

**LA VETA FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT**  
**La Veta Fire Station**  
**100 Birch Street**

**MINUTES**

September 8, 2016

6:00 P.M.

Present: Directors Littlefield, Nielsen and Shroul were in attendance. Director White attended via teleconference.  
Staff: Fire Chief DeTray, EMS Director Schmidt, District Secretary Pezze, WMS Manager Jake Thomsen.  
Guests: Asst. Chief Mower, Atty. Gary Hanisch, Jim and Paula Berg, Kim DeTray and Mickey Schmidt.

**Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order, the Pledge of Allegiance was given and Director Littlefield welcomed all those in attendance to the first Board meeting held in the new Fire Station. The Grand Opening for the new station was held prior to the meeting with the LVFPD Auxiliary providing refreshments. The event was well attended by dignitaries and the public.

**Minutes**

**MSA:** \* Minutes of the August 11, 2016 regular meeting were approved as presented.

**MSA:** Minutes of the August 26, 2016 special meeting were approved as presented.

**Public Comments**

Paula Berg, LVFPD Auxiliary President advised that the Song of Pueblo fundraiser production in Cuchara netted \$13,200.00 and those funds will cover the match obligated for the CO EMS grant purchasing rescue equipment, the large screen TV in the La Veta Stn. operations room, and rebuilding the Auxiliary's funds. The Auxiliary continues to work on grants and will man a booth at the La Veta Oktoberfest on October 1, 2016. Newly elected officers are President Paula Berg, Vice President Tom Lewis, Treasurer Peg Littlefield, and Secretary Cheryle Johnston. New members are Tom and Sally Lewis and Cyndi Worgan. The LVFPD Directors and staff thanked Paula and the Auxiliary for their work in helping and supporting the District with improvements for both stations and all the efforts and projects involving the Fire and EMS services.

Jim Berg presented the Board and with the Cuchara Station design drawings that Paula Berg recently received from the widow of the gentleman who owned the ski area when the Cuchara Station was built. Jim advised that he will store the design drawings at the Cuchara Station.

**Treasurer's Report**

**MSA:** The Treasurer's Report and payments for the September 8, 2016 meeting were presented and approved.

Director Littlefield advised that the USDA Rural Economic Development Loan Grant (REDLG) loan, in consociation with San Isabel Electric, has been finalized. The \$300,000.00, interest free, loan funds have been wired to Fowler State Bank (FSB) and applied to the District's loan there. Director Littlefield will visit with Jonathan Fox at FSB regarding modifying the LVFPD loan repayment agreement.

**EMS Director Report**

- 1) 13 EMS runs with 12 patients transported in August, 2016.
- 2) Have ordered, received and inventoried items on the CO EMTS Provider grant. Will complete ordering soon and then submit request for reimbursement from the CO Dept. of Public Health and Education for the grant funds.
- 3) Will not be able to attend the RETAC meeting in Pueblo on September 15, 2016.
- 4) Both LifePak 15 heart monitors have been sent in for their annual maintenance. Physio Control provides loaner units during this maintenance period.
- 5) The garage door for Rescue 1 (2008 Dodge Amb.) is still not operating properly. There is also rain water coming in under the garage door in front of Rescue 2 (1999 Ford Amb.).
- 6) Have resolved the issue with ambulance linen being laundered at Spanish Peaks Regional Health Center.

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

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

Jake Thomsen presented the Wildfire Mitigation Service report and a copy of that report is attached to these minutes. Jake also presented his letter of resignation as Wildland Mitigation Service General Manager and FEMA Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) Project Supervisor effective October 1, 2016. Jake will continue to live in La Veta and serve the District as a volunteer firefighter and EMT.

The Board was advised that the LVFPD received \$12,183.15 from Huerfano County Finance Office for reimbursement of the first eight Forced Account Labor (FAL) contracts on the FEMA, HMGP grant.

**MSA:** The Board accepted, with regret, Jake Thomsen's resignation from his Wildland Mitigation Service General Manager and FEMA Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) Project Supervisor.

The Board thanked Jake for his service and wished him well in his career as a full time firefighter/EMT with the Rye Fire Protection District.

### **Conference with Attorney**

**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 6:22. The Board returned from executive session at 7:12 with no Board action taken.

### **New Station Report**

Director Nielsen advised that Mark Brunner has provided a list of items that still need to be completed on the new station. This list included: electrical shore lines, air shore lines, house air lines that control house compressor, radio speaker system, emergency call box, SCBA compressor connection, domestic hot water controller, lighting controller (outside lights with page, bay lights with doors, egress east side, night light), bathroom exhaust fan with occupancy sensor, operations room sound, count down timer for exhaust system in the bays, radio mast support, public warning system (controller, siren, electrical connection). Director Nielsen suggested holding a Board workshop when the full Board can attend to discuss the list of items remaining to be completed. Director Littlefield suggested tabling any discussion until the October meeting when the full Board is present. Town building inspector Rick Jennins needs confirmation on acceptance of solenoids on the heating system before issuing the final certificate of occupancy. Emails have been sent to Brian Risley regarding this. It was decided to table installation of the old public address siren at the new station until the next meeting when Mark's list will be discussed. The vinyl signage lettering is progressing through the Town of La Veta government, Historical Preservation Committee and La Veta Building Inspector channels for approval.

### **Fire Chief Report**

- 1) 3 Fire calls in August: 1 smoke report, 1 mutual aid call to Walsenburg for a wildland fire and 1 report of explosion between Sulphur Springs and Raspberry Mtn., Cucharas River Estates – nothing found.
- 2) 2 Fire Trainings in August. August 2<sup>nd</sup> on wildland fire ops with 16 firefighters. August 27<sup>th</sup> on mobile wildland attack and hose lays with 15 firefighters in attendance.
- 3) Have not seen a water car following the local railroad trains but did see a RR pickup watching the train in the hospital area. This causes concern if that action is the RR's only "fire watch" procedure.
- 4) Staying in contact with Chief Jones on HB1088 and it will be discussed extensively at the CO State Fire Chief's Conference and other agencies at Keystone in October.
- 5) Met with Paul Branson regarding filling and continuing the wildfire mitigation manager's position.
- 6) Need to purchase 2 handheld 800 radios and can purchase used radios for \$875.00 each with charger and new battery from SpectraCom in Alamosa.
- 7) 2 firefighters want to participate in the 9-11 Stair Climb at the Red Rocks on Sept. 11<sup>th</sup>. All firefighters have been invited and cost will be \$35.00 registration fee, 1 meal each and fuel. Anticipated cost not to exceed \$350.00 out of fire training budget line.
- 8) Pump testing is scheduled for September 22<sup>nd</sup>.
- 9) Will provide ISO timeline chart at the November meeting.
- 10) Chief DeTray and Asst. Chief Mower will attend the Colorado State Fire Chief's Conference October 18 to 22, 2016 and total cost of registration, room, meals and fuel should not exceed \$2,152.00.
- 11) Need to purchase TecGen protective fire gear for Mike Fleener to wear as a support firefighter. Cost of the gear is \$610.00.
- 12) Mike Fleener may also help with truck maintenance records.
- 13) All the fire apparatus need to have oil, fuel and air filters changed. Tucker Shroust and Lisa Lockamy have offered to do the labor and Chief DeTray suggested paying them a wage of \$15.00 per hour.

**MSA:** The Board approved paying up to \$7,262.00 for the requested Fire Department expenditures of: CSFC Keystone conference (\$2,152.00), radio purchase (\$1,930.00), Red Rock's 9-11 Stair Climb (\$350.00), TecGen fire gear (\$610.00), apparatus filters (\$1,500.00) and labor cost (\$720.00). Tucker Shrout and Lisa Lockamy's hourly wage for working on apparatus will be \$15.00 per hour.

Director Littlefield and Chief DeTray thanked Asst. Chief Mower for all his time and work in the last few weeks with installing radios, call box phone lines, addressing electrical issues etc. in the new station.

#### **Correspondence**

A letter was read from the Friends of La Veta Library asking for the LVFPD's support of the 1.994 mill levy increase for the La Veta Regional Library at the November 2016 election. . Sec. Pezze will research the special district restrictions of such a letter and handle accordingly.

The Town of La Veta acknowledged Director Littlefield's letter of August 16, 2016 advising that the LVFPD is essentially moved out of the old fire station at 111 Main Street. The District's SCBA compressor and fill station are still in the old station and will remain there until the new SCBA compressor is installed in the new station in approx. 30 to 60 days. The Town has approved this action and has asked for proof of insurance on the equipment and a hold harmless statement for anything that may occur to the equipment while in the building but not covered by insurance. Sec. Pezze will supply the requested certificate of insurance and hold harmless statement.

#### **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 the S.C.B.A. fill station is complete and the Notice to Proceed has been received. The District can now place the order for the equipment.

#### **New Business**

The 2017 Budget was discussed and Director Nielsen was appointed as the District's Budget Officer. The District's assessed valuation increased this year and LVFPD's mill levy of 5.903 will generate property tax revenue of \$212,330.00 which is approx. \$5,150.00 more than last year's revenue. The first draft of the budget will be presented at the October 13<sup>th</sup> regular Board meeting.

**MSA:** The meeting adjourned at 8:07.



Shannon R. Shrout, Secretary

## **LVFPD WMS GM Monthly Report**

**August 2016**

-The main and only focus this month for WMS business outside of the HMGP grant was working on getting the Spanish Peaks Shaded Fuel Break grant completed. The grant was completed on time and the project included 2 different locations. One was a single half acre lot in Acres of Diamonds and the second (and majority) was 8.5 acres in the Blackhole in the Panadero POA area. \$16,000 was spent in the Blackhole location and \$3000 was spent in the half acre lot. Total project consisted of \$19,000 of work, of which about \$16,000 was completed by the LVFPD WMS saw crew. The remaining \$3000 went to H and H Forestry for mulching of slash piles created by the LVFPD WMS saw crew.

-My resignation letter has been submitted via email and am formally presenting my intent to resign from the positions of LVFPD WMS GM and HMGP Project Supervisor as of October 1, 2016.

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

**Sept 2, 2016**

**Report covers period: Aug 1, 2016 to Aug 30, 2016**

-Much time spent meeting with homeowners discussing mitigation on their lots and answering their questions. Conducted many phone conversations with homeowners discussing the same topics. Many of the meetings were followed up with marking of the trees on the property. This month have had 21 face to face meetings with homeowners and 13 individual properties were marked.

-Public recruitment has continued. Cold calling with unscheduled site visits to lots needing mitigation in Pinehaven has occurred in efforts to recruit more homeowners to sign up.

-Currently there are 96 signed contracts. 57 of them are FAL projects, 39 are bid projects. 84 are marked to date. 84 "Before" pictures, 14 "After" pictures.

-FAL crew continues work on their allotted projects. To date, 17 lots have been completed with 12 having passed a final Cert. of Comp. inspection as of writing this report. Of the 12 that have passed the Cert. of Comp., 8 have been invoiced in the first batch.

-FAL documentation tools that have been created have been refined and an excel list of FAL projects has been completed and is a tool that helps track FAL work, marking, and invoicing progress. Other FAL documentation tools that require constant updating are the FAL cost per acre and treated acreage workbook, FAL project breakdown, and FAL project invoices.

-Discussions have commenced with the presentation of my intent to resign from the position of Project Supervisor on October 1, 2016. Discussions have involved possibilities of fulfilling the position with a qualified individual or dissolving of the position and delegating FAL documentation tasks to a member of the FAL crew and other Project Supervisor tasks to the HMGP Project Manager Position. Discussions will continue as to exactly how this transition will play out and what will need to be done in order for a seamless transition post resignation for all parties involved while still continuing to move forward with the grant process.