

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

MINUTES

May 11, 2017
6:00 P.M.

Present: Directors Littlefield, Nielsen, Walker and Shrout were in attendance.
Staff: EMS Director Schmidt, District Secretary Pezze and WMS Manager Michael Warren
Guests: Asst. Chief Mower and Cheryl Johnston. Larry Sanders was in attendance for the initial portion of the meeting.

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 welcomed all those in attendance.

Approval of Agenda

The May 31 2017 Agenda was approved after moving Huerfano County Office of Emergency Management (OEM) Director Larry Sanders and LVFPD Auxiliary to the Correspondence (now to include Guests and Presenters) section of the Agenda.

Minutes

MSA: * Minutes of the April 13, 2017 regular meeting were approved as presented.

Public Comments

None

Correspondence, Guests and Presenters

Larry Sanders, the newly hired Manager of the Huerfano County OEM, addressed the LVFPD Board and members and presented his plans and concerns for his new post. He plans to hold Multi Agency Coordinating (MAC) meetings on a regular basis. A specialty company has been hired to develop a strategic emergency plan that needs to be in place before a disaster so that FEMA emergency funding can be secured. Sanders will help orchestrate the plan with the main focus on life, property, critical resources, and environment (in that order) when addressing emergency events. He is also considering a comparable Colorado "salamander card" system for tracking purposes and feels this could tie in with the I Am Responding program that the LVFPD is currently using. Upon questioning, Sanders advised that he is looking forward to another evacuation exercise in the Cuchara area as well as running table top exercises for emergency responders. The Board thanked Sanders and expressed their desire to help in any way possible.

Cheryle Johnston addressed the Board with the LVFPD Auxiliary update. Plans are being made for the summer picnics in both La Veta and Cuchara. Cuchara's event will possibly be a pig roast with a Hawaiian luau theme and will be the main fund raising event for the season. The Board of Directors thanked Cheryle and the Auxiliary for all their support.

Flight for Life sent a letter advising that, as in the past few years, they will provide aid in locating smoke reports/forest fires as long as they are not engaged on medical transports. Discussion evolved regarding the Colorado search and rescue benefits. Director Walker offered to research the benefits provided by the State.

Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer's Report and payments for the May 11, 2017 meeting were presented.

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

Wildfire Mitigation Service (WMS) Report

Michael Warren, Wildfire Mitigation Service Manager, presented the WMS report. A copy of that report is attached to these minutes. Michael also advised that the reimbursement to the County is progressing through the State process and will then move to the Federal level. Huerfano County has been advised that the \$800.00 cell phone booster purchased for the Cuchara Station will not be a reimbursable expense. Director Littlefield asked that Mike McCarty at SpectraCom in Alamosa be contacted about the complaints that the booster is not helping cell reception, if he hasn't already been quarried on the issue.

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

Colin Dolan has passed background checks and WMS Manager Warren recommends his being hired.

MSA: The Board approved hiring Colin Dolan for the mitigation crew at a starting wage of \$12.00 per hour.

Director Littlefield asked that a short article be placed in the local papers updating the public on the mitigation project and advising that local area workers are being employed for the mitigation crew.

EMS Director Report

- 1) 13 EMS runs with 11 patients transported in April, 2017.
- 2) Regarding the CDPH&E grant for radios and pagers, EMS Director Schmidt, Asst. Chf. Mower and Sec. Pezze will participate in the teleconference interview with the State RETAC grant review Board on May 12th.
- 3) The USDA grant for 2 Tough Book laptops has been approved and the laptops have been ordered.
- 4) The CREATE grant for refunding half of the EMT class expenses is pending notification of the EMT students passing their National Registry tests. EMT class is complete and all 5 students have passed their class finals.
- 5) Director Schmidt and Eddie Ray continue to work on the transition from High Plains patient care reporting (PCR) system to the State's Image Trend Elite system. When the laptops are received, they can proceed with crew training and orientation.
- 6) Director Schmidt was not able to attend the RETAC meeting on April 20.
- 7) Director Heikes helped with getting Rescue 2 (1999 Ford Amb.) to Pueblo for air conditioner repair on May 8th. Director Walker helped retrieve the ambulance after it was repaired.
- 9) Attended Spanish Peaks Regional Health Center Trauma and M&M meeting on April 17th.
- 10) La Veta EMS provided ambulance escort to the school's Walk or Wheel (WOW) to school promotion. 69 students participated.
- 11) EMS Week will be May 22 to 26 and EMT appreciation will be observed during that time.
- 12) School presentation for EMS Week is scheduled for May 22 and LVFPD Auxiliary will help that program also.

Director Littlefield advised that he and Director Nielsen attended a meeting with the County Commissioners in regard to the County's proposed resolution for ambulance licensing. The Commissioners agreed to the LVFPD suggestion of rewording the 'termination without cause'. Commissioners confirmed that ambulance service will not be terminated without cause.

Directors Littlefield and Nielsen asked EMS Director Schmidt to reach out to the SPRHC ambulance personnel (Cope, Mann and Gutierrez) to develop and enhance a cooperative relationship.

Fire Chief Report

The Fire Chief's Report was presented by Asst. Fire Chief Mower.

- 1) 3 Fire calls in April: Fire alarm activation on Hwy. 12 residence (power outage issue), 1 smoke report (actually a permitted controlled burn) and 1 call for semi with smoking brakes on Hwy. 160.
- 2) 2 Fire Trainings in April. April 1 for Wildland Fire Refresher (RT 130) with 12 Firefighters and 1 Jr. FF in attendance. April 22 on Wildland Fire Refresher (RT 130) with 8 Firefighters in attendance.
- 3) Presented new application from Thomas Coseno.
- 4) Chief 1 and Chief 2 continue to have good communication.
- 5) The tool boxes for Resc. 4 (87 Ford) have been received and Robert Ryland and Michael Warren installed them.
- 6) Hose testing completed by Fire Cat on May 12. Rain hampered the process and hose drying in the station will be an ongoing process. 12 lengths of hose, of various sizes, failed.
- 7) 6711 (91 Ford tender) will go to M & M in Trinidad to get another, revised estimate (at the request of CO Div. of Fire Prevention & Control) for the suspension repair issues. Huerf. Cnty. Fire Prot. Dist. (HCFPD) and Upper Huerf. Fire Prot. Dist. (UHFPD) will be utilized for mutual aid while this unit is in for repairs.
- 8) Both Chief DeTray and Asst. Chief Mower have met with new County Emergency Manager Larry Sanders for introduction and discussed issues with 800 and VHF radio and pager systems among other topics.
- 9) Chief DeTray voiced concerns to the Huerfano County Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) at their weekly meeting regarding concerns for the proposed Bong A Thon event at Sulphur Springs Guest Ranch in August, 2017. Primary concerns are ingress and egress of CR 421, one way in and one way out, as well as fire fuel loading at that time of year. Another concern is use of fire by intoxicated individuals, as seen on a YouTube video from the event in 2015. The proposed application was denied by the BOCC.
- 10) Provided a better explanation of the \$600.00 TechGen gear to be purchased for support member, Jim VanLue.
- 11) Asst. Chief Mower will attend a Strike Team Leader class at the Wildfire Academy in Alamosa on June 3, 4, and 5.

MSA: The Board approved the application of Tom Cosino as a probationary firefighter contingent upon clear background checks.

MSA: The Board approved the purchase of TechGen gear for Jim VanLue at a cost of approx. \$600.00.

MSA: Per recommendation of Asst. Chief Mower, the Board approved moving probationary Firefighters Sokoloski, Guadagnoli, Fleener, Warren and Ceremuga to permanent status.

Director Littlefield made mention of an email from a disgruntled firefighter stating his dismay with lack of District provided back packs for wildland pack testing and unorganized training schedules. Director Littlefield stated that Chief DeTray responded to the email with a letter to all fighters with explanations and voiced his concern for firefighters' lack of responding to fire calls, trainings and upkeep of fire apparatus and also keeping the station clean and presentable. He asked officers to make a commitment to addressing these topics and as a result, one officer is stepping down from his office but will remain an active firefighter. Chief DeTray recommends Robert Ryland as a Lieutenant.

MSA: The Board approved the appointment of Robert Ryland as a Fire Lieutenant.

Old Business

Work is continuing with the locker room and storage area construction and the State inspections for plumbing and electrical will be completed the week of May 15th. A financial report of the projected construction costs was presented and the DOLA funds threshold for reimbursement of the final \$44,500 grant funds will be reached and exceeded by approximately \$7,000 or more.

Director Littlefield reminded those in attendance that a firefighters benefit package, including a small retirement plan, is available through the State. Cyndi Worgan and Director Walker are to coordinate and research the topic.

New Business

The Board and public were reminded that the location of the June, July and August Board meetings will be at the Cuchara Station.

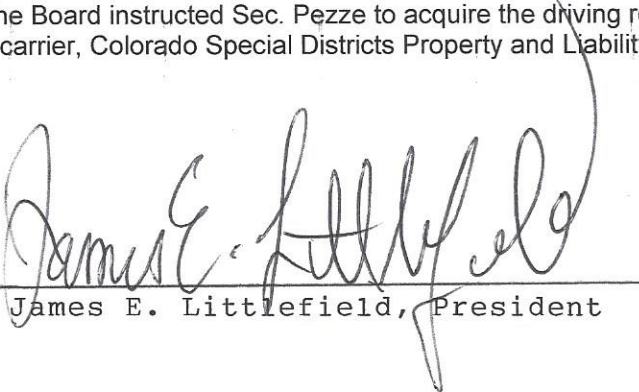
Asst. Chief Mower advised that he has met informally with Cuchara residents explaining aspects of search and rescue and will continue working with the group and Sheriff Newman.

MVA: At the request of EMS Director Schmidt, the Board approved retiring to executive session for personnel reasons per §24-6-402(4)(f), C.R.S.

The Board retired to executive session at 8:01 PM.

The Board returned from executive session at 8:13 PM. The Board instructed Sec. Pezze to acquire the driving record requirements/guidelines from the District's new insurance carrier, Colorado Special Districts Property and Liability Insurance Pool.

MSA: The meeting adjourned at 8:16 PM.


James E. Littlefield, President

LVFPD WMS MONTHLY REPORT

April, 2017

Michael Warren

WMS/FAL Supervisor

CREW

The crew has now completed 7 FAL jobs for this season. We now have 2 new Crew members. (Kenneth Pacheco and Collin Dolan). Kenny has been with us for a couple weeks now. Collin is to start as soon as we can get back to FAL work on the ground. Has been delayed due to weather.

Equipment

The recall issues with both MS461 chainsaws have been resolved. They are both up and operational. Both trucks are running great. I have implemented some new policy for the crew regarding maintenance of these items. I made maintenance schedules for the chainsaws, trucks, and chipper. This way we can better ensure we are keeping up and can better predict issues that may be coming up with the equipment.

Current objectives for Supervisor

I am continuing and keeping up to date on invoicing for all crew work. A big focus for me currently is Contracting. Doing assessments and walking homeowners through the contract process. I am continuously planning work for the crew however, recent weather has held us back. As soon as weather breaks, I will be getting into the field more for property marking and assessments.

Recruitment

We are still looking for more crew members. We have retained 2 new members which puts our crew at 4. There is one more potential who is in the process.

New Business

Our projected total Jobs Completed for the season is 34. There is a potential for more jobs to be completed depending on crew size.

Season to Date: -- 7 FAL Jobs completed

Cobb:	\$4783.03
Frazier:	\$679.2
McGee:	\$1073.28
Morgan:	\$715.00
Carlton:	\$1705.00
Pelaez:	\$1981.40
Swan:	\$80.76
Total to date:	\$11,017.75