

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

MINUTES

November 15, 2018
6:00 P.M.

Present: Directors Littlefield, Nielsen, and Shrout, were in attendance. Director Heikes attended via teleconference. Director Walker's absence was excused due to a family medical procedure.
Staff: Fire Chief DeTray, EMS Director Schmidt and District Secretary Pezze.
Guests: Justin Jameson and Kim DeTray.

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 November 15, 2018 Agenda was approved as presented.

Minutes

MSA: Minutes of the October 11, 2018 meeting were approved as presented.

Public Comments

None.

Guests, Correspondence, and Presenters

The La Veta Village, Inc. is working on a loan/grant application to USDA Rural Development to repurpose the old cheese factory building in La Veta into a senior living facility. The group is requesting a letter of support from the La Veta Fire Protection District (LVFPD) to accompany the application. The Board approved sending the letter of support as requested.

A letter was received from Joyce Miyagishima and her husband Jerry McCarty requesting that the LVFPD support and encourage Huerfano County authorities to provide upgrading and, at least, annual maintenance of a ¼ mile section of County Road 360.1. This is also the road to the LVFPD's Wahatoya Mesa Repeater site. A second letter from Ms. Marti Richter, who also resides on that road, was presented making the same request for maintenance of the ¼ mile section of County Road 360.1. Chief DeTray advised that he will talk to Jerry Sporcich, County Road and Bridge Foreman for the La Veta District, about the road maintenance concerns. Director Littlefield asked EMS Director Schmidt to compose a brief synopsis about the problems encountered due to poor road conditions during a recent EMS call at a home located on that road. Secretary Pezze was directed to send a letter to the two homeowners advising that the situation is being researched and action should be taken at the December Board meeting.

Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer's Report and payments for the November 15, 2018 meeting were presented.

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

Secretary Pezze presented the Fire Department and EMS call and training logs that will be used to develop the volunteer incentive checks for the November 1, 2017 to October 31, 2018 stipend reward period.

EMS Director Report

- 1) 15 EMS runs with 8 patients transported in October, 2018.
- 2) Training with Jeff Torr on CPR re-certifications with 8 EMTs in attendance. Also had a training with Dr. Weber on November 14 with 10 EMTs 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.

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

- 4) Amber Olsen, the new EMT paramedic in Cuchara has gone through orientation and is taking EMS shifts and responding to calls. Brenna Ray has been away with National Guard duty and will complete orientation soon.
- 5) The oil changes and Health Department inspections on all three ambulances have been completed. The ambulance license renewal packet will be presented to the Huerfano County Commissioners by the first part of December. Eddie Ray has been very instrumental in the process.
- 6) SPRHC personnel are working on upcoming classes and education. They are also working on finalizing the certification for Eddie Ray's and Mark Worgan's instructor classes.
- 7) Dave Mower attended the local ER meeting at SPRCH.
- 8) EMS Director Schmidt again asked the Board to consider going with a 50/50 match basis for the upcoming Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (DPH&E) EMS grant application that has a submission deadline of February 2019. She feels that the LVFPD will not qualify for the financial waiver to get a 90/10 match. The grant will be written for a new ambulance, power cot and stair chair for the Cuchara Station. EMS Director Schmidt advised that the LVFPD Auxiliary has initially committed to providing up to \$25,000 toward the 50% match and the La Veta QRT could possibly donate \$10,000. The Board asked Director Schmidt to supply firm, updated ambulance and equipment costs at the December 6, 2018 Board meeting. Director Schmidt was also asked to research grant funding from Caring for Colorado.

Chief DeTray asked if EMS Director Schmidt would be willing to have the EMS Dept. and the Fire Dept. share the cost of a class for the firefighters to receive First Aid and CPR instruction. EMS Director Schmidt advised that she would share in the associated cost. Mark Worgan is now CPR certified but Chief DeTray will check with Trinidad Ambulance District about a First Aid class instructor.

Fire Chief Report

- 1) 5 fire calls in October 2018: 2 smoke reports – both along Highway 160, semi rig with smoking brakes, check for carbon monoxide leak, power line sparking.
- 2) Fire Trainings in October: Oct. 3 on size-up with 15 FFs in attendance. October 20 on initial attack with 17 FFs in attendance. Oct. 30 for training with Huerfano County Fire Protection District (HCFPD) Paul Gomez on the 1988 E-One ladder truck with 9 FFs who will be potential ladder truck operators in attendance.
- 3) Met with La Veta Mayor Brgoch, Town Clerk Laurie Erwin and Debbie Bernal from Dispatch on pre-evacuation message and mapping, follow up by December 1st.
- 4) Flood awareness and basic swift water training will be taught by Pueblo City Firefighters following the November 17th fire training. All County emergency responders, County Road & Bridge, Sheriff's Office and Town of La Veta and City of Walsenburg personnel are invited to attend.
- 5) LVFPD fire training schedule and an open invitation to attend has been sent to HCFPD and Upper Huerfano Fire Protection District departments. They should be reciprocating with their schedules accordingly.
- 6) Chief DeTray and Jim Berg attended the Colorado State Fire Chief's Leadership Conference in Keystone. Was able to network with Division of Fire Prevention and Control on training opportunities. Have requested trainings with their portable driving simulator and live fire burn building in 2019. Director Chief Mike Morgan has offered to bring a recruitment and retention session for some weekend in January. Date is yet to be determined according to Chief Morgan's schedule.
- 7) LVFPD Leadership meeting for October and November was held and starting January 1, 2019 Chief DeTray will divide the volunteer firefighters into 3 shifts to be available for 24 hours at a time then off for 48 hours. This will provide 7 to 8 responders on each shift. This will be a trial basis for 6 months and then be reevaluated at the end of June 2019.
- 8) Pump testing was preformed last month with 3 of the 4 trucks failing the vacuum test. All trucks passed the pumping portion. Front Range Fire spend 2 days in La Veta making needed repairs on the 3 trucks with an estimate of \$4,000, actual cost could possibly be higher.
- 9) During the pump repair process on 7121 (1986 GMC Pumper) it was discovered that the transfer case was full of water from a leaking pump packing. Estimated cost for this repair will be upwards of \$8,000. Justin Jameson has stated that he could haul the 7121 Engine to Front Range in Denver for an additional cost of \$1,800. Total cost is approximately \$10,000.

The Board concurred that the repairs need to be completed as soon as possible.

- 10) County Emergency Manager Larry Sanders has scheduled a flood preparedness meeting for December 10th and requested that a Board Director and Chief DeTray attend the meeting. Chief DeTray has to work at Trinidad Ambulance so will have Jim Berg attend in his absence. Purpose of the meeting is to plan a table top exercise in late January.
- 11) Discussion was held regarding acquiring jersey barriers to be placed at the southwest corner of the LVFPD property to help divert flood waters. This discussion will be continued at the February 2019 Board meeting.

Old Business

Director Littlefield advised that the Intergovernmental Agreement (I.G.A.) for the use of the La Veta Fire Station as an Emergency Operations Center by Huerfano County agencies needs to be completed as soon as possible. Multiple governmental agencies are requesting and using the Fire Station for various meetings. To date this has all worked out very well.

Director Walker will advise if there has been any change in the status of the State retirement, pension plans at the December meeting.

The Survey Monkey survey has been completed and the results of the 40 questions will be placed in the Fire Station office for all members to review at their convenience. Copies were given to Fire Chief DeTray and EMS Director Schmidt and they will review and present their thoughts and ideas for improvement at the December Board meeting.

The ballot issue for the LVFPD to de-Gallagherize and stabilize property tax revenue passed decisively at the November 6th General Election. The vote was Yes/For 736 to No/Against 342. A copy of the ballot issue follows:

Ballot Issue – Gallagher Revenue Stabilization

SHALL LA VETA FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT BE AUTHORIZED TO INCREASE OR DECREASE ITS CURRENT AND ALL FUTURE MILL LEVIES ONLY IF, ON OR AFTER NOVEMBER 6, 2018, THERE ARE CHANGES IN THE METHOD OF CALCULATING ASSESSED VALUATION, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO A CHANGE IN THE PERCENTAGE OF ACTUAL VALUATION USED TO DETERMINE RESIDENTIAL ASSESSED VALUATION DUE TO ARTICLE X SECTION 3 OF THE COLORADO CONSTITUTION (COMMONLY KNOWN AS THE GALLAGHER AMENDMENT), SO THAT, TO THE EXTENT POSSIBLE, THE ACTUAL TAX REVENUES GENERATED BY SUCH MILL LEVIES ARE THE SAME AS THE ACTUAL TAX REVENUES THAT WOULD HAVE BEEN GENERATED HAD SUCH CHANGES NOT OCCURRED?

District Secretary Pezze will forward all necessary documents and filings with the Colorado Secretary of State and Colorado Division of Local Government upon receipt of paperwork from the Huerfano County Clerk. Director Littlefield advised he will draft a letter of appreciation to the public for their support, circulate it to the other Directors for review and revisions and then forward to Secretary Pezze to submit to the World Journal for publication.


The 2019 proposed budget was reviewed at the Public Hearing held at 5:30 prior to the November 15, 2018 Board meeting. Revisions will be made to Fire Department expense lines. All other budget lines will remain as presented. The final adoption of the budget will occur at the December 6, 2018 Board meeting.

The Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for the LVFPD Auxiliary was briefly discussed. Directors Littlefield and Nielsen had met with current Auxiliary President Paula Berg and Auxiliary member Stirling Lathrop and a copy of their proposed revised MOU was presented. Director Littlefield presented his draft of a revised MOU and asked all Directors to review it and make suggestions and revisions. The MOU will be addressed again at the December 6, 2018 Board meeting. Chief DeTray asked that 2 Directors visit with the Lathrops and Sam Law to advise them that their fund raising efforts are greatly appreciated but the District is not pursuing the purchase of a newer brush truck at this time. Directors Littlefield and Nielsen will contact them regarding this.

New Business

Director ShROUT asked that Secretary Pezze get Board packets sent out earlier and he also inquired of EMS Director Schmidt why she had executive sessions on the agendas for two months but did not carry through on them. EMS Director Schmidt advised him that she was able to resolve the concerns.

MSA: The meeting adjourned at 7:43 PM.


 Shannon R. ShROUT, Secretary