

LA VETA FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT  
La Veta Community Center

MINUTES  
May 14, 2105-2015  
6:00 P.M.

Present: Directors Brunner, Shrout, White, Littlefield and Nielsen were in attendance.  
Staff: Fire Chief David DeTray, EMS Director Schmidt, WMS Manager Branson and District Secretary Pezze.  
Guests: Lee Merkel, DOLA Regional Representative, Chantal Unfug, DOLA Exec. Director, Don Keairns, S.I.E.A., La Veta Mayor Doug Brgoch, Huerfano County Commissioners Max Vezzani and Gerald Cisneros, Brian Risley of CRP Architects, Louis Nazario and Ernie Garcia from H.W. Houston Const. Co., David Rinehart from The Signature Newspaper, Bob Kennemer from the World Journal Newspaper, numerous La Veta Fire Protection District Firefighters, EMTs and community members.

**Call to Order**

The Pledge of Allegiance was given and Director Brunner welcomed the public.

**New Fire Station Groundbreaking Ceremony**

All in attendance retired to the vacant plot of land at 100 S. Birch Street where the new Fire Station will be constructed. Board President Mark Brunner presided over the ceremony and thanked all who had a part in bringing the new station construction to this point. The first shovels of dirt were overturned by the five Board members, DOLA's Lee Merkel, Fire Chief DeTray, EMS Director Schmidt and Dist. Secretary Sue Pezze. Upon completion of the ceremony, the public returned to the La Veta Community Center to enjoy pizza, salad, desserts and refreshments. The meeting was reconvened after a brief time of socializing.

**Minutes**

**MSA:** \* Minutes of the April 9, 2015 regular meeting were approved as submitted.

**MSA:** Minutes of the May 11, 2015 special meeting were approved as submitted.

**Public Comments**

None.

**Correspondence**

None.

**Treasurer's Report**

**MSA:** The Treasurer's Report and payments for the May 14, 2015 meeting were presented and approved.

**New Station Owner's Representative Report**

Brian Risley, CRP Architects, addressed the Board on topics concerning the new Station and offered congratulations on the groundbreaking. Brian presented a schedule combining information on Station construction, payment drawdown dates and approximate payment amounts to H.W. Houston Construction. Brian will further update the schedule with soft costs' timing and payment amounts. Brian will talk to Houston Const. regarding the timing on issuing the 'notice to proceed' directive. Coordination meetings will be held with Houston Construction and Brian will notify all Board Directors of meeting dates and times.

**Wildfire Mitigation Service (WMS) Report**

Paul Branson discussed his WMS report and fielded questions from Board Directors regarding his mitigation operations and projects. A copy of that report is attached to these minutes. Regarding the Railroad Emergency Response Plan, Commissioners Vezzani and Cisneros suggested that the Huerfano County Emergency Manager needs to be involved and requested a letter from the LVFPD to initiate that action.

**EMS Report**

1. 8 EMS calls with 5 patients transported and no transfers.
2. 2 Training sessions – April 13<sup>th</sup> with Jeff Torr on concussions and pediatric assessment and April 23<sup>rd</sup> with Dr. Weber covering sepsis issues.
3. Director Schmidt has been notified that she won free registration to the 2015 EMSAC conference.
4. Attended April 16<sup>th</sup> RETAC Bi-annual planning meeting.

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

5. Glen Wyatt has returned all his gear.
6. Rescue 2 (1999 Ford Amb.) will be moved out of the 4-H barn and parked on the north side of the La Veta Station now that we are having warmer temperatures.
7. Will hold a meeting on May 21<sup>st</sup> at 6:30 regarding CPR and AED training for the public and placement of AEDs in the Cuchara and La Veta communities.
8. Jenny Halstead and Darcy St. Peter are attending CPR instructor class.
9. The waiver request for administration of epinephrine has been approved by the CO Emergency Medical Practice Advisory Council. There will be considerable cost savings due to not having to purchase the expensive epi-pens. Medication will be drawn from vials and injected in lieu of using the epi-pens
10. Working with Michele Appel to coordinate an EMS Week presentation at the La Veta Elementary School in late May.
11. Asked for Board's direction on what to do with the retired Physio Control LifePak12 heart monitor. It could be placed in Rescue 3 (1992 Chev. Amb.) in Cuchara or sold to another agency. The Board concurred that EMS Director Schmidt should pursue selling the LifePak 12 heart monitor. They hope to get \$3,000.00 to \$5,000.00 for the used unit.

### **Fire Chief Report**

- 1) 2 fire calls: 1 to assist Sheriff's Dept. with parties stuck in snow on Cordova Pass. 1 Fire Drill at the La Veta Schools.
- 2) April 7<sup>th</sup> fire training with thermal imager, gas detectors and SCBA with 12 FFs and 2 Jr. FFs in attendance. April 18<sup>th</sup> training was annual wildfire refresher class with 12 FFs and 2 Jr. FFs in attendance.
- 3) Presented an application for Mike Zanolini.
- 4) Working with Gerald Jerant, Huerf. Cnty. F.P.D. Chief, in regard to the development of a County wide open burn ordinance.
- 5) Have received all the COLS certificates for CO State Fire Chief's Keystone Conference.
- 6) No movement on the Hwy. 12 and Middle Creek sub-stations.
- 7) Windshield has been replaced on 6012 (1999 Ford Command truck).
- 8) Regarding the security cameras at the Cuchara Station, the EZ Watch Lookout Plus 4 camera system with night vision will cost \$710.00.
- 9) Presented SOP for Equipment Maintenance.  
The Board directed Chief DeTray to add the Equipment Maintenance SOP to the Fire Department Standard Operating Guidelines as an operational duty within the Fire Dept.
- 10) Working with Greg Woods on vehicle maintenance and supply tracking.
- 11) Paul Branson would like to attend an arson investigation class in Alamos in June. Total cost of class and expenses will be \$906.00. A basic certification will be acquired.
- 12) Need to purchase 4 wildland hose packs for \$70.00 each, total cost \$280.00.
- 13) Need to purchase Minitor IV and Minitor III pager batteries. Also 21 VHF radio batteries. Total cost approximately \$1,220.00.

**MSA:** The Board approved the expenditures of \$906.00 for Paul Branson's arson investigation class, \$280.00 for 4 wildland hose packs, \$710.00 for security system at Cuchara Station and \$1,220.00 for Minitor III, Minitor IV pager batteries and 21 VHF radio batteries.

**MSA:** The Board approved the Firefighter application of Mike Zanolini, contingent upon clear background checks.

### **Old Business**

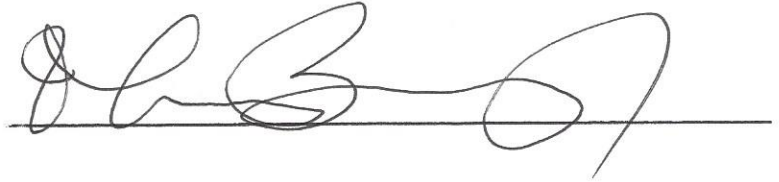
Director Nielsen advised that he will add the signed contract with H.W. Houston Construction Co. to the USDA Rural Economic Development Loan (REDLG) application and make an appointment with Reg Rudolph at San Isabel Electric to deliver the massive document. Director Nielsen, as required by the application, has also sent a letter and application information to the State of Colorado Historical Preservation Officer, Edward Nichols advising that the application will be submitted in the near future. Copies of that letter and information were also sent to Mr. Howell at USDA and Mr. Rudolph at San Isabel Electric. The Board thanked Director Nielsen for his dedication and many hours of work on the lengthy loan application.

Director Nielsen has talked to Todd Oberhue at Spanish Peaks Regional Health Center regarding Firefighter physical examinations and he wants a detailed outline of what type of examination is being requested. Chief DeTray advised he will contact Mr. Oberhue to discuss the type of physical desired.

Director Nielsen asked if the Fire and EMS Departments have a 72 hour Emergency Preparedness Plan presentation for the public or, if not, would the Department Managers be able to develop such a program for the public? Paul Branson expressed interest in pursuing development of the program within the Fire Wise communities.

The Board expressed appreciation to County Commissioners Vezzani and Cisneros for their attendance and support of the LVFPD's proposed new station construction and also the District's ongoing services and projects. Commissioner Vezzani then congratulated the District on the new station construction and commended EMS Director Schmidt for the improved relationship with Sherry Mann and the Huerfano County Ambulance Service. He stated that the Commissioners welcome comments and emails from LVFPD members about any concerns they may have in regard to District operations.

**MSA:** The meeting adjourned at 7:55 P.M.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "J. B. O.", is written above a horizontal line. The signature is stylized and cursive.

## **LVFPD Wildfire Mitigation Service-Monthly Report for 05/14/15**

### **RR ER**

I am updating and modifying Freight incident response guidelines based on consultation and the discovery of recent reports regarding this topic. This plan is focused primarily on guidelines that may inform LVFPD operational response to a variety of scenarios. This focus is furthermore centered on Firefighter/EMS safety, containment of the scene, and the notification of appropriate qualified resources as necessary. The overt wildfire hazard continually presented by the SL&RG is addressed separately in our LVFPD CWPP Update & Revision.

Regardless of Huerfano County, Railroad, or local government participation in this endeavor, the LVFPD is obligated to ensure readiness to a potential railroad emergency. It is also critical at this time, to establish renewed and effective working relationship with SL&RG management, as well as the Permian Basin Railway. I recommend that our district request a recent copy of the SL&RG Emergency Response Plan (ERP) and a schedule of passenger and freight incident trainings, to include the LVFPD, as outlined in the SL&RG ERP of 2011. Oversight, and/or continued development, of this program needs to be assigned to fire administration and/or executive officer personnel.

### **PRE-INCIDENT PLANS**

I received and reviewed the Emergency Response process from the Tabula Rasa gas plant near Oakdale. My impression is that, contrary to previous understanding among LVFPD operations, Tabula Rasa does indeed have specific emergency response requirements regarding us. I suggest that a face-to-face meeting, site visit, and/or training could get all stakeholders on the same page and ready for response to this facility or its pipeline. This case, as well as the entire PIP's review/modification program, also needs to be clearly assigned to LVFPD fire administration and/or executive officer personnel.

### **WILDFIRE MITIGATION SERVICE**

The WMS saw crew is back in action full time. Our primary work load for the 6-7 months will be the completion of 70-100 Defensible Spaces in 5 of the LVFPD WUI's (Wildland Urban Interface neighborhoods). This collaborative effort is fairly involved and includes participation from Huerfano County administration, the Huerfano County Courts, the Huerfano LEAP program, the LVFPD, various contractors, as well as monitoring from the Colorado Forest Restoration Institute of CSU. We are excited for a full season and a positive revenue trend to refill our coffers. We are lacking a solid 3<sup>rd</sup> crew member, at this point, but will manage with Branson and Steve Ames supplementing our seasoned full-time staff (Jake Thomsen & Jared Ray).

I have determined that no one under 18 can be hired for any aspect of the saw crew (even if only dragging branches, cleaning gutters, or weedwacking). While I believe we could create and argue a clear

distinction between the 'logging' classification of the saw crew and the 'landscaping' distinction of a maintenance crew (ideally staffed with our industrious Junior Firefighters), I am nevertheless overloaded enough (and ignorant of the child labor/legal realm) to not pursue this at this time. I can however, and plan to, hire Juniors to work in the 'office' side of the WMS. Vinnie Ozzello (Chief Junior Firefighter) approached me regarding this and I will be hiring him shortly to serve as my assistant.

As I wrap up my large projects soon, I will be addressing the concept of mutual-aid partners participating as WMS saw crew personnel. I will formally present my proposal on this at a board meeting.

General Manager Projects worked on in April and/or continuing this month:

-DNR-WRRG—Numerous client contacts and site visits have occurred and will continue throughout the season. Historically, cost-share programs equate to a very busy workload for all WMS staff as local homeowners take advantage of available subsidies and invest in forest fuels reduction projects. This includes a variety of forms of first-contact, public education, site visits, tree marking, contract explanation and execution, project oversight and assessment, invoicing, and final reimbursement paperwork. I will also have additional work per project to meet WRRG reporting criteria.

-LVFPD CWPP—Aside from minor text revision and new tactical WUI map creation the CWPP update and review is complete. I will be sending the draft edition around to the original CWPP Core Team for review. The emphasis of this plan has been changed and now focuses solely on detailed updates of what has been accomplished and specific recommendations of what could be completed in the next 5-10 years, the key emphasis being on accessibility of the accumulated knowledge and a highly prescriptive list of "to-do's" for implementation. This appears to be a paradigm shift regarding CWPP's, which are prone to gathering dust while the hazards continually increase.

-MAJORS RANCH CWPP—This process is on hold due to a major change in the Majors Ranch CWPP Core Team and a need to regroup and assess. It is expected that CSFS and I will now lead the process toward completion. Huerfano County is anxious that this plan be completed and that other areas begin the CWPP process. It should be known that the expectation on the WMS, and me personally, is to continue to facilitate the spread our successful program to other neighborhoods in the county, especially as our district has received the lions-share of all Title III and other funding since 2011. I fully agree with this and am excited also by rumors of renewed funding of the Secure Rural Schools funds that have, and hopefully will continue, to make possible the wildfire mitigation endeavors we have created locally. My key stumbling block is lack of additional qualified/interested personnel. More as this aspect develops...

-FIREWISE COMMUNITIES/USA—As the summer population returns this activity will increase. In April, seasonal planning has begun with the Cuchara West, Baker Creek, and Tres Valles FWC's. Tres Valles held their annual Firewise Day on May 2<sup>nd</sup>. The Baker Creek Day was postponed due to muddy conditions. The Middle Creek, Raspberry Mtn, School/Wahatoya Crk WUI's are targeted for designation in 2015, as well as, Blackhawk Ranch and Paradise Acres. Where they have been designated, Firewise Communities also serve as the infrastructure to establish/maintain local adoption of the "Ready, Set,

Go!". Vinnie and various Firewise leaders are helping me promote this 'public' side of evacuation readiness.

-EVACUATION TRIGGER MAP and DRILL- Jeff Byland and I have completed a draft base map that will be utilized in up and coming table-top exercises for the 2015 FAKE Evacuation Drill of Cuchara. There is a profound amount of 'back-beat' to establishing this form of emergency readiness, yet we are closer than ever before on getting all stakeholders participating in this project (which is also an important stand-alone exercise in multi-agency cohesiveness). I will say that very little active assistance has been available to help set this up (with 2 exceptions from unnamed agencies), it is very much a 'hot-potato' concept. Diego Bobian and I have prepped for our 2<sup>nd</sup> table-top exercise which will hopefully occur in mid to late may, if agency stakeholders step up to the plate and prioritize their involvement.

-The RED HILL PROJECT is nearing completion. We have a day or two of chipping to complete and then coordinate a public volunteer day to more firewood. One landowner is pretty steamed about mature trees that SIEA removed, but overall this project has gone smoothly and will greatly improve the north bound evacuation route for this part of our district. The BLACKHOLE SHADED FUEL BREAK in the Baker Creek FWC has been expanded significantly and is becoming a fuel reduction feature of potential effectiveness. Work in the Blackhole has now expanded to the neighboring USFS lands to the north, which will hopefully stimulate future fuel reductions in that area.

-WMS POLICY-No action this month, merging the WMS policy to correlate with the new LVFPD Policy.

**JUNIOR FIREFIGHTER-** Meetings have been spotty due to Junior and regular FF scheduling issues, however the program continues. A new meeting time (Tuesdays at 6:30p) has been agreed upon for the summer season. Two JF's are presently enrolled in a 130/190 intro Wildland Firefighter class. We look forward to the future of this program and appreciate the steady increase of regular FF involvement.

-In concert with other LVFPD personnel, the WMS has begun a regular "Friday Duty" clean-up and/or training session at Station 2. This occurs at 1500 each Friday and is open to all FF's/JFF's. Regularity of this training is not yet established, but we are getting there..