

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

**MINUTES**

December 6, 2018

6:00 P.M.

Present: Directors Littlefield, Nielsen, Heikes, Walker, and Shrout were in attendance.  
Staff: Fire Chief DeTray, EMS Director Schmidt, and District Secretary Pezze.  
Guests: Jim and Paula Berg, Kim DeTray, Mark and Cyndi Worgan, Mark Brunner, Mickey Schmidt, Ron Jameson, Justin Jameson, and Stirling Lathrop.

**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**

**MSA:\*** The December 6, 2018 Agenda was approved with the addition of District Secretary Pezze's letter of retirement added to the Correspondence section. Also, under Unfinished Business, the "District Chief Positon" item was repositioned to be discussed before the "2019 Budget" item.

**Minutes**

**MSA:** Minutes of the November 15, 2018 Budget Hearing were approved as presented. Additionally, Director Nielsen advised that he had visited with Rye Fire Dept. personnel regarding a paid full-time District Chief position and that they stated \$60,000 annually (including benefits) is their estimated expenditure for such a position. Ron suggested placing \$60,000 in a reserve account anticipating any decisions on that position. He also suggested that a Safer Grant, for salary assistance, be researched for initial funding of the position. A workshop could be held to discuss all operations and the secretary positions.

**MSA:** Minutes of the November 15, 2018 regular meeting were approved as presented

**Public Comments**

None.

**Guests, Correspondence, and Presenters**

LVFPD Auxiliary President Paula Berg presented the Auxiliary report. Paula advised that they held the annual volunteer appreciation party on Dec. 5 with 58 in attendance. The Auxiliary gave the volunteers jackets (valued at \$5,000) donated by Big R and the David Blain family. The Auxiliary added a logo to the jackets. They also gave out the 2019 LVFPD calendar with pictures of the Spring Creek Fire and a flash drive produced by Mark Worgan, again, with Spring Creek Fire pictures and set to music. The Auxiliary has been providing lunch to volunteers at the Saturday trainings and desserts at the evening trainings with the goal of increasing attendance and improving member moral. The Auxiliary has been awarded a \$12,500 grant from El Pomar Foundation to purchase dual-band radios. Ongoing fundraisers are the reflective house number signs, sale of the 2019 Spring Creek Fire calendars, and also sale of Mark Worgan's flash drive of the Spring Creek Fire. The current Auxiliary newsletter contains order forms for these items. The Auxiliary is promoting a "Volunteer of the Month" project and Chief DeTray and EMS Director Schmidt are this month's honored volunteers. The Auxiliary presented dining gift certificates to Aly's Restaurant to Chief DeTray and EMS Director Schmidt. Paula advised that the Auxiliary has voted to contribute \$25,000 to the purchase of the new ambulance for Cuchara if the CO Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) Colorado EMS grant application is successful. This comes with the contingency that LVFPD provides the same matching funds (\$25,000) toward the ambulance. Furthermore, the Auxiliary has obligated \$25,000 to the Fire Department (and again, with the contingency that the LVFPD match that \$25,000) to purchase something "tangible" and visible to the community. Director Littlefield and Chief DeTray thanked Paula for the Auxiliary's continuing and generous support.

Jim Berg addressed the Board and asked that they be cognizant of the La Veta Fire Station's electrical and mechanical systems' maintenance. Director Littlefield asked that a facilities committee of Jim Berg, Director Heikes and Mark Brunner be formed to identify and prioritize the La Veta Fire Station's issues that need to be addressed. The highest priority going to safety issues. Director Littlefield asked that the list be established and presented at the January meeting.

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



### **Correspondence**

A letter from Cucharas Sanitation and Water District was received advising that a public meeting for rate changes is scheduled for December 14, 2018. No action was taken by the Board regarding the letter.

District Sec. Pezze's letter of retirement was presented. She advised that she will continue to work through the spring of 2019 and assist in training a new secretary. The Board thanked Sec. Pezze for her twenty years of service in that position.

### **Treasurer's Report**

The Treasurer's Report and payments for the December 6, 2018 meeting were presented.

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

The purchases for the USDA gear and equipment grant were briefly discussed and that grant has a finalization date of February 2, 2019.

### **EMS Director Report**

- 1) 18 EMS runs with 11 patients transported in November, 2018.
- 2) Training with Dr. Weber on sepsis with 11 EMTs in attendance. Also had a training with Eddie Ray on assessment with 1 EMT in attendance.
- 3) Met with Dereck at Spanish Peaks Regional Health Center (SPRHC) regarding application for RETAC funds. He will forward a copy of the application and get County Commissioners' signatures. The application will be presented at the November 20 RETAC meeting. The joint application will be for \$13,000. LVFPD is requesting \$5,250 of that funding for the following expenses: \$3,000 for Medical Director annual fee, \$2,000 for EMSAC conference expenses, and \$250 for AHA Instructor class. Malea updated the Board that she did not received a copy of the application prior to it being sent to the County Commissioners. The application was not at the November 2018 RETAC meeting. Next RETAC meeting will be in January 2019.
- 4) Eddie Ray attended the RETAC meeting with EMS Director Schmidt and has gained approval to issue continuing education training credits (C.E.s) under Parkview Medical Center and has begun scheduling EMS training. Hopefully, Mark Worgan will also be certified through Parkview to instruct classes and issue C.E.s.
- 5) Brenna Ray has moved to Denver and will return her gear and be removed from the Personnel Roster.
- 6) EMS Director Schmidt attended the December 4<sup>th</sup> Huerfano County Commissioners meeting and the Commissioners approved the renewal of the LVFPD ambulance license for the forthcoming year.
- 7) Cindy Gutierrez with Spanish Peaks Ambulance has asked Eddie Ray to attend instructor training and then teach classes on the "Stop the Bleed" program.

Director Littlefield asked EMS Director Schmidt to research getting Eddie Ray and/or Mark Worgan certified to instruct firefighters in a First Aid class. Director Littlefield stressed that recruitment and retention needs to be a high priority for both the EMS and Fire Departments. Chief DeTray and EMS Director Schmidt will also continue to research outside training possibilities.

- 8) An ambulance estimate from Peak Ambulance was presented for the CDPH&E new ambulance grant. The ambulance would be \$117,500 approx. and the Stryker cot and stair chair would be approx. \$23,300. EMS Director Schmidt estimates that using \$150,000 as the total price, and applying for the grant on a 50/50 match basis, funding would be: CDPH&E \$75,000 (50%), LVFPD Auxiliary \$25,000, La Veta QRT \$10,000 and LVFPD \$40,000.

**MSA:** The Board approved submitting the CDPH&E grant application for a new ambulance in Cuchara at a cost of approximately \$150,000 and on a 50 – 50 match basis. The vote was 4 "Ayes" and one "No" vote from Director Shrout.

Extensive Fire Department and EMS training and recruitment was discussed and the idea of an open house for that purpose was proposed. Possible community scholarships from the Methodist Church, the hospital foundation, and the Cuchara Chapel were introduced to defray the cost of EMT training. Director Walker and EMS Director Schmidt will coordinate on this idea.

### **Fire Chief Report**

- 1) 4 fire calls in November 2018: 2 MVAs - one on Hwy. 160 and one on Hwy. 12, 2 mutual aid calls to structure fires in Huerf. Cnty. Fire Prot. District.
- 2) Fire Trainings in November: Nov. 7 on new ladder truck training with 19 in attendance. Nov. 17 on new ladder truck operations and driving with 12 FFs in attendance. Nov. 17 training for Flash Flood Rapid Water Rescue by Pueblo Fire Department's Michael Smith and Nate Schwalm with 13 La Veta FFs and 19 others from various County Fire Depts. and governmental agencies.



- 3) Training on ladder truck is complete. Operation guideline will be to have a minimum of 2 FFs that have been trained on the truck prior to use on a call until operators become used to operation.
- 4) Water rescue training on Nov. 17<sup>th</sup> was very beneficial and will plan on more training on that topic this spring. Pueblo Fire offered anyone interested in training with them this spring or summer to let them know.
- 5) Continue working on USDA Grant with 80% complete.
- 6) Both the 1984 Chev. Kodiak Engine and the 1981 Ford Engine are unloaded, drained and ready to be sold. Chief DeTray recommended that the minimum bids be set at \$6,500 for the 84 Chev. Kodiak and \$6,500 for the 81 Ford.
- 7) Chief DeTray expressed concern for the chain of command not being followed between firefighters and Board of Director members.

Director Littlefield asked for further explanation and Chief DeTray advised he felt that firefighters were talking to Board Directors around the Fire Chief's back. Director Littlefield stated he had no idea what he was talking about and Chief DeTray then submitted his signed letter of resignation as Fire Chief and member of the volunteer organization of LVFPD to be effective January 9, 2019. This will give the District Board an opportunity to get someone else in place prior to that date. Chief DeTray further stated that he feels discussions between Director Littlefield and Firefighter Ron Jameson has affected the integrity of leadership and stated that "his time here is done". Director Littlefield asked for comments from any other Board members. There were no comments from Board members and Director Littlefield then stated "on that basis we accept your resignation". Comments were received from the public upon which Director Littlefield stated that he had every right to talk to firefighters regarding training and has been very disappointed with lack of firefighter response on calls, low department moral etc. The Survey Monkey results have reflected membership dissatisfaction that the Board must be cognizant of.

### **Old Business**

Regarding the Intergovernmental Agreement (I.G.A.) for the use of the La Veta Fire Station as an Emergency Operations Center by Huerfano County agencies Director Walker stated multiple points that will need to be included in the agreement. It was decided that he, Director Littlefield and Cnty. Administrator John Galusha will meet to discuss the agreement. A separate LVFPD policy will need to be developed for use of the Station by other agencies and organizations. To date, the Station has been made available to entities with "ties to the LVFPD" and with the stipulation that a LVFPD member is present, or on sight, during those meetings.

Director Walker expanded on his progress with the status of the State retirement pension plan. The State has halted new participation in the plan for the last 18 to 20 months due to lack of funding. They are currently working on funds and the State's percentage of participation funding (previously 90% may drop to 50%) is yet to be determined. Members that are interested in participating in the plan need to advise their interest. Director Walker will continue to monitor the status of the State's pension plan. Ron Jameson interjected that Stonewall Fire Protection District is participating in a retirement program and that Director Walker might talk to their Fire Chief, Loyd Holliman to garner more information.

The Survey Monkey survey results were discussed and it was reiterated that Fire Chief DeTray and EMS Director Schmidt were to review and present their thoughts and ideas for improvement at the December Board meeting. Director Shroul suggested that the Board have a work session to discuss the survey. The general summation of the results are available to all members however, it was stated that some of the individual comments are personal, very strong and may even contain untruths. The comments will not go beyond the Board Directors due to the commitment to the membership of keeping the survey anonymous. A workshop was set for Friday, January 25, 2019 at 2:00 PM and ending at 4:00 PM at the latest.

The issue of homeowners requesting Huerfano County to upgrade and maintain their County Road 360.1 was addressed. EMS Director Schmidt has submitted her requested comments regarding an EMS call on that road. Fire Chief DeTray stated he has not been able to talk to Jerry Sporchic with Huerfano County Road and Bridge but that he supports the homeowners in their request. Director Littlefield will confirm that the road has been accepted into the County road system and, if so, will send a letter advising that the LVFPD supports the request for C.R. 360.1 upgrade and maintenance.

The idea of a paid full-time District Chief position was briefly discussed. Director Nielsen stated that he had stated his thoughts on a full-time District Chief position earlier in the meeting. It was decided to amend the 2019 proposed budget to reflect the \$60,000 anticipated expenditure in the administrative portion of the budget. The Board also asked Dist. Sec. Pezze to establish a separate "Organizational Change" ColoTrust capital reserve fund and transfer \$60,000 from another ColoTrust fund into the new account.



The 2019 budget was discussed with the change of adding \$60,000 to the Administrative portion of the budget for the District Chief position.

**MSA:** The Board approved the final 2019 Budget as amended by the \$60,000 expenditure. The vote was 4 "Ayes" and Director Shroud voted "Nay".

**MSA:** The Board approved the Resolution to Appropriate Sums of Money as amended increasing the Operating Expense from \$637,691 to \$697,691.

**MSA:** The Board approved the Resolution to Adopt the 2019 Budget.

**MSA:** The Board approved the Resolution to Set the Mill Levy at 5.903 for property tax revenue and certify .003 for abated funds.

The Board instructed Sec. Pezze to amend the resolution signatures to reflect Director Littlefield as President in lieu of Director Nielsen's name.

The Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for the LVFPD Auxiliary was discussed. Directors Littlefield advised that he had circulated the LVFPD draft with all Directors for their review. There were no comments from the Directors and a copy of the draft will be given to LVFPD Auxiliary President Paula Berg. Paula advised that the Auxiliary also voted to work on a new draft MOU that their Board is comfortable with. It was confirmed that the current MOU will remain in effect until a new MOU is adopted by both entities. The next Auxiliary meeting will be in April 2019. Upon request Paula advised that the Auxiliary currently has approximately \$50,000 in a C.D. to gain interest and has committed \$50,000 to the District (\$25,000 to the ambulance grant and \$25,000 to a Fire Dept. purchase) and there is a remaining \$17,000 to \$20,000 available. Director Littlefield thanked the Auxiliary members and stated that the District will work with the Auxiliary to aid in their fundraising efforts for items approved by the LVFPD Board. Stirling Lathrop advised that as a 501 (C) 3 non-profit the LVFPD Auxiliary has complete authority over the Auxiliary's funds in accordance with their by-laws and Colorado State laws. Upon Director Littlefield's request to step down from being the current LVFPD liaison to the Auxiliary, Director Shroud advised that he would serve as the LVFPD liaison to the LVFPD Auxiliary. In response to Chief DeTray's request to have Director Littlefield and Nielsen visit with the Lathrop Family about raising funds for a new brush truck, Director Littlefield advised that they planned to confer with the Lathrops in January. Chief DeTray expressed his dismay at this action.

Brief discussion was held regarding possible flood mitigation for the La Veta Station. The possibility of installing mafia or jersey blocks for diversion of flood waters will be researched by Director Heikes and Ron Jameson.

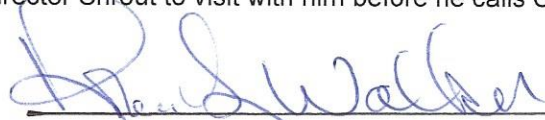
### **New Business**

Director Shroud thanked District Secretary Pezze for her service to the District and asked that she distribute the current District Secretary job description to Board members and advertise for the position.

The Board approved placing ads in the World Journal and Thrifty Nickel papers for sale of the 1984 Chev. Kodiak and 1981 Ford fire engines.

Director Shroud asked if he and one other Board Director could reach out to Chief DeTray to visit with him about the Fire Chief position. Director Heikes offered to go with Director Shroud to visit with Chief DeTray. They will report back to the Board at the next meeting or call a meeting in the interim if needed. Director Shroud advised he will set up the meeting with DeTray, himself and Director Heikes. Jim Berg asked Director Shroud to visit with him before he calls Chief DeTray.

**MSA:** The meeting adjourned at 8:29 PM.



Robert L. Walker, Secretary