

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

MINUTES

September 14, 2017

6:00 P.M.

Present: Directors Littlefield, Nielsen, Heikes and Walker were in attendance.
Staff: Fire Chief DeTray, EMS Director Schmidt, District Secretary Pezze.
Guests: Asst. Chief Mower

Director Shroust's absence was excused - He was attending CO Special District Association Conference in Keystone, CO

Call to Order – Pledge - Roll Call

The meeting was called to order, the Pledge of Allegiance was given, roll call was taken and Director Littlefield, presiding as Board Chairman, welcomed all those in attendance.

Approval of Agenda

MSA: The September 14, 2017 Agenda was approved after adding the topic "Retirement Program" to Old Business.

Minutes

MSA: * Minutes of the August 9, 2017 regular meeting were approved as presented.

Public Comments

In the absence of LVFPD Auxiliary members, Director Littlefield advised that the Auxiliary's August 27th Mountain Luau fundraiser was a huge success. Some donations came directly to the District, namely the \$1,000.00 donation from Cuchara Hermosa (\$500 to Fire Dept. and \$500 to EMS Dept.). A thank you letter to Cuchara Hermosa was circulated for all Directors to sign personally. The Board then reviewed and discussed the two initial quotes that Chief DeTray presented for a UTV with windshield, roof and winch. Hester's Motorsports, Inc. and Mark's Outdoor Sports quotes ranged from \$16,103 to \$17,800. There is also a pending quote from a dealer that Paula Berg is working with. Chief DeTray will continue to research trailer prices. Director Littlefield cautioned that the total fundraising proceeds should not be spent on the UTV project.

Correspondence, Guests and Presenters

Brett Wallace, San Luis and Rio Grande RR General Manager from Alamosa did not attend the meeting as had been expected. The quarterly report from CGRS, the company mitigating the La Veta Oil contamination project, was presented. No Board action is necessary.

Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer's Report and payments for the September 14, 2017 meeting were presented.

MSA: The Board approved the Treasurer's Report as presented.

Sec. Pezze advised that the final \$44,500 reimbursement from the DOLA grant is forthcoming.

Wildfire Mitigation Service (WMS) Report

In Michael Warren's absence, Paul Branson, Huerfano County Wildfire Mitigation Manager sent the WMS report. A copy of that report is attached to these minutes. Chief DeTray advised that there are 11 FEMA contracts remaining that LVFPD's WMS will complete by the end of the grant period. Chief DeTray will hold future workshops to determine the future of the WMS. Director Littlefield advised that Paul Crespino with the USFS has mentioned that a Good Neighbor Program grant may become available addressing mitigation on the public forest lands. It is a wait and see item.

EMS Director Report

- 1) 15 EMS runs with 12 patients transported in August, 2017.
- 2) La Veta EMS has been awarded the CDPHE EMS grant for the 5 - 800 radios and 5 pagers. The District will receive grant funds of \$8,405 to reimburse 50% of the total cost of \$16,810 for the communication equipment. Have initialed the order process with SpectrCom in Alamosa.

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

- 3) 3 EMT class students still need to take and pass their National Registry tests. Dennis Ceremuga will test on Sept. 19th and Waldrop and Warren still need to set dates to test. Deadline for requesting CREATE grant funds is Sept. 30, 2017.
 - 4) Will go to Huerfano Board of County Commissioner's (BOCC) meeting on Sept. 19th and present a RETAC grant application for the BOCC to sign before submitting to RETAC. The grant is for \$6,000 and is for \$1,500 for Dr. Weber fees and \$4,500 for training.
 - 5) Will work on cross training the Firefighters to be oriented to the ambulances.
- Director Littlefield also asked about Rescue 3 (1992 Chev. Amb.) being used to transport Cuchara patients all the way to the hospital whenever possible, instead of waiting for Rescue 1 to arrive and do the transport. EMS Director Schmidt will work on developing a plan to address Cuchara calls in the most efficient fashion.

Director Littlefield also asked about firefighters working an EMS Shift not being able to respond to fire calls unless a backup EMT can be found. I.S.O. guidelines were discussed giving points for Firefighter/EMS shift personnel responding to fires if properly equipped and geared up. The two Dept. heads will meet and develop a policy addressing the shift EMT (if also a Firefighter) being able to respond to fire calls.

Fire Chief Report

- 1) 11 Fire calls in August: 2 MVAs, 4 alarm activations with no fires, 2 smoke reports, 1 car fire, 1 gas/propane odor call, and 1 illicit campfire, made by homeless person, in barrow ditch on Hwy. 160.
- 2) Fire Trainings in August: Aug. 2 on SCBA, rig familiarization, and communication with 14 FFs and 1 Jr. FF in attendance. Aug. 19 on pump operation and communication with 7 FFs and 1 Jr. FF in attendance.
- 3) An application was presented from Jr. FF Grace Ames to become a full Firefighter now that she has turned 18.
- 4) Chf. DeTray and Jim Berg continue to work with Dispatch on the I Am Responding cell phone paging system.
- 5) Attended ISO workshop at La Veta Stn. and are moving forward with ways to improve ISO rating. Will visit with ISO Agent, Brian Nichols on specific questions for improving ratings.
- 6) Will assist Paul Branson and the Colorado Planning Assistance for Wildfire (CPAW) team regarding wild land planning.
- 7) Chf. DeTray has completed and passed his paramedic training and is now a National Registry Paramedic.
- 8) Chf. DeTray asked Director Walker if he would be interested in maintaining the District's website. Director Walker said he would research the project.
- 9) Requested approval to send 5 officers to the Colorado State Fire Chief's Conference in Keystone in mid-October: Chf. DeTray, Asst. Chf. Mower, Loveall, Thomsen and Ryland. Total cost for registration, fuel, lodging and meals will be approx. \$3,800.

MSA: The Board approved sending 5 Officers to the CSFC in Keystone for a total maximum cost of \$3,800.

MSA: The Board approved the application of Grace Ames as Firefighter with the exception of not driving District owned apparatus until she has 5 years driving experience.

Old Business

An ISO workshop was held regarding LVFPD compliance and striving to lower the District's current ISO rating from a Protection Class 6 to 5 in areas with hydrants and possibly a reduction of the rural Protection Class 9 to an 8-B. Dist. Sec. Pezze supplied a recap of the workshop and topics covered. Director Littlefield advised that one major consideration is to develop a long range training plan.

The new station construction is very close to completion and the conference room needs to be cleaned by the construction contractors. The final electrician's statement was received from Cuchara Valley Electric for \$7,876.81 and Chamber's Design has a final payment due of \$1,491.00.

MSA: The Board approved transferring \$13,000 from the Capital Reserve Money Market account (714577) into the new station checking account (815824) at First National Bank in Trinidad, Huerfano Branch.

All other Old Business items were briefly reviewed with no Board action taken.

New Business

The Huerfano County Assessor's current assessed valuation for the 2018 Budget was presented. The District's valuation decreased to \$32,683,888 which will generate \$192,932 in revenue in 2018. Last year's assessed valuation was \$35,874,742 and generated \$211,768. The District will suffer an \$18,836 decrease in revenue funds in 2018. Directors serving on the Budget committee will be Directors Nielsen and Walker. The preliminary budget will be presented at the October 12, 2017 meeting.

A request from the Huerfano County Water Conservation District (HCWCD) to commit to participating in a grant and fund \$1,500 toward grant match for supporting geotechnical work on water storage sites on the Cucharas River was reviewed and discussed.

MSA: The Board approved to the commitment of providing \$1,500 to the HCWCD for grant match funding.

MSA: The Board approved Dist. Sec. Pezze's request to host the annual Bonfils Oktoberfest Blood Drive on October 7, 2017.

Asst. Chf. Mower attended the CO Dept. of Homeland Security and Emergency Management's Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) conference in Breckenridge. Asst. Chf. Mower updated the Board on the pending changes regarding the Designated Emergency Response Agency (DERA) authorities and also the ongoing issues with the railroad emergency planning. John Hahn, Colorado Haz-Mat Chief and his assistant, Ms. Ottoman will be working with Asst. Chf. Mower and other fire departments to address the problems. The Board asked Asst. Chief Mower to monitor the progress.

MSA: The Board approved retiring to executive session for personnel matters per §24-6-402 (4)(f), C.R.S.

The Board retired to executive session at 8:11 PM for personnel matters.

The Board returned from executive session at 8:44 PM. No Board action taken.

MSA: The meeting adjourned at 8:44 PM.



Shannon R. ShROUT, Secretary

9/14/17

Manager Update:

- The County is processing additional DHSEM requests for Request for Reimbursement (RFR) #1. RFR#2 is under review. Basic reports are compiled for RFR#3.
- Grant Staff (HC and WMS Supervisor) are beginning the administrative (reports/ photos/mapping/etc) and operations close-out stages. Due to implementation capability challenges Team Rubicon has been engaged to complete 29 parcels. The WMS crew (now two persons) will be working on their remaining 10 FAL parcels (estimated completion is early November). Team Rubicon will be doing their 'Recon Visit' later in September. If current planning holds, Team Rubicon will be housed at the County 4H complex. Also, if current planning holds, the Team will also help on fuels reduction work on HWY 12 just north of Panadero Ave, as well as DART pre-fire data collection within local WUIs.
- Firewood biomass from this project (which is two grants, the DNR and FEMA) is being collected from numerous parcels, blocked and processed for the County LEAP (low income assistance) program as per both grant Scope of Work requirements. Estimates are currently at 60-80 cords of wood involved.
- Chip biomass is being collected and will soon be delivered to the Boy Scout Ranch for flood mitigation projects. CSFS personnel are collaborating as a grant stakeholder for this activity.
- Extensive grant close-out preparations are underway presently for both of the grants funding the Cuchara Area Wildfire Mitigation Project. DNR close-out is in October and FEMA in December.
- The County Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan (MHMP) development process has entered the final stage, as has the Community Planning Assistance for Wildfire (CPAW) grant process. Both final reports and/or recommendations will be presented within the next two months. The MHMP is highly upgraded from the previous version and covers several natural hazards. CPAW sets the stage for future WUI Code adoption and enforcement, as well as establishes solid wildfire hazard assessment mapping for WUI areas.
- Wahatoya Valley WUI (LVFPD) held 4 Firewise events culminating in a powerful collaboration yesterday (9/13) where LVFPD, CSFS, County and homeowners worked to chip up numerous slash piles previously cut by this Firewise group along the evacuation route of CR 360.
- County Communication sites have been mapped and are being visited by County OEM, IT, and Wildfire managers. Assessments for Survivability are being completed with treatment recommendations being sent to ownership. Agency, corporate (including cellular), and private sites are involved.