

LA VETA FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT
Cuchara Fire Station
400 Panadero
Cuchara, Colorado

MINUTES

June 13, 2019
6:00 P.M.

Present: Directors: Nielsen, Heikes, Walker, and Jameson were in attendance. Director Littlefield attended via teleconference.

Staff: EMS Director Ray, Acting Fire Chief Steffan, and Acting District Secretary Pezze.

Guests: Jim Alt, Jim Berg, and Dave DeTray

Call to Order – Pledge - Roll Call

The meeting was called to order by Director Nielsen, the Pledge of Allegiance was given, and roll call was taken.

Approval of Agenda

MSA:* The June 13, 2019 Agenda was amended to move the EMS Report to the beginning of the meeting, This will allow EMS Director Ray to fulfill obligations with his Spanish Peaks Ambulance job.

Ella Evans quit her District Secretary position on June 6, 2019 with no notice given. Sue Pezze has stepped back in do District Secretary duties until another candidate is hired. EMS Director Ray has a proposal to cover the vacancy and it was decided to hold a special meeting with an executive session to discuss that proposal.

MSA: The Board approved holding a special meeting on June 18, 2019 at 7:30 PM for the purpose of reviewing Director Ray's proposal during an executive session at that meeting. Budget consideration will also be on the special meeting agenda.

EMS Director's Report:

- 1) 13 calls in May with 8 patients transported. Dr. Weber conducted an EMS training session on May 22, 2019 on EMS protocol updates and changes for 2019.
- 2) The results of the Colorado Dept. of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) EMS grant application for a new ambulance for the Cuchara Station will be announced later in June.
- 3) Director Ray attended the RETAC meeting on May 21st and he is confident the La Veta Fire Protection District (LVFPD) will receive approximately \$6,500 for reimbursement of Dr. Weber's Physician Advisor fees and training expenses. The Children's Hospital Training Trailer will be in Huerfano County on August 6 – 7. The LVFPD EMS team will have the opportunity to tour the trailer and receive pediatric care instruction.
- 4) Have ordered the new backup cameras and Mega-Movers for both Rescue 1 (2009 Dodge Amb.) and Rescue 2, (1999 Ford Amb.). Ordered stair chair for Rescue 2. Rescue 3 (1992 Chev. Amb.) now has permanent government license plates.
- 5) The I.V. class in the La Veta Station started on June 7th.
- 6) Presented reports showing EMS call response data.
- 7) Advised the Board that there is a need for a power load system for Rescue 1.
- 8) Presented EMT applications from Danae' Chongway and Kelsea Collins who reside outside of the LVFPD and Edward Carpenter who resides in the LVFPD. All applicants are currently certified as Basic EMTs.

MSA: The Board approved the EMT application of Edward Carpenter pending clear background checks. The Board also approved the EMT applications of Danae' Chongway and Kelsea Collins pending clear background checks and waiving the Standard Operating Procedure requiring that LVFPD members must reside within LVFPD boundaries.

Minutes

MSA: Minutes of the May 9, 2019 regular meeting were approved as presented.

Public Forum

Jim Berg advised that he attended the Special District Assoc. of Colorado Board Workshop and was able to acquire extra Board Member Manuals and presented a copy to each LVFPD Director. He also handed out a laminated sheet noting procedures for calling and conducting an executive session per Colorado Revised Statutes.

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

Jim Berg then presented a statement that he requested be added to the minutes of this June meeting. Jim Berg and David DeTray then departed the meeting. A copy of Jim Berg's statement is attached to these minutes.

At 6:54 PM a 911 page for an EMS emergency call was received and EMS Director Ray and Dist. Sec. Pezze excused themselves to respond to the call.

Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer's Report and payments for the June 13, 2019 meeting were presented.

MSA: The Board approved the June 13, 2019 Treasurer's Report as presented.

The letter from the Office of the State Auditor's was presented advising that the LVFPD application for exemption from audit, prepared by CPA Tim Dixon, for the year 2018 has been approved. No further LVFPD action is necessary but the Board may ask Dist. Sec. Pezze for additional information regarding the letter at the July 2019 regular meeting.

The transition of having Century Financial Group handle LVFPD accounting duties is going well and it is recommended that two members of their staff (David Grove and Bernadette Cappallucci) be authorized as signers on the LVFPD bank account signatures cards. Other authorized signers on the signature cards will be amended to include Directors Littlefield, Nielsen, Heikes, Walker, and Ron Jameson.

MSA: The Board approved the following individuals to be on the signature cards for the LVFPD bank accounts: James E. Littlefield, Ronald L. Nielsen, Maurice Heikes, Robert L. Walker, Ronald Jameson, David Grove and Bernadette Cappallucci. The Board authorized Dist. Sec. Pezze to handle the changes at the banking institutions.

Fire Chief Report

- 1) 5 Fire calls, 4 smoke reports with no fires found and 1 motor vehicle accident (MVA). LVFPD Fire Training on May 7, 2019 on pumps and water with 9 Firefighters in attendance. May 25, 2019 training on pumps exercise with 12 FFs in attendance.
- 2) The brush truck pumps are working well and a good training session was held orienting FFs to the new slide-in unit on 6612 (2008 Ford Brush) and the new pump on 7621 (2004 Ford Brush). The primer assembly on 6611 (1997 Ford Brush) has been repaired and FFs have been instructed on its proper use.
- 3) The 7721 (66 Kaiser Tender) had its annual inspection by the CO Division of Fire Prevention and Control mechanics. Coleman Glover met with them and visited with them about the truck's operations. There is no firm date for the completion and return of the 6711 (91 Ford Tender) which has been in Fort Collins for several months for driveline repairs.
- 4) At the Fire Officer's meeting it was decided to de-commission the current 6111 (91 Beck Eng.) due to its difficulty in operating and the suspension problems it has. The 84 Chev. Kodiak and the ladder truck will be the primary structure engines along with 6311 (1998 Pierce Hawk).
- 5) Regarding the VFA grant, the substitution of a 3,000 gallon tank for the wildland classes has been approved and we will move forward on getting all the approved items ordered.
- 6) Presented a FF application from Joseph McNett.
- 7) Working with Eddie Ray to coordinate joint trainings so that FFs can respond and help on EMT calls. FFs need to get familiar with the ambulances and learn where EMS supplies and equipment are located in the ambulances
- 8) Had good response to flooding issues and providing assistance during the June 5th flooding in the Middle Creek and Indian Creek drainages. Also worked well with other agencies that were on scene.
- 9) Requested that 6 FFs be approved for moving from probationary status to permanent FF status.

MSA: The Board approved moving Ron Jameson, Justin Jameson, Brian Jameson, Haley Jameson, Hylari Smith and Danette Chimenti from probationary status to permanent FF status.

MSA: The Board approved the FF application of Joseph McNett contingent upon clear background checks.

Unfinished Business:

Jade Communications has installed their antenna on the La Veta Station rooftop. The free high-speed internet connection will commence in July, 2019. The written agreement between Jade and LVFPD still needs to be completed.

The legal situation regarding requests for the Survey Monkey comments and release of Board meeting minutes prior to Board approval at the next regular meeting was briefly discussed.

The Strategic Plan update will be compiled, formatted, and distributed at a later date.

The Auxiliary Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) will remain tabled at this time. Director Walker advised that a motion was made at their last meeting which will transfer the bulk of their funds to the LVFPD. Highest priority for use of the funds will be the matching funds for the new Cuchara ambulance if the grant is successful, finishing the uncompleted community room at the La Veta Station, and completing the generator project.

The drone has been delivered and several members have expressed interest in becoming remote licensed pilots for the equipment. Director Littlefield and Mike Fleener are researching training opportunities.

Director Heikes advised that Mark Brunner has provided water barrier tubes for the La Veta Station doors in the event of flooding in La Veta.

Coleman Glover has been working on the large generator in the La Veta Station. Director Littlefield would like to have Mark Brunner complete the panel to make the generator operational. It could then be used at the Cuchara Mountain Park at Lift 4 to prove its functionality. The generator would be moved back to the La Veta Station prior to winter weather.

MSA: The Board approved completion of the generator and it being used at Lift 4 at the Cuchara Mountain Park through fall of 2019 when it will be returned to La Veta Station.


The insurance claim for hail damage to the La Veta Station and three vehicles was reviewed. Funds are forthcoming for the building damage and the payments for the three vehicles is still pending.

Grace Brunner's offer to update and maintain the LVFPD website was revisited and Grace will be contacted to see when she can meet with Directors Littlefield and Walker to discuss the website management.

New Business

Brief discussion was held regarding future opportunities for the LVFPD to have ambulance billing run through Spanish Peaks Regional Health Center (SPRHC) which would save the District approximately \$5,000.00 in billing fees and benefit the SPRHC by being able to collect higher Medicaid and Medicare benefits on their ambulance runs. Director Nielsen will also research the benefits of membership in the Mountain States Employer's Council.

MSA: The meeting adjourned at 7:23 PM.



Robert L. Walker, Board Secretary

To: LVFPD Board of Directors

From: Jim Berg, Volunteer

Date: June 13, 2019 (Monthly Regular Board Meeting)

I have, over the past 4 months, struggled to reach the decision I have made and how to present it properly in a 3 minute time frame. I volunteered in 2011 with this District to serve the community we all share and to serve friends and neighbors I care about. However, the recent episode at the LVFPD Auxiliary June meeting at station 2 has made this decision actually very easy.

First a few items relating to additional reasons why I have come to my decision:

1. Volunteer survey; In short, the entire mess the District is in could have been avoided if Mr. Littlefield had followed thru with what he said to me, via email, in response to my requests for a copy of the survey comments. This is what the survey instructions said, in part, to all of us, when we took it. "The survey is designed to protect the identity/anonymity of the respondents. When the survey has been completed, compiled, and reported, the results will be shared, in total, with the department managers and members".

2. LVFPD Board meeting minutes: The fact that NONE of this mess the District is in has ever been discussed in public (that means at a properly called and recorded board meeting) is beyond belief. The District is fighting off numerous public requests for the survey comments, and incurring significant legal expenses. At the same time, while hiding under the cover of non-disclosure of public records, information NEVER made public at a LVFPD board meeting has been discussed by Mrs. Littlefield at auxiliary meetings.

3. Release of LVFPD Board meeting minutes: I understand there has been an open record request for meeting minutes before their approval at the next board meeting. I hope the District is NOT expending valuable finances for legal expenses to deny this request. Explain to whoever made the request that the policy is to release minutes after they are approved at the next meeting. If requested again, respond with an un-approved draft set, not with an attorney letter.

4. June Auxiliary Meeting at station 2; I was not at this meeting, however I am aware of what happened. The disgusting and totally uncalled for ambush on my wife Paula crosses a line that should NEVER be tolerated. I am asking that this board look into the situation and deal with the "why and how" this happened. I want to be part of whenever and however you deal with this situation.

Mr. Littlefield was incensed with me after my mild public criticism of the volunteer survey earlier this year. He has openly been after the Auxiliary to turn over donations they have received. His retaliation towards Paula and me was obviously part of why he and his wife have opted to take up District business at auxiliary meetings. This business must and has to be dealt with at a LVFPD board meeting.

Even more concerning is how Paula's medical issue was dealt with by on-site LVFPD volunteer, Mr. Littlefield. There is a simple oxygen cylinder ready for use in R3 and with our limited volunteer training the emergency should have triggered action to see that she was put on it IMMEDIATELY. Instead, the meeting continued.

So my decision; I will resign effective the first day after your next regular board meeting in July. The only action by this board that can change my resignation is for Mr. Littlefield's removal from the board for cause prior to the end of that board meeting. In the interim, I will continue to respond, as always, and get my District items ready to turn in.

The bullish, condescending, negative, and toxic actions of this board are draining the District of valuable and limited volunteers. To date, the District has lost thru retirement or resignation, a significant number of critical, and dependable volunteers. The dysfunction that this board has created needs to be fixed.