

# LA VETA FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

## Cuchara Fire Station

### MINUTES

June 11, 2015

6:00 P.M.

Present: Directors Brunner, White, Littlefield and Nielsen were in attendance.  
Staff: EMS Director Schmidt, WMS Manager Branson and District Secretary Pezze.  
Guests: Cheryle Johnston, Mickey Schmidt, Kim and Shawn DeTray

#### Call to Order

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

#### Minutes

**MSA:** \* Minutes of the May 14, 2015 regular meeting were approved as corrected.

#### Public Comments

None.

#### Correspondence

The quarterly report from C.G.R.S., the company conducting remediation of the La Veta Oil Company fuel contamination project, was reviewed. No Board action is necessary at this time.

Thank you notes were presented from La Veta second grade students for the summer safety presentation by the EMS and Fire Departments.

#### Treasurer's Report

**MSA:** The Treasurer's Report and payments for the June 11, 2015 meeting were presented and approved.

Payment of new Station construction statements was discussed. The Board concurred that checks should be reviewed and signed at monthly meetings. However, there may be some payments that will need to be written prior to meetings.

**MSA:** The Board approved authorizing Directors Nielsen and Shroul to sign checks as may be necessary for construction statements that have to be paid before the next regular Board meeting.

District Secretary Pezze advised that the in-house portion of the 2014 audit was completed with Tim Dixon and Mark Bosley of Dixon, Waller and Co. on June 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup>. Tim will complete the audit and present a draft audit at the exit interview with Directors White, Brunner and Dist. Sec. Pezze in a couple of weeks.

#### New Station Owner's Representative Report

Brian Risley, CRP Architects, addressed the Board on topics concerning the new Station and provided an updated construction schedule and graph noting H.W. Houston Construction and anticipated LVFPD soft cost payouts. A pre-construction meeting was held with Houston and it went well. The construction trailer and fencing will be installed in the next week. Bi-weekly meetings will be held with Houston Construction either at the building sight or in Pueblo. The Board asked that all Directors, but especially Director Shroul, be made aware of all building meetings. The Town's current building inspector, Rick Jennings, is not qualified to approve commercial permits and will have to work with the Huerfano County Regional Building Authority to approve the permit. A conditional permit has been issued to complete the foundation portion of the construction.

Director Nielsen advised that the REDLG loan application, in the amount of \$300,000.00, has been delivered to San Isabel's Reg Rudolph and will be addressed, and a resolution supporting the loan will be adopted, at San Isabel's next Board meeting. Personnel from the State Historical Society has advised that they found no problems with the application.

#### Wildfire Mitigation Service (WMS) Report

Paul Branson discussed his WMS report and fielded questions from Board Directors regarding his mitigation operations, evacuation planning with the County O.E.M. and Sheriff, and other projects. A copy of that report is attached to these minutes.

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



**EMS Report**

1. 13 EMS calls with 4 patients transported and no transfers.
2. Training sessions – None in May but there will be 2 classes in June and a chest injury class at Huerfano Amb. Service to be presented by Parkview Hospital.
3. Darcy St. Peter and Sue Pezze will attend I.V. class in July at St. Mary Corwin Hospital.
4. EMT – Intermediate class available starting in August in Pueblo and also one at T.S.J.C. in Trinidad. This is a two semester class and Darcy St. Peter has enrolled in the Trinidad class. Fuel will be the largest expense and the cost of the class should be covered by RETAC funds.
5. La Veta EMS will provide backup coverage for Huerfano Cnty. Amb. Service during the Sonic Bloom event northwest of Walsenburg on June 18<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup>. The Board advised Director Schmidt that she has authority to limit mutual aid responses as she deems prudent and still provide EMS coverage for the LVFPD. Director Schmidt advised she will not send LVFPD EMTs into the actual Sonic Bloom venue. In the event of a large incident, the LVFPD EMTs will receive patients at the I-25 exit to the east of the event.
6. Researched the trade-in value of the older LifePak 12 heart monitor and its current value is \$3,500.00
7. Held community CPR and AED placement meeting on May 21 at La Veta Station with multiple representatives from the public and area homeowner associations. Darcy St. Peter and Jenny Halstead will plan CPR classes accordingly. Informed those attending that the District's cost of a small AED with all accessories will be \$1,259.99. Price is good through August.
8. Darcy and Jenny will complete their CPR/AED instructor class and will present an initial CPR class to the public which will be proctored by Jeff Torr, T.S.J.C. and then they will be fully certified CPR trainers.
9. Attended a meeting for the County tabletop exercise for developing the Cuchara evacuation plan on May 26<sup>th</sup> in Walsenburg.
10. EMS week presentation at the La Veta Schools on May 27<sup>th</sup>. Malea Schmidt and Eddie Ray displayed the ambulance and Mark Brunner and Sue Pezze displayed a fire truck. Michele Appel, LVFPD Auxiliary President was also present. The theme for the presentation was summer safety for students in grades K – 5.
11. Rescue 2 (1999 Ford amb.) will be stationed at the Rodeo Bible Camp (Malea and Eddie) in June. Eddie, Darcy, David and Kim DeTray will man Rescue 2 and Rescue 3 (1992 Chev. Amb.) at the Cuchara Music Fest and a summer library program will be presented on June 30<sup>th</sup>.
12. Presented options for repayment of funds expended for the 3 EMT students who did not complete their obligation for the EMT class held in 2014. EMS Director Schmidt will send letters to the three students requiring them to repay the District \$500.00.
13. Presented an NFPA handout on 72 hour emergency preparedness that could be used for public presentations as requested by Director Nielsen.
14. Coordinating EMS coverage for the Stonewall Bike Ride with Ken Hay.

**MSA:** The Board approved former LVFPD Firefighter and EMT, Mike Christian's temporary help for the Stonewall Bike Ride.

**Fire Chief Report**

- 1) 8 fire calls: 5 Motor Vehicle Accidents (MVAs), 1 vehicle fire, 1 smoke alarm activation, 1 grass fire (5 separate spots fires) started by the train.
- 2) May 5<sup>th</sup> fire training with fire ground emergencies, SCBA training with 12 FFs and 1 Jr. FF in attendance. May 23<sup>rd</sup> training on ladders, tender operation and extrication equipment with 11 FFs and 1 Jr. FF in attendance.
- 3) Presented an application for Brenna Ray who lives in Navajo Ranches but will be working with the mitigation crew.

**MSA:** The Board approved the application of Brenna Ray on an out-of-District member basis and contingent upon clear background checks.

- 4) Chris Hudson has expressed interest in attending a grant writing class. Cost of the class registration and fuel, meals, lodging will be approximately \$1,000.00.

The Board expressed concern for the expenditure and Chris possibly leaving the area in a couple of years. Director Brunner will talk to Chris and ascertain his intentions and length of stay in the District before approving the class attendance and expenditure.

- 5) Working on outline for FF physicals and gathering information from other departments.
- 6) Paul Branson was not able to attend the fire investigation class but still desires to attend a class in the future.
- 7) July 10, 11 and 12 will be the S-215 – Fire in the Wildland Urban Interface class here in La Veta. Instructor will come from South Metro Fire and neighboring Fire Districts have been invited to send students at a cost of \$45.00 each. Total cost of the class should be approx. \$1,100.00, \$950.00 for instructor and \$150.00 for drinks/snacks.
- 8) July 18<sup>th</sup> training will be the Traffic Incident Management (TIM) class with CO State Patrol, Master Trooper David Conway providing training at no cost to the District.

- 9) Attended the County planning session for the Cuchara evacuation drill to be held later this summer. Expressed concerns for the O.E.M.'s vision of who is ultimately responsible for evacuations.
- 10) Have concerns for the train's lack of interest in developing and implementing the emergency action plan and annual training sessions with LVFPD emergency responders.
- 11) Met with County emergency agencies regarding developing better communications during 911 events. Will hold LVFPD training on this on June 10<sup>th</sup> and will participate in a County communications exercise on June 27<sup>th</sup>.
- 12) Coordinating coverage for the June 13<sup>th</sup>, Cuchara Music Fest.
- 13) No movement on sub-stations.
- 14) Extrication equipment was serviced on June 6<sup>th</sup>. Looking into acquiring a bigger cutter and may ask the LVFPD Auxiliary to help purchase a backup extrication system.
- 15) Awaiting information on surveillance system for Cuchara Stn. due to discontinuation of the equipment approved at the last Board meeting.
- 16) Would like to donate surplus equipment, especially old yellow wild land packs, to Gardner Fire.
- 17) Letter from Flight for Life advised that they will conduct flights to look for wildland fires and/or smoke if their aircrafts are not in service on medical transports.
- 18) Need to purchase 6, 800 radio batteries at an approximate cost of \$100.00 each.

**MSA:** The Board approved the expenditure of \$600.00 for the 6 batteries for the 800 handheld radios and also dispersing the older, wildland packs to the Gardner Fire Department. La Veta Marshall Wilburn will also receive two of the packs.

#### **Old Business**

Cheryle Johnston advised the LVFPD Auxiliary will do car parking at the Cuchara Music Fest for a fee of \$5.00 per car.

#### **New Business**

Paul Branson's proposed Junior Firefighter Standard Operation's Procedures (SOPs) were briefly discussed. Director Nielsen advised that the Fair Labor Standards Act needs to be reviewed before approval of the SOPs.

Director Brunner presented a collections letter that the District's ambulance billing company, Emergency Management Services (EMS), sends to clients who are past due in paying their ambulance transport charges. The letter threatens sending the past due bills to an outside collections agency. The District has adopted the policy that District residents will not be sent to collections. Accordingly, the Board asked EMS Director Schmidt to develop a letter for EMS to use for District residents instead of the currently used, harsh letter which threatens the use of the outside collection agency.

**MSA:** The meeting adjourned at 8:15 P.M.



Shannon R. ShROUT, Secretary



## **LVFPD Wildfire Mitigation Service-Monthly Report for 06/11/15**

### **RR ERP**

I have completed the walking of the SL&RG railroad line from the Codo station to the Occidental area. This area is located within the steep canyon along Middle Creek. Mile Posts and key points (the TZAC access road & the lower tunnel) were plotted with the GPS. An overall assessment was made throughout the hike. LVFPD 800 and VHF radios were tested at each mile post. In general the 800 radio works very well from Fir to Occidental, while VHF coverage varies greatly.

There has been a significant amount of track marking and repair since my last visit with Dave Steffan. The previous site of multiple derails (12+) has been reworked with fresh ties, rails, and spiking. The railroad base also looks to have been modified. The site of the recent barley car derail also has been repaired. At the time of my tour, several hundred fresh railroad ties were laid out along the line apparently for additional tie replacement which is probably occurring to date. Most of the line I traversed (4-5 miles) is dotted with orange paint marks that indicate loose spikes or other issues still to be addressed. I estimate that there were roughly 1,500 such spots marked between the Codo and Occidental areas. Track repair along this portion of the line is extensive and recent.

As time permits, I am completing our RR SOG and will present the final to Chief Detray and Fire Officers for consideration. I require an updated Hazardous Materials list from SL&RG, as well as some understanding regarding the potential for trainings from them.

Four more wildfire ignitions occurred recently just west of La Veta. Chief Detray advised me that he was following through with contact with SL&RG. Clearly, the dangerous malfunction of at least one engine owned by SL&RG continues.

### **WILDFIRE MITIGATION SERVICE**

Our Defensible Space creation season is in full swing and will be the primary priority of our department until winter snows set in. Various side projects (Shaded Fuel Breaks) are visited infrequently for now. The Red Hill project will be expanded by funding prioritized by the BLM. A recent meeting with USFS personnel has allowed for further clarification of future projects and additional input to the CWPP Update and Revision. USFS consultation on my CWPP Update approach was very positive and they again commented on our focus on plan implementation. Apparently most CWPPs just gather dust and/or are inaccessible to the public.

Updated mapping requirements for the CWPP Update are taking too long due to the limited availability of county or forest service personnel. I will be utilizing services from the San Luis GIS Authority (who did original maps) to complete the necessary maps (which are tactical maps for each of LVFPD WUI, we have 13). Chief Detray has indicated willingness to share this expense with the WMS once I have determined the cost. I have yet to figure out the logistics of that, but will have a better idea by July.

The WMS saw crew is on a skeleton crew level with Jared Ray out for a month for military training duty. We have interest from a local citizen who is interested in joining the fire team and the WMS. I am presently assisting with that application process and will have a completed application available for consideration soon. Presently, I am working with Jake on the saw crew so other projects will be on hold. Firefighter Steve Ames will be working Fridays in June, so I can complete contracting and other paperwork duties.

We are designing and purchasing new LVFPD WMS work shirts for our crew uniform.

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

-DNR-WRRG—Execution of this grant is the priority of the WMS at this time. Defensible Space creation is going smoothly with 6 contracts completed this month. I have contracts lined up indefinitely. It will be another busy season. Work in this area includes (outside of the actual saw crew work): site visits, client meetings, contract completion, project management, invoicing, and related paperwork, emails, or telephone calls.

-LVFPD CWPP—As time permits I am adding final additions to the text. Mapping is the hold up, as mentioned above.

-MAJORS RANCH CWPP—Minimal work was completed on this project in May.

-FIREWISE COMMUNITIES/USA—Seasonal planning sessions with Firewise leaders has occurred and will continue into the season as POA meetings and Picnics occur (which we are typically invited to). Movement is positive into the Middle Creek WUI with citizens stepping up to do the organizing work required for designation. I will be speaking to the Navajo Ranch POA in July.

-EVACUATION TRIGGER MAP and DRILL- Dennis Page from the USFS has offered to compile our information into an evacuation trigger map for the Cuchara area. This is an incredible help. Various stakeholders from different agencies met for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Evacuation table-top exercise on May 26<sup>th</sup>. We are working to determine the date for the evacuation drill with July 13<sup>th</sup>/14<sup>th</sup> looking like best bet for July, but August may still be a candidate. There has been no involvement from the Sheriff's Department. The Huerfano County OEM office still seems determined that this type of exercise is the sole responsibility of the LVFPD, a point that Chief Detray and I disagree with.

-The RED HILL PROJECT is being expanded by funding prioritized by the BLM. We are excited to continue to have our performance recognized by this agency and to be able to expand the Red Hill project.

-WMS POLICY-No action on this in May.

**JUNIOR FIREFIGHTER-** Regular meetings continue to be hampered by scheduling issues with the JFs. A Final Draft of the Junior Firefighter SOP has been delivered to the LVFPD Chiefs and Director Nielsen. Junior Vinnie Ozzello has been hired by the WMS for office duties and is a superb employee. He have begun the canvassing of district WUIs with our "Ready, Set, Go!" information. JF Ozzello and JF Shrout have completed basic wildland firefighting course work.