

La Veta Fire Station
100 Birch St
La Veta, Colorado
MINUTES

January 4, 2024 @ 6:00 pm

Present: Directors Schmidt, Alt, Brunner and Valdez were in attendance. Lacey was absent.

Staff: EMS Director Mower and Administrative Assistant Passarelli was in attendance.

Guests: Brian Jameson, Justin Jameson, and Lukas Dearmin were in attendance. Haley

Jameson, Laura Jameson, Christina Guadagnoli, and Sue Alt joined via ZOOM

Call to Order - Pledge - Roll Call

Approval of Agenda

*MSA

Minutes

*MSA

Public Forum

- No Comments

Guests, Correspondence, and Presenters

- 2 Thank You letters to Dave Mower. One came with a \$500 Donation. Schmidt; We need to send them a thank you letter for the donation. Alt: We also got a \$500 donation from Tri-State. We need to get them a thank you letter also. Schmidt: I will contact Don and see who we send the thank you letter to.

Treasurer's Report (Report given in packet)

- Schmidt: Refresh my memory on these. Aren't checks given out monthly? Alt: Certain portions of them are given out primarily for EMS Transports. This is for all the responses for EMS non-transport calls, Fire calls and training. Valdez: Why are they year-end incentives? Why do some people have more than 1 check? Alt: There are certain people who received transport payments for the month. You are right, it is not just year-end incentives, it's transports and regular payroll.

*MSA

Fire Chief Report (Report given in packet)

- Alt: B. Jameson, do you know how much the 8 new tires for T11 will cost? B. Jameson: I have not gotten quotes yet. The tires are aged so I feel it's something we need to look into. Alt: The fact that we just got that vehicle right? B. Jameson: I'm not sure how long the department has had that vehicle. Brunner: Are you talking about the white tinter? B. Jameson: Yes Brunner: The State owned it for a while before we got it. Mower: I think it was about 3 years ago. Brunner: I think it was longer than that. We had it during the fire. Mower: It's been here as long as I have been here. B. Jameson: It's been part of the department for quite a while. When the department acquired it was about 3yrs ago.

Mower: When we actually owned it was 3 years ago. Schmidt: So, you are estimating \$5000 to \$6000 for those tires? B. Jameson: That is probably a little high.

• Sink in the main room. Brunner: We put new cartridges in the sink, so it is working now.

• Door Lock. Brunner: This is still Houston. Alt: Have we had any news from Houston? Brunner: I have talked with Ernie from Houston and they are still waiting for parts.

• Alt: Do you know why the lights are on in the engine bay? B. Jameson: We are walking into things at night. Alt: So, intentionally we are leaving them on, and why are we doing this? J. Jameson: It's easier when we show up at night, we don't have to stop and wait for the motion light to come on. They are already on, and we can get going much faster. It's for our safety coming in in the middle of the night. Alt: Is there a better way to do it? B. Jameson: Put a light switch by the door. Mower: We talked about that once and it was going to be expensive. B. Jameson: If there was a light switch by the door, that would be perfect. Right now, the only door that leads to the light switch is broken. Alt: Understand. Schmidt: Can we turn on just part of them? B. Jameson: There are 4 days, and we only leave 1 on.

EMS Director's Report (Report given in packet)

• Power cot in R3; Mower: we are waiting for Stryker to come look at it. Alt: Is it under warranty? Mower: I don't think so, it's been more than a year. I have not gotten a call back from Stryker, so I don't know. Alt: the reason I am asking is because a couple of months ago they recalled the power packs. The charging pack for LifePacks. H. Jameson: This is a routine maintenance issue, so the warranty won't matter. The problem is with the actual mechanism, not the power pack. Sometimes when it's cold the lift mechanism doesn't work right, so we need them to trouble shoot it. Mower: As far as the power supply for the LifePack, I knew nothing about that. If you have any information on that, I need to see that. Alt: It was simply a matter of a notice we received stating if you have a power pack in this serial number range. We sent them something back saying yes. Mower: So, it's been handled then. Alt: It's been responded to.

• QMC Billing: Alt: You said that somebody or bodies haven't submitted attestations. Mower: I take that back; E. Ray owes us 9 or 12 Attestations. Alt: Is it just E. Ray, or does M. Ray owe some too? Mower: M. Ray has remitted hers. E. Ray has not. He did the first batch but has not done the second batch. Valdez: is E. Ray the only one? Mower: J. McNett has a couple and I think I have 1 for F. Brunner. I will put her attestation in M. Brunner's box. I still have some that are pending. Valdez: Do you need us to contact him? Mower: I sent him another email, but I have not received a response. I sent another email with the forms attached yesterday. Valdez: Jim or Mark, can you get ahold of E. Ray. This is tying revenue up. Mower: J. McNett will not respond to me. Alt: E. Ray has 9?? Mower: he has 8 exactly. Alt: Can we hold off submitting PRC's for billing so we can transition to SDW? Do you have time on Wednesday so we can go over SDW? Mower: The 10th? Brunner: Correct, midday is good. Alt: 1pm? Mower: Yes, I can make that work.

• RETAC: Schmidt: are we on the agenda with the county commissioners for the RETAC Appointees? Mower: Did we ever draft a letter? Schmidt: I thought we were already on the

Administrator's Report:

agenda. Mower: No, we need the letter first. Schmidt: Who is going to draft the letter? Passarelli: I will draft the letter. Schmidt: Draft it and let me know when to come sign it.

- Bylaws; Alt: I know it's a nitpick, but the address is still our old one on Main Street. Schmidt: if everyone is ok, let's have Passarelli fix the address. Everyone agreed.
- Big R Account; Permission to cut the 13 people who can charge down to 4. Ron Jameson, Dave Mower, Brian Jameson and Mickey Schmidt. Alt: I would think we might want to add in addition to Mower another EMS person in case Mower isn't around. Valdez: So, we are going to add another EMS person? Alt: Well, that's my thought but, I know Mower doesn't agree. Mower: We are all one department. H. Jameson: As long as B. Jameson is on there for maintenance, I don't think it should matter. Mower: I don't think there is anything that EMS would need different than fire as far as Big R is concerned.
- Motion to cut down the list from 13 to 4. The 4 being Ron Jameson, Dave Mower, Brian Jameson and Mickey Schmidt made by Valdez. Second by Alt. Motion Carried.
- Hours: Schmidt: We need to have something in place to say it's ok for you to work from home. Are we going to entertain her working from home. Valdez: I would entertain that if you communicated with Mickey and a courtesy to contact Jim also. Alt: I agree that Passarelli should be able to work from home as needed. Schmidt: I know things come up. Brunner: I would suggest that Alt be in that loop so it's not all on Schmidt. Schmidt: if someone is notified and will say yes, that takes the responsibility of giving the permission. Valdez: I would make the motion that it would be Schmidt because you have a good handle on that situation. I don't want to get into trouble like we have before. I make the motion that you be contacted, and she contacts Alt. Second made by Alt. Brunner: Restate that again. Schmidt: The motion is that work from home could be approved on a case-by-case basis approved by the Chairman. Brunner: Just for discussion. I think it's rough when you just have everything on you. So, I would just say Chairman and Alt if you can't get a hold of both. I just think there is a little more discussion. I think when you have just one person that things can be construed. Valdez: Sometimes with 2 people things can be construed. Brunner: I'm just thinking with 2 people it would be better for Schmidt and Passarelli. Alt: We can make a motion that Passarelli can first contact Schmidt, if she can't get a hold of him, then she contacts Alt. because it could be an emergency. Valdez: That's true. I'm ok with that. Schmidt: The motion is work at home approved on a case-by-case basis to be approved with notification to Schmidt or Alt. made by Valdez. Second by Alt. Motion Carried. Schmidt: this needs to be documented and added to her personnel file. Passarelli will type it up and Schmidt will sign. I will also ask that Passarelli update the website to reflect the office business hours.
- Website; Valdez: Do we have the personnel updated on the website yet? Passarelli: I have updated the board. I will get with Jameson and get the volunteers updated. Valdez: It's in process? Passarelli: Yes.
- Provident Insurance; Alt: Are they trying to bill us? Passarelli: No, they want us to update our information. Brunner: I can get you some details on it. We can bring it to the board next month.

- SAM; Alt: which one are you looking at? Passarelli: It's for the Federal Grants. Alt: Be aware because they are fishing for information. This is a scam. This is not official. You are asking for help from E. Ray to know when and what is the right sender. J. Jameson: It's the SAM.gov. Passarelli: That is the website that I was given. It is still tied to E. Ray's cell phone number. It is set to send E. Ray a text message to verify the account. Brunner: No, I believe it is set up for the Chief's cell number. J. Jameson: You should ask R. Jameson. I believe he has it fixed and all set up. Brunner: I believe that is correct. Passarelli: I will get with R. Jameson and figure out what needs to be done.
- Audit Exemption for 2023; Schmidt: Let's have a motion to apply for the Audit Exemption for 2023. Motion to apply for the Audit Exemption for 2023 made by Brunner. Second by Alt. Motion carried.

Old Business

- a. Billing Companies; Brunner: We will get a lot of that done on Wednesday when we meet with Mower. One piece we need is the updated Mutual Aid Agreement. Schmidt: I remember from the last meeting that we were all supposed to sit down and look at the Mutual Aid Agreement. It was supposed to be sent around for everyone to look at. Is there anything that you think we need to look at or go over? Mutual Aid needs to be changed to Spanish Peaks Ambulance and Huerfano County Emergency needs to be removed. Put this on the agenda for the next meeting.
- b. Identifying Auditors for 2024; We have already discussed this one.
- c. Coordinated Election Calendar; Schmidt: We need to have time to talk about what we want to ask the public for. Do we want to schedule a workshop? January or February? Alt: I would like to see it the day before our next board meeting. Brunner: February 7th Valdez: we are having a discussion as a board? Schmidt: What we want to put on the ballot as mill levy increase, how much, under what conditions, what other things and issues we are going to get into with asking for a mill levy increase. Valdez: Do we need an attorney for participation in that workshop. Schmidt: I don't think so, initially. We just need to decide what we want to do. Then we ask the attorney for help on accomplishing it. Alt: The first step is for us to get together. Valdez: Can we do it at a regular board meeting? Schmidt: We can, but I am anticipating that it's going to be a long discussion. A longer discussion than we want to get into one of these meetings. Alt: I think it's going to be at least an hour. Which would cause this meeting to go on for an extra hour. Schmidt: February 7th at 6pm? Everyone agreed. Alt: Do we want to line Miller up for a future date to start discussions with him. Schmidt: I think at the workshop we can discuss that. He will probably just turn that over to his staff.

New Business

- a. Resolutions; Schmidt: We need to read them out loud. They all need a number. Alt: These go to DOLA. DOLA tracks them by number. Schmidt: Let's use 2024-01 Brunner: I think we should do the next as 01. Historically we used 01 as January and then a number. So 2024-01-01 Schmidt: I think we can just do them sequentially. 01, 02, etc.
- 2024-01 Certification of the Mill Levy for 2024. Motion to adopt Resolution 2024-01 made by Brunner. Second by Alt. Motion Carried.
- 2024-02 Adoption of the 2024 Budget. Motion to Adopt Resolution 2024-02 made by Alt. Second by Brunner. Alt: I just want to point out by law I am projecting revenues

of \$357,811 and Expenses \$357,356, which shows a net income of \$455. Motion

Carried.

- 2024-03 Appropriating Money for the 2024 Budget Year. Motion to Adopt Resolution 2024-03 made by Ait. Second by Brunner. Schmidt: I do have one item of discussion. Should this be broken down to EMS & Fire? Ait: It never has. We only have one general account. Mower: We are all one department. Motion Carried.

● b. Tabor Schedule: Already spoke about.

● c. Community Room; Ait: There have been comments and requests of that nature

to make some changes to the community room. Before we launch into making changes, spending money, pulling permits and that sort of thing, I think it would be prudent for the board to set up a committee to look at how we maintain, expand, and modify our facilities. I'm not trying to impede anyone's progress, but I do have a concern that there are some activities that are going on that will basically cause us to have monies almost promised before we the board have a chance to look and see that we really want to dedicate that amount of money to whatever somebody is trying to do. I know that the auxiliary is doing good things trying to set up a kitchen in the community room. I applaud them for that. But I also think we need to look at that systematically. Look and see what it is that they want to do. What they need to do. I believe we need to look at the drawings and I think we will have to come up with modified drawings to achieve their goals. Of course, all this takes money. My suggestion would be a committee so one person isn't the czar. To do things right we need to do it in the proper order. We need to make sure we take everything into consideration that needs to be taken in consideration not just launch off and start committing funds. Schmidt: Not knowing anything more about it than what you just said. Whatever the original plans were for that part of the building. If we want to change that, that's one thing. Over time since we have been here, do we see things that we would want different or not. What would this board want in the finishing out of that room? Now if we have input, I think we take input from anybody. If people have ideas for the use of that space, then I agree with you. Ultimately this board will have to approve a development scenario for that space. Then whoever wants to finance any of that or contribute toward that then they will know what the board has decided to do with that space. If the Auxiliary has an idea for something that would really benefit, I don't see a problem in the world taking their suggestions and running with that. Ait: The complicating factor is that portion of the building was never finished. Of course, there were some modifications made to that. It's not easy to just plunk a room into that larger room and wall it off. Then say ok, now there's your space. Schmidt: That's what I'm talking about. We need to decide, is the original plan what we want to stick with, or do we want to change it. If so, what's it going to cost. That will be something this board will figure out. Then we put that out there and see if anybody is interested in participating. J. Jameson: The original plan with the Auxiliary was taking the last set of plans when it was built and finishing the entire room as designed. With the bathroom in the front and everything that was originally laid out. Not changing it. Not making a room here or there. If my memory serves me right, this has been mentioned before that the auxiliary was making this is the intent for the money. I'm just curious why now this is a big concern. Ait: Because your dad told me that permits were being pulled. So, the next logical step is that some engineer, electrician, or carpenters will be coming in to do some work. Where is the money coming from? J. Jameson: The Auxiliary is going to pay for it. Schmidt: There is only one group who can pull a permit for this building and here it is. Let's get that figured out right now. The Auxiliary has no authority or standing to pull a

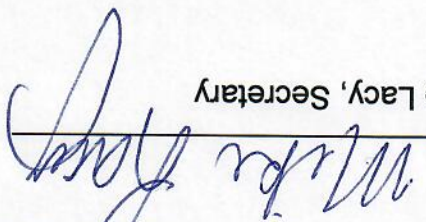
building permit. J. Jameson: They are not pulling the permit. The only thing that has been done by the Auxiliary is a refrigerator and a stove was purchased. They are sitting in the room if anyone would like to look at them. Schmidt: I don't know what the original plans for that room were, but I do agree if we are in the mode of finishing that out then this board needs to have a discussion. Is that going to be just per the original plan or are we going to do something else. I think that is a legitimate discussion. Then if we want to do something else or there seems to be a need for it, I don't see any problem getting input from everybody and see what you think. I think we are all on the same page, we want to finish it. J. Jameson: It should have been done when the building was built. Schmidt: Well, it should have been, but it wasn't. That predates most of us. All we can do is go forward. I'm fine with putting together a committee. This board would be a very small committee. Alt: I used the word committee, but I didn't necessarily mean all the board members. Maybe a couple of board members, couple of members of the Auxiliary and whoever else wants to participate. Schmidt: I would encourage all of us to look at those plans. See what we think. Anybody who wants to serve on that committee. I definitely will be on it. I was under the impression that that it was a bigger deal to finish that out than it's going to be. If the Auxiliary does have things that they would want to do or see a better use of that space, we certainly will entertain their ideas. They are the most experienced at putting on events in that room. Alt: I would like to approach it a little bit differently. I would like to approach it like the Auxiliary is the one who is leading the charge. I would like them to come up with an operations concept. Or a statement of need, or something that formalizes what it is they want, what it is they would like to have. In black and white. Then we go from there. What kind of cooling do they need? What kind of heating would they need? What kind of AC? Schmidt: We have the opportunity to do that right now. We have the opportunity to build as per need. If the Auxiliary has ideas along those lines, let's discuss it. Maybe we can't afford everything we would like to do. Alt: Let me point out, there is nothing in the budget for next year. Schmidt: We are going to be looking at raising funds above and beyond our budget. Alt: Or volunteer labor. Schmidt: It's going to have to be at zero cost to the district. That doesn't mean we can't have a plan and put it out there to the public. Who knows how many may want to contribute to this. Valdez: Can we consider this to a Mill Levy? Schmidt: We can. Yes, that could be part of the discussion. Valdez: Since we are going to talk about the Mill Levy on the 7th, can we talk about that room space too? Schmidt: I don't have any problems fitting that in on the 7th. Maybe the Auxiliary wants that finished like it is. J. Jameson: That is the consensus. The way the plans are, would serve their needs. B. Jameson: Since we have been holding larger trainings. Having that open floor plan would be beneficial to keep doing the big training sessions. Valdez: It just seems appropriate since we are talking about our Mill Levy, we can look at the big picture and see what Auxiliary wants to do. Then do they have enough to do it, or do we need a little bit more. Schmidt: All I know is what they announced at the Christmas party was they had enough funds to finish that room. Brunner: Schmidt, let me know what you want to come over and I will walk you through the plans and the system. Passarelli: If the Auxiliary has the money to do it, they are not asking the district for any money, right? J. Jameson: No, we are not asking the district for any money. Valdez: But we don't know how much money the Auxiliary has raised to work on it. J. Jameson: They have a fair chunk of money to get quite a way to the finish. Valdez: I would like to hear again what they want to do. What the original intent was and talk about it. We need to be involved. Schmidt: We know that their intent is the original plan. Valdez: What's our intent? We need to look at it sooner than later. Schmidt: This board needs to workshop

that and decide so we know what we need to put out to the Auxiliary and potential donors that might want to help finish that. Do we want to schedule another time to talk about this? Valdez: Why not schedule it for the 7th? We can meet at 5pm. Schmit: Everyone agrees, we will meet at 5pm on February 7th to go over the plans to finish the community room, then we will discuss the Mill Levy.

- d. Firehouse Grants Invoice; Schmit: My opinion is that we don't pay this till we find out what they did. Valdez: I support that. Alt: I find it odd that they have this billed as the initial deposit. Schmit: I don't remember it being \$1000. I am sure it was \$500. Passarelli can you do some research on when this was first started in the minutes and see what they have done for this bill. Let's find the documentation. Brunner: I think it will be interesting because AFG closed in November for 2023. For sure they closed before December 31st. Schmit: I will see what they reply to my email. We will discuss this again at our next meeting.

Executive Session – not needed.

*** MSA:** The meeting adjourned at 7:56 pm


Mike Lacy, Secretary