

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

MINUTES

January 11, 2018
6:00 P.M.

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

Call to Order – Pledge - Roll Call

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

Approval of Agenda

MSA:* The January 11, 2018 Agenda was approved as presented.

Resolutions and May 8, 2018 Election

MSA: The Board approved and signed Resolution # 2018-01-01 regarding posting of agenda and meetings.

The regular Special District Election will be held on May 8, 2018. Two Directors, Ronald Nielsen and Robert Walker terms will be up for election.

MSA: The Board approved and signed Resolution # 2018-01-02 appointing Sue Pezze as the Designated Election Official for the May 8, 2018 election.

Minutes

MSA: Minutes of the December 14, 2018 regular meeting were approved as presented.

Public Comments

None

Guests, Correspondence, and Presenters

Thank you notes were presented from Gary and Fran Sanden along with their annual donation of \$200.00. Another note from Judy Blain was presented along with a recap of the memorial donations received in honor of Bryce Blain.

Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer's Report and payments for the January 11, 2018 meeting were presented.

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

Renewal of the Colorado Special District Association (SDA) membership fee was discussed. Director Littlefield shared his disappointment with SDA in their lack of response to multiple issues he has approached them about. Especially their neutrality on the Gallagher Amendment and the declining property tax revenue that it is creating for small rural districts. The Board directed Secretary Pezze to research and advise Directors of the SDA renewal cost and benefits.

In regard to the reduced property taxes, Director Nielsen asked all Department Managers to be very frugal, mindful, and responsible in their expenditures and only make the most necessary purchases.

The Board also asked Secretary Pezze to secure quotes from the previous insurance carriers, T. Charles Wilson Insurance for the package property and casualty coverages and Pinnacle Assurance for the workmen's compensation policy. Now that the LVFPD is no longer doing mitigation operations lower premiums may be available.

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

Wildfire Mitigation Service (WMS) Report

Sue Pezze advised that she continues to work with Huerfano County Mitigation Manager, Paul Branson on the close-out of the FEMA mitigation grant.

EMS Director Report

- 1) 6 EMS runs with 5 patients transported in December 2017.
- 2) Sent in the quarterly report on the Colorado Dept. of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) EMS Provider grant for radios and pagers and will submit the reimbursement request in January 2018 for \$8,405.
- 3) The CREATE grant for reimbursement of EMT class expenses is now finalized.
- 4) The RETAC grant for Dr. Weber's six-month fee and training sessions are underway with Tyler and Linette Schmidt and Marc Biggins as instructors. Also hope to offer an I.V. class soon
- 5) Span. Peaks Reg. Health Center (SPRHC) is also offering EMT training and classes that some of the LVFPD EMTs have attended.
- 6) 2 EMT class students, Warren and Waldrop, still need to schedule and pass their National Registry tests by the April 2018 deadline. Wendy is responding to EMS calls and is very proficient on scene with patient care.
- 7) Director Schmidt is now serving on the SPRHC Training Center Advisory Board which held its first meeting on Dec. 21, 2017. SPRHC has been approved by the State of CO to be a Training Center which will benefit Huerfano County greatly.
- 8) Director Schmidt will attend the SPRHC ER meeting on January 15, 2018.

The current CDPHE EMS Provider grant cycle is now open. However, Director Schmidt would like to wait until February 2019 and submit an application for a new ambulance to replace Rescue 3 (1992 Chev. ambulance) in Cuchara with a new smaller unit equipped with a power cot and stair chair. At the same time the District would try to attain a "waiver" that would make the grant match 10% in lieu of the standard 50% match. The Board approved this plan.

Fire Chief Report

- 1) One fire call in December, 2017 – Mutual Aid to Upper Huerfano Fire Prot. District for a structure and grass fire.
- 2) Fire Trainings in December: One training on Dec. 6 on chimney fires and SCBA familiarization with 11 FFs in attendance.
- 3) Have had multiple grass fires already in January.

Old Business

Regarding the CO State Fire and Police Retirement program, Director Walker advised that the State agency is still not accepting any applications for new membership. It may be several months before it re-opens. He will keep the Board posted on the application status.

The strategic planning review was set for the regular April 2018 meeting.

MSA: The Board approved Director Nielsen's request to make sure that Chief DeTray sets up a meeting with the past Mitigation Manager to determine his future plans.

New Business

Director Littlefield addressed the Gallagher Amendment and advised that he and Director Nielsen met with County Commissioner Vezzani and discussed the impact the Amendment has had on the LVFPD. It was decided that the three Fire District Board Presidents should meet to determine how each District is being affected and what measures they are taking to counter the reduction of property tax revenues, if any. Comm. Vezzani advised he would contact the other two District Presidents and interact with them and advise them that the County Commissioners are in concurrence with initiating these discussions. Director Heikes suggested that the County Commissioners be asked to research how other rural Counties are being affected also. Director Nielsen offered that Colorado Counties Inc. (CCI) would be a good resource to supply information. Directors Littlefield and Nielsen will continue to work on this issue.

MSA: The meeting adjourned at 7:01 p.m.



Shannon R. Shrout, Secretary