

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

MINUTES

May 10, 2018
6:00 P.M.

Present: Directors Littlefield, Nielsen, and Shrout were in attendance. Director Walker attended via teleconference for the initial portion of the meeting. The absence of Director Heikes was excused due to obligations at the La Veta Schools.
Staff: Fire Chief DeTray, EMS Director Schmidt and District Secretary Pezze.
Guests: Jim and Paula Berg, Kim DeTray and Asst. Chief Mower until he excused himself to conduct a Fire Department annual pack test session.

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 May 10, 2018 Agenda was approved as amended to include: Executive Session for personnel matters pursuant to §24-6-402(4)(f), C.R.S.

May 10, 2018 Election

Director Littlefield administered the Oath of Office to Directors Nielsen and Walker for their four-year terms of office. The polling place election was cancelled and the Directors were appointed to the positions by acclamation. The Board welcomed Directors Nielsen and Walker and thanked them for their service.

Resolutions

MSA: The Resolution # 2018-05-01 to change the meeting place for the June 14, July 12, and August 9, 2018 regular Board meetings to the Cuchara Station was approved and signed.

Minutes

MSA: Minutes of the April 12, 2018 regular meeting were approved as amended to include the fact that the Fire Chief will be informed that the 2002 Chev. Avalanche (COMM 1) was under discussion in the April 12, 2018 meeting.

Director Nielsen stated he is adamant that the Fire Chief's reports need to be presented at meetings and that the Board meeting dates are well known. The Board's responsibility cannot stop due to the Fire Chief's absence or lack of reports. Director Littlefield stated that Chief DeTray has been made aware of this and Chief DeTray then stated that he could not dispute these facts.

The Board also requested Sec. Pezze to have the minutes circulated to Board Directors and operational managers about a week after meetings rather than waiting until distributing the minutes with the packets prior to the meetings.

Public Comments

Paula Berg, President of the LVFPD Auxiliary advised that the Auxiliary held their first meeting for this season. They have assigned an individual to initiate an Amazon Smiles account for the LVFPD Auxiliary. This will create donations to the Auxiliary whenever an Amazon purchase is made by someone designating the Auxiliary as their donation recipient. The Auxiliary will host the annual community open house at the Cuchara Fire Station on June 16th at noon following the regular Saturday Fire Training session. The annual fund raiser is scheduled for July 28th at the Cuchara Community Center and its theme will be a Rock and Roll Dance. The Auxiliary will place two-sided, "High Fire Danger Signs" on private plots of land, along the fence lines of Highway 12 at both the north and south ends of Cuchara. Requests are being made to Cucharas Sanitation and Water District and Yellow Pine Ranch to approve placing signs on their respective properties. The Board thanked Paula and the Auxiliary for their initiative and dedication.

Firefighter Jim Berg asked that better communication methods and more organized advanced notice be employed in the future in announcing pack test sessions etc.

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

Guests, Correspondence, and Presenters

None.

Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer's Report and payments for the May 10, 2018 meeting were presented. Sec. Pezze advised that she will supply a breakdown of the mitigation revenues and expenses to Chief DeTray as soon as she is able to meet with accountant Debbie Johnson and resolve issues in the separate QuickBooks system that tracks those accounts.

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

EMS Director Report

- 1) 4 EMS runs with 3 patients transported in April 2018.
- 2) EMS Training session: April 10th with Tyler Schmidt on Cardiology Part 1 and May 1st on Cardiology Part 2 and April 26th with Dr. Weber on Chapter 2 updates and medications.
- 3) EMS Director Schmidt and Sec. Pezze have complied the receipts, proof of payments, and the request for reimbursement forms for the RETAC Grant for Dr. Weber's six-month fee, training sessions, and equipment. These have been emailed to the RETAC Coordinator and hard copies will be submitted at the May 17th RETAC meeting in Pueblo. The reimbursement amount is \$6,000.
- 4) Mike Warren tested for National Registry EMT certification but was unsuccessful. He will re-test after he returns from Colorado Fire Camp wildland classes.
- 5) Attended the SPRHC ER meeting on April 16.
- 6) Met with the LVFPD Auxiliary on May 10th and discussed coordinating with them for the 10% match (approximately \$15,000) on the 2019 CDPH&E grant application for a newer ambulance to replace the 1992 Chev. ambulance currently housed in the Cuchara Station. The Auxiliary will wait until they have a full complement of members to discuss the proposal. Cheryle Johnston and possibly, Cynthia Worgan will be able to help with the grant writing.

Director Littlefield advised that Colorado House Bill 1423 is working its way through Colorado legislature and, if passed, will allow \$500,000 to be doled out to rural fire departments. These funds are being allocated to abate the reduced revenues attributed to the Gallagher Amendment formulas. Possibly these funds could help with the EMS grant match also.

- 7) Presented a spreadsheet with the A.E.D.s that are currently placed in public places, and some private residence/vehicles, in the District. EMS Director Schmidt plans to have a shift EMT check the batteries and supply expiration dates once a month.
- 8) Regarding the 3 A.E.D.s donated by Mark Worgan's friend, EMS Director Schmidt is still waiting for Big R Store's final approval to place an A.E.D. there. EMS Director Schmidt will go ahead and get one placed in Charlie's Market and publicize it as soon as Mark Worgan returns from his trip.
- 9) Wendy Waldrop has taken her National Registry test and was unsuccessful. According to new National Registry guidelines she has 2 years to pass the test. At the onset of the class she had signed a tuition agreement with the LVFPD that she would repay expenses (\$500.00) at the end of one year if she did not complete her certification.

MSA: The Board approved and authorized EMS Director Schmidt to send a letter to Wendy Waldrop advising her that she has until November 1, 2018 to pass the National Registry test or she will be required to repay the \$500.00 debt for class expenses to the LVFPD. If she passes the test later she can request getting the \$500.00 back.

Fire Chief Report

- 1) 5 fire calls in April 2018: 1 MVA on Hwy. 160, 1 Report of downed power line (nothing found), 1 Smoke report, 1 Wildland fire – C.R. 443 started by powerlines arcing, 1 Rekindle of controlled and permitted slash pile.
- 2) Fire Trainings in April: One training on April 4 on rescue ropes & equipment with 13 FFs in attendance. A second training on April 21 on class room driver training with 15 FFs in attendance.
- 3) Marc Biggins, a current EMS paramedic is willing to become a support member for the fire department. Chief DeTray recommends waiving all application requirements due to him being a member of the LVFPD.
- 4) Presented a Standard Operating Guideline for addressing fire investigation and procedures for calling Colorado Bureau of Investigation (CBI). Chief DeTray stated that the LVFPD "will keep CBI as the investigating force behind fire cause and determination."

The guideline will be reviewed and studied further by the Board prior to its adoption. Director Littlefield asked Chief DeTray to have Huerfano County Emergency Manager Larry Sanders and Huerfano County Sheriff Bruce Newman review the guideline and provide input. Chief DeTray advised that he would do that and he would also involve La Veta Marshal Willburn in the process.

- 5) Presented justification on the purpose and usage of the COMM 1, 2002 Chev. Avalanche PU and COMM 2, 2008 Ford Expedition, aka Black & White.

EMS Director Schmidt took issue with Chief DeTray's suggestion that one-half of the COMM 2 operating and maintenance expenses be charged off to the EMS vehicle expense lines in the annual budgets. The Directors quelled the discord by directing Sec. Pezze to add a new "vehicle expense" account to the Administration Expenses portion of the accounting system and annual budget lines.

Director Nielsen asked that any future acquisition or disposal of vehicles and major capital assets be presented, reviewed and approved by the Directors at a regular Board meeting.

- 6) Presented a proposal for equipment upgrade to add a Type 6 brush truck that included two options. A copy of that proposal is attached to these minutes. There is also a possibility that the Colorado Division of Fire Prevention and Control may have a pump and tank slide-in unit available that the LVFPD can acquire.

The Board took the document under advisement and asked that Chief DeTray discuss options further with Directors Heikes and Shroul and present final presentations at the regular June 14th Board meeting. A special meeting can be called if necessary.

- 7) Chief DeTray stated that he would like to clarify his view on Search and Rescue (S&R) calls in Huerfano County, including those inside La Veta Fire Protection District boundaries. He stated that, unless the Board directs differently, the newly forming Huerfano County S&R, under authority of the Huerfano County Sheriff's Department, will be the primary agency handling command of all S&R incidents in the County. If there is a need for medical assistance on a S&R call within the LVFPD boundaries LVFPD EMS Department will be called and participate in any medical capacity necessary for the health and wellbeing of all patients involved. If Huerfano County Sheriff's Office S&R calls for LVFPD mutual aid in a S&R call anywhere in the County, LVFPD Fire Dept. and EMS Dept. members can respond and do whatever they can to assist. LVFPD members are free to join, and also encouraged to join, the Huerfano County S&R team, if they'd like, by going through an application process with the County S&R agency. LVFPD will only respond to S&R calls in an EMS or mutual aid capacity. Chief DeTray further stated that the rescue ropes and equipment training currently being conducted by Asst. Chief Mower is beneficial to the LVFPD for many applications in the Fire Service. He also stated that no LVFPD rescue equipment will be given to the Huerfano County S&R.

The Directors in attendance concurred with Chief DeTray's statements.

- 8) Chief DeTray presented information advising of the necessary restructuring of the Fire Dept. Command Staff. He has been advised that Capt. McConnell is moving out of District due to his employment with South Metro Fire, Lt. Loveall has received a promotion with Colorado State Forest Service and will move to Durango in June, and Lt. Ryland moved back to Fort Garland in November after the mitigation program terminated. Chief DeTray will bring his officer recommendations to the June 14th meeting for Board approval.

MSA: The Board approved authorizing Marc Biggins as a support Firefighter and waiving the background and drug tests due to him already being an LVFPD EMS member (paramedic).

Old Business

Director Littlefield briefly discussed the Gallagher Amendment and the LVFPD may possibly need to hold an election in November to either increase the District mill levy or ask the voters to approve verbiage amending revenues (and mill levies respectively) in order to retain property tax revenues at the same level and not suffer the decrease in revenue as currently being dictated by the Gallagher formulas. This will be revisited at the next meetings and Director Littlefield is working on public presentations and conversations to make the public aware of the dire financial situation the LVFPD is facing.

Director Shroul advised that he has completed his assigned tasks of discussions with Chief DeTray in regard to fire apparatus and that, per Chief DeTray's recommendation, has handled selling and delivery of the pump and tank unit from the 87 red Ford brush truck to Jamesons for \$1.00. He also talked to La Veta Propane service manager regarding installation of a hot water heater in the La Veta Station that is independent of the big boiler system. The advice given was to install an electric hot water heater in lieu of a propane unit due to the extensive piping and venting that would be involved. The Board thanked Director Shroul for his completion of the tasks.

New Business

Director Littlefield received a call from Dale Lyons with the "Action 22" committee requesting LVFPD, and possibly other

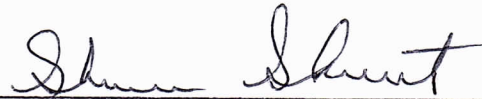
Huerfano County fire districts, to attend a meeting regarding several topics including a waiver to Spanish Peaks Regional Health Center's (Medicare) 30 mile radius rate reimbursement limitation. She is also interested in getting La Clinica in Gardner re-opened and participating in tele-medicine systems. Director Nielsen and possibly another Director will plan to attend the meeting.

MSA: The Board approved retiring to Executive Session for personnel matters with Fire Chief DeTray for discussion of organizational changes of Fire Department leadership pursuant to §24-6-402(4)(f), C.R.S.

The Board retired to executive session at 8:07 p.m.

The Board returned from executive session at 8:53 p.m. with no Board action taken.

MSA: The meeting adjourned at 8:54 p.m.



Shannon ShROUT, Secretary