

**LA VETA FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT**  
**Cuchara Fire Station**

**MINUTES**

June 9, 2016

6:00 P.M.

Present: Directors Littlefield, White, Shroust and Heikes were in attendance.  
Staff: Fire Chief David DeTray, EMS Director Schmidt, District Secretary Pezze and WMS Manager Jake Thomsen.  
Guests: Cheryle Johnston, Jim Berg, Kim DeTray, and Mickey Schmidt. Brian Risley of CRP Architects and Ernie Garcia from H.W. Houston Construction Co. were in attendance through the initial portion of the meeting.

**Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order, the Pledge of Allegiance was given and Director Littlefield welcomed all those in attendance.

**Minutes**

**MSA:** \* Minutes of the May 16, 2016 regular meeting were approved as presented.

**Public Comments**

Director Littlefield presented a spreadsheet from LVFPD Auxiliary President, Michele Appel, noting the improvements made to the Cuchara Fire Station and the associated costs. To date the total is \$18,252.38 for the new kitchen area and appliances, Rinnai on-demand water heater, floor tile, remodel and finish storage area, furniture, storage bins, miscellaneous supplies etc.

**MSA:** The Board authorized a Resolution which memorializes the Board's heartfelt appreciation to the LVFPD Auxiliary for the work and funding that they have put into the improvements at the Cuchara Fire Station # 2.

The LVFPD Auxiliary will also host a summer open house and barbeque at the Cuchara Station on July 16<sup>th</sup> after the regular Saturday fire training session. Huerfano County Emergency Management personnel will give a presentation and Jake Thomsen and Paul Branson will provide a FireWise and mitigation presentation. Another fundraiser will be a presentation of the production of The Song of Pueblo on August 6<sup>th</sup> at the Cuchara Community Center.

Cheryle Johnston also advised that she is working on the Anschutz Family Foundation grant to acquire the bunker gear washing machine, extractor. Regarding the SCBA air fill station funding, El Pomar has expressed that they may be interested in a grant to provide matching funds if another grant is secured for the initial portion of the \$45,000.00 fill station purchase cost.

**Correspondence**

A thank you card was read from Tucker Shroust for the graduation card and stipends that he received from the District.

**Treasurer's Report**

**MSA:** The Treasurer's Report and payments for the June 9, 2016 meeting were presented and approved.

**New Station Owner's Representative Report**

Brian Risley, CRP Architects, advised that the initial punch list meeting for completion of the new Fire Station is scheduled for June 16<sup>th</sup>, 2016. H.W. Houston personnel, Brian and applicable engineers will be attending that meeting. The temporary certificate of occupancy may be issued by the Town of La Veta building inspector by June 19<sup>th</sup> and the full Certificate of Occupancy by June 23<sup>rd</sup> providing certain stipulations are met on the south side drainage and a set of plans are delivered that show the landscaping and the community room will be addressed in future phases. Director Heikes is securing roto milling product for the east, north and west sides of the Station. Cost for hauling the 120 tons of product to the Station will be approximately \$1,100.00. Gravel will be brought in for the south side. Grass will be planted between the propane tank and electrical boxes and the building. The District will start moving furniture, small items and shelving into the Station after the temporary Cert. of Occupancy is issued as long as it does not interfere with construction laborers. Director Littlefield advised that the District is exploring the possibility of pursuing liquidated damages from H.W. Houston Construction Co. Printouts from Mark Brunner were reviewed for installation of the CenturyLink duct (cost of \$1,521.58) and the New Station signage. Signage using either aluminum stand-off letters or

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



vinyl lettering was discussed. Director Shroud and Mark Brunner were assigned to work together on the signage project. Mickey Schmidt cautioned the Board to be sure that the final signage meets with the Town of La Veta regulations and approval.

The list of action items developed by Mark Brunner and Brian Risley was reviewed. Brian advised that good progress is being made and presented an updated contingency tabulation spreadsheet for the Board's review.

### **Wildfire Mitigation Service (WMS) Report**

Jake Thomsen presented the Wildfire Mitigation Service report and a copy of that report is attached to these minutes.

Director White advised that he had an opportunity to talk to Huerfano County Administrator, John Galusha and it was decided that, if the County Commissioners agree, the I.G.A. that is currently signed will be adequate for the Hazard Mitigation Grant Project (HMGP). It appears that the LVFPD should be able to conform their invoices to the FAL forms and incorporate the FAL budget.

### **EMS Director Report**

- 1) 10 EMS runs with 6 patients transported and 3 patient refusals in May, 2016.
- 2) EMS Training with Jeff Torr on street drugs and another with Marc Biggins on Flight for Life helicopter safety ops.
- 3) EMS Director Schmidt will attend the monthly RETAC meeting on June 16<sup>th</sup> in Pueblo.
- 4) The Colorado EMS grant application is still pending and a decision should be announced by the end of June.
- 5) Wayne Smith has made and donated a rolling coat / utility rack to the EMS Dept. for the new Station.
- 6) Director Schmidt, Eddie Ray, and LVFPD Auxiliary members Peg Littlefield, Paula Berg and Tulley Fleener took Rescue 1 (2009 Dodge Amb.) to the La Veta Elementary School and gave an EMS presentation on May 16<sup>th</sup>.
- 7) On June 3<sup>rd</sup> the donated furniture from CenturyLink was picked up in Pueblo and is currently being stored in the 4-H Barn until it can be unloaded in the new Station.
- 8) Presented an application from John Mayfield who resides 6 miles west of Walsenburg. He is able to do shift work and also help at special events like the Century Bike Ride and Music Fests.

**MSA:** The Board approved the application of John Mayfield as an EMT and waived the in-District residency requirement. Membership is contingent upon clear background checks.

### **Fire Chief**

- 1) 1 Fire Call in May, 2016 - Exposed phone line on the ground on High St. in La Veta
- 2) 4 Fire Trainings in May. Wildland refresher, 2 wildland pack test sessions and one training on brush truck and portable pumps.
- 3) Working on new Fire Station project and coordinated moving donated CenturyLink furniture from Pueblo to La Veta on June 3<sup>rd</sup>.
- 4) Have been notified that the Volunteer Firefighter Assistance (VFA) grant through the Colorado Division of Fire Safety and Prevention has been awarded. Total grant is \$5,670.00 with a 50% match or \$2,835.00. The grant funds will purchase 10 headlamps, 15 pair of wildland pants, 10 brush shirts, 1 brush jacket and 2 large fire shelters.

**MSA:** The Board approved purchasing the gear outlined in the grant for \$5,670.00 with \$2,835.00 to be reimbursed with VFA grant funds.

**MSA:** The Board approved the motion to retire to executive session per §24-6-402(4)(d), C.R.S. – Investigations.

The Board returned from executive session at 8:05. No Board action was taken.

The substandard radio communication problem in the Cuchara was discussed and the issue will be researched further.

### **Old Business**

The Illegal Drug and Alcohol policy was tabled until after the new Station project is completed.

HB 16-1088 regarding fire protection district impact fees, development permits and capital facilities has now been signed and was briefly discussed. This law will enable fire districts, through the County, to receive funds from new land developments but only if an Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) and a fee schedule are adopted by the fire district and the County government in which the development is situated. Director White asked that Chief DeTray develop such a fee schedule to present at the August Board meeting.

Director Littlefield advised that he is working on splitting the facilities manager policy into two separate positions and will have that available for review at the July meeting.

**New Business**

Brief discussion was held regarding the public using either the unfinished community room or the operations room for private functions. Concern for security was expressed and it was decided that there will be no public use of the Station until the community room is finished. The District will work on developing a policy for use of the community room when it is completed.

**MSA:** The meeting adjourned at 8:25.



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Shannon R. ShROUT, Secretary



**La Veta Fire Protection District**  
**LVFPD HMGP Project Supervisor Monthly Report**

**June 6, 2016**

**Report covers period: May 1, 2016 to May 31, 2016**

-Many more contracts have been gathered since last month with folks wanting to get their contract in before the extended "deadline" of May 7th. Currently, there are 85 contracts signed. 26 of the 85 still need to be marked as of writing this. 29 properties have been marked this month. Conducted 9 site visits and assessments to assist in giving homeowners an idea of the amount of work that their particular lot required for achieving a defensible space. Met with 13 landowners at their request to explain the logic and reasoning in marking of the specific trees. Have had a number of other phone conversations with people interested in signing up and/or answering any questions that homeowners might have. There have only been 2 contracts that have been retracted completely.

-Received an FAL budget approval from FEMA and have spent some time reviewing the current IGA and have compiled a list of recommendations for the revision of the IGA to include LVFPD WMS crew as the FAL. Have had considerable

-The "blocking" concept for the first RFP has been determined. There will be 3 blocks for contractors to bid on in the first RFP. Those areas are 1) Wahatoya Canyon 2) Pine Haven 3) Any Technical jobs outside of Wahatoya Canyon and Pine Haven. Those technical jobs outside of Pine Haven and Wahatoya Canyon that will be included in the first RFP have been identified; of which there are 12.

-FAL crew has gone through the Archeologist training. Contractor training has been honed down further and the FAL crew will be included in that training session. Date for the contractor training is yet to be determined.

-The main issue I ran into this month has been talking homeowners through the mitigation process and keeping them on board. Explaining to each individual homeowner that mitigation is not cutting down every single tree and that fire mitigation can still create a beautiful set of trees in their yard. The majority of the people I have talked to that have had concerns about cutting trees were ok with things after talking with them and explaining why I chose the trees I did. I anticipate that this process will continue throughout the course of public recruitment.

-Looking in the future, we are anticipating getting the IGA finalized and get the LVFPD WMS crew working on FAL jobs as soon as possible. Marking of the rest of the properties will continue. Once the RFP is out and contractors are selected, I will be leading the contractor training. When all contractors and FAL crew are working, I will be monitoring all progress and work by both contractors and FAL crew.

# LVFPD WMS GM Monthly Report

June 2016

-Have completed 2 straight pay contracts that have totaled 4 days of work. Both projects have invoiced and payment has been received for both contracts.

-Crew has spent much time working in Black Hole on the Spanish Peaks Shaded Fuel Break grant. Have conceptualized a final plan for this phase of the Black Hole project with Mark Loveall. The project boundaries have been identified and marked. Right now the crew has worked 107 hours on this project. First round of invoicing has been sent to Panadero POA as well as CSFS for the cost share reimbursement. Final plan includes utilizing a masticator to process slash piles, however, still need to work out details with Mark Loveall on invoicing and implementation of that process. Have used \$8,423.36 of the \$16,000 (included cost share) of the Spanish Peaks Shaded Fuel Break up to this point.

-Bend Creek Grant Project has \$1391.58 left to utilize as of the end of June.

-Have one contract for D-space maintenance work with another one pending.

-Received another application from a Brenden Downing. Would like to approve him for joining the mitigation crew pending results of a formal interview.

-Received a price quote for uniforms for the crew as follows:

Carhart brown duck double front pants 11 pair B01-BRN PRICE: \$31.25 x11=\$343.75

Heavy duty long-sleeved navy blue T shirts 12 pair K126-NVY PRICE: \$13.25 x12=\$159.00

Heavy duty short sleeved navy blue T shirts 13 pair K87-NVY PRICE: \$10.95 x13=\$142.35

Heavy duty Navy blue pullover hoodies 8 pair 100615-472 PRICE: \$31.25 x8=\$250.00

Grand Total: \$895.10

-Will be looking to finish up the Spanish Peaks Shaded Fuel break in the next 2 months. Continue solicitation of fire mitigation within our district. Have accumulated some piles to burn this coming winter from one contract.