

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

MINUTES
August 11, 2016
6:00 P.M.

Present: Directors Littlefield, White, Nielsen, Shroul and Heikes were in attendance.
Staff: Fire Chief DeTray, EMS Director Schmidt, District Secretary Pezze7, WMS Manager Jake Thomsen and Asst. Chief Mower.
Guests: Gary Hanisch, Jim Berg, Cheryle Johnston and Michelle Appel.

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 July 14, 2016 regular meeting were approved as presented.

MSA: Minutes of the July 18, 2016 special meeting were approved as presented.

Public Comments

Michele Appel advised that she will be stepping down as the LVFPD Auxiliary President and a new Aux. President will be elected at the Aug. 16th meeting. The Board expressed their heartfelt appreciation to Michele for her time, leadership, and contributions in helping to establish and making the Auxiliary such a successful entity for supporting the LVFPD firefighters and EMTs.

Attorney Conference

MSA: The Board approved retiring to executive session per §24-6-402(4)(b) C.R.S. for conference with District Attorney, Gary Hanisch.

The Board retired to executive session at 6:06 pm with Board Directors, Atty. Gary Hanisch and Dist. Sec. Pezze in attendance.

MSA: The Board exited from executive session at 7:07 with the understanding that the Board is recessed until such time as the Board may need to reconvene on the topics discussed.

Correspondence

A note from the Huerfano County Board of Commissioners was presented advising that the San Luis & Rio Grande railroad has confirmed that they will have a separate "fire suppression car" follow trains passing through the La Veta Fire Protection District. It was also noted that research has revealed that the railroad has not paid their property taxes since 2010. The County Commissioners have been made aware of this fact also.

Thank you notes were read thanking firefighters and EMTs for their skills and efforts on a grass fire in the Rio Cucharas development west of Walsenburg and an EMS call where the patient had a broken leg and was rescued on the Dike Trail in Cuchara.

Treasurer's Report

MSA: The Treasurer's Report and payments for the August 11, 2016 meeting were presented and approved.

Director Littlefield advised that Marshal Moore is working on acquiring free internet for the Cuchara Station. Progress on this will be monitored.

New Station Report

Lighting issues still need to be resolved, keys for both stations need to be organized and there is a continuous slow leak in the faucet on the west wall. The garage door for Rescue 1 still does not close properly. Director Heikes and Asst. Chief Mower, along with the help of Greg Woods, will work on these items. Remote controlled door bells will also be installed at the east, north, and west man-doors.

A cell phone booster was recently purchased and installed in the Cuchara Station, however, it is not improving cell phone reception there. The cell phone booster will now be installed in the La Veta Station, instead.

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

Regarding new station financing, the \$300,000.00 San Isabel Electric Assoc. and USDA RDLG loan is progressing. Documents may be ready to sign soon.

MSA: The Board approved holding the new station grand opening on September 8, 2016 from 4:00 to 6:00 pm prior to the September regular Board meeting.

Wildfire Mitigation Service (WMS) Report

Jake Thomsen presented the Wildfire Mitigation Service report and a copy of that report is attached to these minutes. The Board was advised that the LVFPD documentation for reimbursement of the FEMA, Forced Account Labor (FAL) expenses will be sent to the County very soon. The County will request their drawdown of funds from State and Federal very soon, also. FEMA will review the Intergovernmental Agreement (I.G.A.) between the County and LVFPD at that time and determine if revisions need to be made.

EMS Director Report

- 1) 26 EMS runs with 17 patients transported and 6 patient refusals in July, 2016.
- 2) EMS Training with Jeff Torr cancelled due to busy summer schedules.
- 3) Have received the CDPHE grant award letter and have received the \$5,000.00 award check from the Huerfano County Federal Mineral Lease District to apply to the match. Working with Asst. Mower to order the air bag and rescue equipment.
- 4) Albert Encina has paid his account in full for repayment of the EMT class.
- 5) Working with Robert Ryland to get him oriented and comfortable with responding in the Cuchara area.
- 6) Both Lifepak 15 heart monitors will be going in for annual service.
- 7) John Mayfield manned Rescue 3 for the Century Bike Ride on August 6th.
- 8) Will send 4 EMTs to the Colorado EMSAC conference in Keystone in November. Registration fee is \$270.00 per EMT plus rooms, meals and fuel.

MSA: The Board authorized expending up to \$2,700.00 to cover the total cost of the Keystone EMSAC conference attendance for 4 EMTs.

- 9) Would like approval to pay EMTs the \$55.00 stipend for calls where there is no transport to the hospital but the call is billed to insurance, e.g. ambulance to Flight for Life helicopter or diabetic where meds are administered but there is no transport.

The Board approved payment as requested on calls where there is billing but no transport to hospital.

Fire Chief Report

- 1) 9 Fire calls in July: 1 MVA, 1 EMS assist on Dike Trail Rescue, 1 smoke report, 3 grass fires (2 due to railroad operations), 2 mutual aid calls to Walsenburg for wildland fires and 1 mutual aid to Walsenburg for structure fire.
- 2) 2 Fire Trainings in July. July 9th was move-in day for new Station with 15 firefighters and 1 Jr. firefighter. July 16th covered communications at Cuchara Station and the Auxiliary BBQ with 10 firefighters in attendance.
- 3) The White Peak Fire type 3 team used the La Veta station for meals but not as a command center. It was a great opportunity to assist our federal partners.
- 4) Have outfitted Derek Sokolowski and had to borrow an EMS radio and he still needs to get bunker pants. He may be able to acquire Mower's old pants when Mower's new gear arrives.
- 5) Asst. Mower is working with County Dispatch to resolve Cordova Pass 800 repeater problems. Jim Berg has devised a communication plan for Station 2 responders using the VHF system which will help until the 800 repeater problem is resolved.
- 6) Regarding HB1088 Chief DeTray has spoken with Chief Jones from Colorado River Fire Authority and once they finish their proposal on impact fees, he will share it with us. Tabled till October meeting.
- 7) Working with Yellow Pine Guest Ranch on their new construction project and hydrant access.
- 8) Presented 2 applications; Mike Fleener for support position and Eric Guadagnoli for firefighter.

MSA: The Board approved the applications of Mike Fleener for support and Eric Guadagnoli as firefighter contingent upon clear background checks.

Old Business

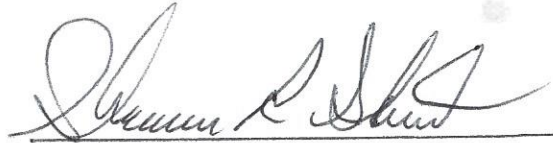
The Illegal Drug and Alcohol policy remains tabled until further notice of pending rules and law changes.

The U.S.D.A. Community Facilities grant for purchasing an S.C.B.A. fill station is moving along. Total cost of the equipment is \$42,000.00 and USDA has committed \$31,500.00 (75%). An application will be submitted to El Pomar for the remaining \$10,500.00 (25%) match of. Cheryle Johnston is leading the way on that grant.

New Business

A statement was presented from Mark Brunner in the amount of \$4,873.50 for the electrician related work that he has done on installation of the new station telephone and internet wiring and connections. After discussion a vote was taken and three "Ayes" approved the motion.

MSA: The meeting adjourned at 8:45.



Shannon R. ShROUT, Secretary

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

Aug 8, 2016

Report covers period: July 1, 2016 to July 29, 2016

- Continue meeting with homeowners discussing mitigation on their properties. Have walked through and marked a number of those properties with the homeowner. Have had 14 of these meetings and an uncounted number of phone conversations.
- Continued public recruitment and solicitation for participation in this fire mitigation grant project. Have attended one community Firewise meeting and LVFPD Open House this month promoting the grant and giving out information to interested parties.
- Have developed an FAL documentation Excel workbook that tracks labor, equipment and rented equipment with a total project breakdown as well as a daily breakdown. This workbook will be used in conjunction with daily paperwork that the FAL crew fills out for invoicing to County. All FAL documentation forms that were originally provided did not have any summary or breakdowns and given the special nature of this grant being comprised of many smaller projects, I feel this workbook is more custom fit for this grant.
- Have created an excel workbook tracking FAL cost per acre that includes a 3 number value rating for slope, accessibility, and fuel load. The ratings at this point are not specifically or scientifically identified but are general values to get an idea why certain lots are costing more than others.
- Finalized the Certificate of Completion to make it an excellent tool for inspection of completed lots.
- Have had more instruction on creating and printing maps using Q-GIS. This instruction has been used to create maps for the contractor "Show Me Tour" identifying lots for contractors to bid on. It will also be used to track and display treated lots for both FAL work and contracted work completed.
- Had 2 contractor "Show Me Tour's". At the first session there were 5 contractors present and at the second session there were 2 contractors present. All contractors were given a copy of the maps mentioned above as well as a list of their addresses. It has been noticed that there have been some minor discrepancies between the address given on the submitted homeowner mitigation contract and the labeled address on some of the homes. These sessions were intended to clear up any confusion and ensure the contractors were able to find the correct lots to be bid on.
- FAL crew has submitted for Certificate of Completion of 10 completed lots out of 42. Upon initial completion inspection, crew has gone back and make necessary finishing touches on lots identified by Project Manager. Awaiting final Certificate of Completion on all completed lots in order to submit invoices to County for FAL reimbursement to District.

LVFPD WMS GM Monthly Report

July 2016

- Have applied for reimbursement for crew working in Black Hole on Spanish Peaks Shaded Fuel Break. All paperwork submitted and awaiting check for first reimbursement. Have received first check from Panadero POA for their half of work thus far. Have calculated 3.4 days left cutting and chipping left on promised money from Panadero POA including match left in Black Hole. Another contract has been secured and marked the property with the owner in Acres of Diamonds for work on Spanish Peaks Shaded Fuel Break. As of writing report, that contract has been completed and invoice to be send out. All work on this grant is to be completed by the first of September.
- Work has been completed in Bend Creek on the BLM grant project. Paperwork has been submitted for final drawdown of that grant money reimbursement.
- Interview of Brenden Downing went ok. As of July were waiting on the results of his background check. Background check came back unacceptable and job not offered.
- One defensible space maintenance contract was completed. I made the promise to an individual, before FAL work began, that LVFPD WMS would be accepting contracts for defensible space and had completed and signed a work contract with him at that time. Crew size ended up unable to accommodate maintenance contracts with other grant obligations. I honored the signed contract and performed the work in my off time yet representing the LVFPD WMS and utilizing WMS equipment. However, I donated my time working on this contract to WMS and have declined other requests for defensible space maintenance work.