (which has also been submitted).

-The present projects for the WMS Sawyer Crew consist solely of Shaded Fuel Break treatment at Black Hole in Panadero WUI and Red Hill-Bend Creek Expansion in the Pinehaven/HWY 12 WUI's, plus one individual project in Majors Ranch. Slash burning has commenced and will continue throughout the winter season.

-The latest budget for the FEMA grant was approved. John Galusha and I have commenced the official roll-out of this program. While I am working on the tasks assigned to me as Grant Supervisor, the first deliverable from HC will be an Intergovernmental Agreement which outline the particular roles to be played by HC and LVFPD during this grant. I was verbally told that HC would produce this IGA in the week starting Dec 7.

-During my meeting with John Galusha on 11/24, I clarified the importance of my being able to continue the various projects created and maintained by the WMS (not including, of course, the actual operation and supervision of the WMS Saw Crew) as they are foundational components of all local Wildfire Prevention and Mitigation efforts and the continuing development thereof. If directors require more information regarding these specific tasks, please contact me directly, but consider the following as key programs that will be maintained: CWPP development and/or maintenance, Firewise Community creation and maintenance, HC OES emergency planning especially Evacuation Readiness and Railroad wildfire hazard planning, our "Ready, Set, Go!" program, ongoing grants for both defensible space and most particularly Shaded Fuel Break projects, potential related Watershed/Wildfire projects, Biomass utilization development, and general WMS program development such as crew member experience opportunities and certification advancement.

Other projects worked on in September and/or continuing this month include:

-I will continue focusing solely on final work for the LVFPD CWPP Update and Expansion in the next two weeks. Mark Loveall and I are also finalizing the various maps involved with that project. The CORE TEAM meeting for that plan will meet December 10th at 1000 at Station 1. The final plan will be published shortly after that meeting.

-FIREWISE COMMUNITIES/USA—Attended a meeting with the Wahatoya Firewise group which is developing quickly. Participated in the neighborhood assessment for this WUI with CSFS Forester

Loveall as lead during that stage of the Firewise Community designation process. This WUI has been redefined to include all the Wahatoya Creek drainage and/or properties accessible off of CR 360 and CR 363.

-EVACUATION TRIGGER MAP-No movement on this item.

-RED HILL PROJECT(S)- RED HILL proper is in final documentation stage, basically a lot of photos to arrange and reports to write. RED HILL-BEND CREEK is underway, marked with initial heavy thinning completed. Slash Piles will be burnt there this winter.

-Coordinating attendance at the Colorado Winter Wildfire Academy for WMS members in January. So far Jake Thomsen is definitely attending, possible also Steven Ames. I may attend for the 3 day Recruitment and Retention workshop on behalf of the LVFPD.

-Chief Detray and I have met with key personnel to further development of the WMS Saw Crew for 2016 and 2017. Supervisory leadership issues are being prioritized (it cannot continue to be myself, at least not for the duration of the FEMA grant). It is highly anticipated that the majority of the WMS Saw Crew will be recruited from elsewhere (after local members are solicited) as seasonal employees, will be of particular wildland certification levels, and will be required to respond to all wildland fire calls during their season working with us.

-Chief Detray and I also are in agreement that a LVFPD Apparatus and Crew needs to be dispatched to federal fires this year as that will solidify the importance of such program as well as demonstrate its financial benefits to the district. WMS crew planning for 2016 includes such a possibility in its FEMA strategy.

-Recent research has revealed two items of note that are recognized at various state (CSFS) level assessments regarding both CWPPs in general and large pre-fire grants specifically. Basically, what we are doing with regards to our CWPP implementation and development is spot on, even progressive, and will continue to substantiate and facilitate catastrophic wildfire mitigation efforts (in a variety of packages) locally. Also, large FEMA grants, while attractive or even mesmerizing to some, are quickly found to be very unwieldy, difficult to navigate, and frequently displace effective grassroots efforts. We hope that our experiences locally will inform future such endeavors and highlight the development of solid local capacity building and appropriate agency support of pioneering programs.