

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

MINUTES

April 11, 2019
6:00 P.M.

Present: Directors Littlefield, Nielsen, Heikes, Walker and Jameson were in attendance.
Staff: EMS Director Schmidt, District Secretary Pezze, and Acting Fire Chief Steffan,
Guests: Dave Mower, Jim Berg, Mark Brunner, Eddie Ray, Justin Jameson, Stephen Ames,
Peg Littlefield, Nancy Nielsen, Paula Berg, Ella Evans, Mickey Schmidt, Richard Pezze, Stirling Lathrop.

Call to Order – Pledge - Roll Call

The meeting was called to order, the Pledge of Allegiance was given, roll call was taken with Director Littlefield joining via telephone, until he arrived at the Fire Station. Director Nielsen presided as Chairman.

Amendments to Agenda

- LaRissa Morris presentation removed from #7 Correspondence section.
- Added "open house" to section #11, strategic plan update.

Approval of Agenda

The April 11, 2019 Agenda was approved with above corrections.

Minutes

MSA:* Minutes of the March 14, 2019 regular meeting were approved as presented.

Public Forum

- Paula Berg, representing the La Veta Fire Protection District Auxiliary presented the Volunteer of the Month Award to Firefighter Stephen Ames and thanked him for his service.
- The auxiliary plans on having its first meeting of the year, a planning session, 04/12/19 at Station #2.
- Paula informs us she is working with Eddie Ray to get materials ordered for EMT week in May and they have set up a time with the La Veta schools to do a presentation for the students.

Guests, Correspondence, and Presenters

- Jim Berg informs us with his new position with CS&WD he will no longer be able to continue doing the ISO & IAR tasks and offers his assistance, as much or as little as is wanted, to whomever takes over those responsibilities.
- Jim also mentions that CS&WD will be testing hydrants before they get into the busy season and big projects in Cuchara. They will be putting in larger pipes, buried deeper to help prevent freezing, and provide proper flow to the many new fire hydrants that will be installed.
- Director Nielson addressed concerns regarding transitioning responsibilities and relationships, stating he wants "to build a bridge between you, the Auxiliary, and members of the department to move forward. So we as a group can start operating as a cooperative group for the good of the citizens of this district. And if you are willing to help us build this bridge and get back to where we were as a cooperative agency, I applaud you and I welcome you and any effort that you want to give to this department, this board, to achieve that end."
- Director Nielsen asks everyone in the room to reflect on what they want to do and how they want to be part of this organization, to achieve the goals and ends we want to achieve. He applauds anyone who wants to be a part of that process.

Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer's Report and payments for the April 11, 2019 meeting were presented.

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

- Sec. Pezze presented financial reports detailing the use of donations for equipment received from the LVFPD Auxiliary after the Spring Creek Fire showing how that money was utilized, as requested.

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

EMT Director's Report:

- 1) 16 calls; March was a busy month with several night calls having good response. Also 2 mutual aid calls, one in Costilla County and one to Walsenburg.
- 2) Director Schmidt is working with Eddie Ray to get up to speed with responsibilities he will be taking over in May.
- 3) State grant hearing is May 9 & 10, not April. Schmidt (and possibly Pezze) will call in for it. Mark and Cindy Worgan would like to go to Denver in person.
- 4) Receipts are needed for the RETAC grant.
- 5) LVFPD Firefighter Haley Jameson has acquired her State EMS certification and submitted an application to serve as an EMT.
- 6) Regarding CPR recertification, the State is now requiring "feed-back" mannequins. We have found a package of 3 adult, 1 child, and 2 infants for \$526.00.
 - The LVFPD Auxiliary has taken a vote via email and has approved to cover the cost of these CPR training mannequins.
 - Sec. Pezze will prepare a formal letter for the request, as the Auxiliary has requested.

-The Cuchara Music Festival needs a letter (same as last year's) stating that LVFPD will provide EMT services for the Festival, with the understanding that if there is a call in the District the EMTs will still need to respond to the call.

MSA: The Board approved and signed a letter to the Huerfano County Commissioners to add Eddie Ray, in place of Malea Schmidt as the LVFPD RETAC representative.

MSA: The board approved the application of Haley Jameson as EMT.

Fire Chief Report

- 1) Fire calls in March 2019: 2 motor vehicle accidents.
- 2) Fire Trainings in April: **Wildland Fire** trainings going well, had 15 from La Veta, 6 from Gardner, and 1 from Stonewall. **Flood response** training, combined with **motor vehicle response** fire training with Dave Mower and David Steffan had 12 LV firefighters attend and 6 LV EMS. **S 130/S 190** classes are on-going, with 2 weekends and a field day so far.
- 3) April 27th **flood response and evacuation routes**, combined with **driver's training** to exercise the trucks.
- 4) Hose training rescheduled till September to allow for better weather and hopefully less mud.
- 5) The main focus lately has been the maintenance program and making sure all the apparatus are in working condition coming into the fire season. Issues having been found, and priority given to fixing the pumps on brush trucks #7621 (2004 Ford) and #6612 (2008 Ford).
- 6) Acting Chief Steffan met with Mayor Brgoch about flood evacuation sites and possible use of the generator at the evacuation site by the town of La Veta, once the generator is operational.
- 7) After the brush truck pumps, the generator work will become the next priority.
- 8) Also, Steffan informs that he has begun his full-time position with the Arkansas River Water Shed Collaborative as project manager for the Spring Creek Burn Scar Recovery. He will be working in district, but will have less time to devote to district projects.

Mechanic's Notes:

- a. Working on developing "cheat sheets" for starting pumps.
- b. Presented three bids for the slide-in unit for 6612:
 - CET Canada \$12,438.50 (includes shipping) 6 weeks out.
 - Danko of Nebraska \$8,840 +shipping \$11,102 (300gal) ***Chief's recommendation.**
 - Darley? \$10,875 \$875 shipping – also 4 weeks out

MSA: The board approved to **purchase the slide-in pump unit for 6612** from Danko of Nebraska.

-The board questions whether the Auxiliary would be willing to pay for this unit and Paula responds that the Auxiliary board would require the request in writing and would consider it.

MSA: The board approves to **put the request in writing** and that if the request should not be approved, the purchase will move forward and be paid from LVFPD funds.

MSA: The board approves to **purchase replacement pump for 2004 Ford brush truck (7621)** with a letter to the Auxiliary to request funds to pay for it, and move forward with the purchase, even if the funds come from LVFPD.

- 9) At the May 7th training session the Sangre De Cristo Hospice would like to present something to the firefighters in appreciation for their service.

Old Business

- The Strategic Plans and Goal Setting 5 Year Plan. Updated version was passed out and reviewed.
- May 25th open house, following the training session. Share mission statement, have apparatus out and ladder up. Emphasis on recruiting.
- Possibly another in Cuchara in July?
- Discussion of advertising methods for getting the word out about the open house. Word of mouth is best, but we will run an ad in the World Journal for a few weeks leading up to the event.
- Discussion about how to reach out to younger volunteers. Mickey suggests the coaches encourage volunteers from the High School. Littlefield asks Hiekes if he will take department heads to go to the school for a presentation.
- Nancy Neilson reviewed the outcome of 2/14/19 workshop – addressing results of survey monkey.
- Sale of Kodiak engine.** Acting Chief Steffan gave pros and cons collected from his staff. After much discussion the issue was put to a vote.

MSA: The board approved (3-2) to advertise the engine for sale in the World Journal, with a minimum of \$5,000, for one more month before making a final decision on the issue.

Aye: Littlefield, Walker, Nielson **No:** Jameson, Heikes

- Ron Jamison wants to look at grants to replace 6611 (1997 Ford) with a better unit.
- IGA discussions on use of the La Veta Fire Stations will continue. County officials are preoccupied with flood issues right now.
- Recap of last month: County may want to use generator and possibly Station 2 for a Sheriff's outpost? Nothing has come to us formally on this.
- Retirement Fund issues were discussed. Application period usually closes Sept. 30th, but they are not accepting applications at this time on the website. May need a workshop to determine.
- Auxiliary MOU issue tabled until after Auxiliary resumes its activities for 2019.
- The hiring of a new Fire Chief was discussed. Ron Nielson has talked to other fire departments, they recommended advertising Nationally, \$40,000 a year plus benefits. The board will address the issue again in June workshop.
- MSA:** The board approved to **hire Ella Evans for the district secretary** position at \$15.00 an hour. And revisit the wage and position in June, as additional time is needed to determine what responsibilities and hours will be required for this position once the bulk of accounting operations is turned over to Century Financial Group.
- Gravel and jersey barriers for flood protection issue was discussed. Littlefield would like the issue to be resolved before the open house, regarding gravel and regrading the grounds, so it looks nice. Directors Heikes and Jameson will remain in charge of this task and see that it gets done.
- Drone project: Littlefield and Steffan will meet and come up with a plan.
- Hot water switch for the boiler. There is a need for a switch to turn off hot water tank when not needed (does not affect the hot water available to bathroom & OPS room). Issue will remain on the list for now.
- Generator issue: needs some work to be usable for emergency situations, maintenance will work on this.
- Bylaws and revisions still pending.
- Operational improvements list. Many items addressed above.
 - Cuchara station needs some attention... roof, holes in siding and needs staining. Grounds need attention also.
 - Sec. Pezze was directed to contact the insurance carrier to look at hail damage on the La Veta Station roof and vehicles.

New Business

- *Cuchara Music Festival noted on agenda was addressed earlier in the meeting, see above.
- No other new business.

MSA: The meeting adjourned at 8:02 PM.



 James E. Littlefield, President