

**LA VETA FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT**  
**La Veta Community Center**

**MINUTES**

October 8, 2015

6:00 P.M.

Present: Directors Brunner, White, Nielsen, and Shroul were in attendance. Director Littlefield attended via teleconference.

Staff: Fire Chief DeTray, EMS Director Schmidt, WMS Manager Branson and District Secretary Pezze.

Guests: Asst. Chief Mower, Kim DeTray and Mickey Schmidt. Brian Risley, CRP Architects, was also in attendance through the initial portion of the meeting.

**Call to Order**

The Pledge of Allegiance was given and Director Brunner welcomed the public.

**Minutes**

**MSA:** \* Minutes of the Sept. 10, 2015 regular meeting were approved as presented.

**Public Comments**

None.

**Correspondence**

None.

**Treasurer's Report**

**MSA:** The Treasurer's Report and payments for the October 8, 2015 meeting were presented and approved.

**New Station Owner's Representative Report**

Brian Risley, CRP Architects, advised that the new Station construction is progressing. The underground plumbing has been inspected by the Colorado State Inspector and is in the process of being backfilled. The underground electrical is scheduled to start the week of October 12, 2015. The metal building components have been delivered and stored on Town of La Veta property. The Town has been added to H.W. Houston's insurance policy as an Additional Named Insured for that exposure. Installation of conduit for phone and internet connections is being coordinated. The completion date is still on schedule for the third week in January 2016. The application for Town utilities should be approved at the Town Trustee's meeting on Oct. 20<sup>th</sup>. Director Brunner and Brian Risley will attend that meeting to field any questions from the Mayor and Trustees. In regard to the electrical light fixture package it was decided to purchase the fixtures for the community room also, even though the interior of that room will not be finished at this time.

Regarding the sand and oil interceptor the Town is recommending and requiring a 1,500 gallon tank in lieu of the currently proposed 1,000 gallon tank. The larger tank and the change order involved will have a total additional cost of \$1,386.00.

**MSA:** The Board approved the change order to increase the sand and oil interceptor tank to 1,500 gallon capacity. Total cost of the change order is \$1,386.00.

**Wildfire Mitigation Service (WMS) Report**

Paul Branson discussed his WMS report and fielded questions from Board Directors regarding his mitigation operations, the railroad Emergency Response Plan and other projects. A copy of that report is attached to these minutes. In regard to the issues with Cucharas Water and Sant. District (C.S. & W.D.) hydrant testing, it was decided that LVFPD Board President Brunner will have a conversation with C.S. & D.W. Board President Art Pierce advising that the LVFPD will send a letter outlining concerns with the conditions of the Cucharas hydrant system.

Paul presented his requests for changes to the mitigation operation, and a copy is attached to these minutes. Paul's first request was to allow WMS to retain the 25% revenue currently paid to the District for the daily equipment rents.

**MSA:** The Board approved the WMS program retaining the 25% equipment rents previously paid to LVFPD. Effective date is January 1, 2015 and \$2,676.34 will be refunded to the WMS funding.

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

A discussion was held in regard to Paul's second request of being able to solicit local residents for direct donations to the mitigation program. Director White stated that donations should be received and disbursed in coordination with Board priorities. Director Shroul concluded the conversation by stating that if arbitrary and unsolicited donation funds come into the District, and are earmarked for a specific item or program, the funds will go to that purpose. If funds are solicited for a specific program without the approval of the Board, that is not acceptable. Funds should be solicited for the LVFPD District and the Board determines funding for projects through the budgeting process.

Paul's third request for dismissing the SOP six month residency for his mitigation crew, especially seasonal crew members, was discussed. The Board concurred that the Fire Dept. and EMS Dept. residency will remain the same and the mitigation crew determination can be handled on a case by case basis, as recommended by Paul.

Paul opted to not address the fourth request.

### **Fire Chief Report**

- 1) 3 fire calls: Report of semi on fire on Hwy. 160 (smoking brakes), 1 MVA on Bear & Blue Lakes road with multiple patients, Wildland fire on Teddy's Peak east of Bear Lake (handled by government agency).
- 2) 2 trainings sessions: Sept 1 hose testing with 12 FFs and 3 Jr. FFs. Sept. 19 hose testing with 9 FFs and 1 Jr. FF.
- 3) Drivers Training for Fire and EMS is scheduled for Oct. 29, 2015.
- 4) Will work with Paul Branson and Jim Berg on C.S. & W.D. hydrant deficiencies.
- 5) Working with Paul of WMS.
- 6) Updated Asst. Chief Mower with Fire Dept. radio and pager changes.
- 7) Presented recommendations for Firefighter Physical Examinations that will hopefully be coordinated with Spanish Peaks Regional Health Center for volunteer health screenings. The current list asks for complete health history, vision screening, hearing screening, physical exam to include reflexes and back test for lifting, lab tests to include, CBC, CMP, UA, cholesterol screening, and cancer screening, 12 lead EKG, chest X-Ray and drug testing. The examinations will help determine a base-line health picture and possible limitations.

Director Nielsen asked that Chief DeTray prioritize the list and he will discuss the program with SPRHC, C.E.O. Todd Oberhue. Director Nielsen stated this could be a good community involvement project.

- 8) The October 17<sup>th</sup> fire training will be dedicated to developing a concise volunteer gear and equipment inventory.
- 9) The Operations Meetings are now scheduled for the first Wednesday of each month.
- 10) The annual flow testing on the Self Controlled Breathing Apparatus (SCBA) packs resulted in failure of 3 packs out of the current 14 packs in operation.

Chief DeTray presented a proposal for purchasing 18, used S.C.B.A. air packs that includes a 30 minute cylinder with each pack. R.O.I. Fire & Ballistics Equipment quoted \$15,300.00 for the 18 air packs. John Wickersheim with MSA has stated that he will provide 10 spare SCBA masks on a 'permanent loan' basis. Discussion ensued regarding which budget line the purchase will come from and if there will be additional purchase requests to the end of the year. Due to the long life of the packs it was decided to make the \$15,300.00 purchase out of the Capital Reserve Account. The Board reiterated to Chief DeTray the need to plan and budget for future capital reserve purchases though multi-year plans.

**MSA:** The Board approved purchasing the 18 used SCBAs from R.O.I. as quoted at \$15,300.00.

### **EMS Report**

1. 16 EMS calls with 12 patients transported and no transfers. Sept. 24<sup>th</sup> training session with Jeff Torr on capnography and Eddie Ray on High Plains reporting.
2. EMSAC Conference will be held Nov. 5 to 8, 2015 in Keystone and 4 EMTs will attend. Sherry Mann will use Huerano County RETAC funds to reimburse EMSAC registration and room expenses.
3. EMS Director Schmidt attended RETAC in Pueblo on Sept. 17<sup>th</sup> and learned that some Basic Life Support (BLS) agencies will not be considered for heart monitors in the upcoming State grant cycle. Accordingly, some of those BLS agencies may be interested in purchasing the LVFPD's used LP12 monitor.
4. Albert Encina is making payments on his EMT class repayment obligation.
5. Darcy St. Peter has signed her tuition agreement for her EMT – Intermediate class.
6. Took Rescue 1 (2009 Dodge amb.) to Town and Country in Alamosa for two recall issues. Dave Mower reset the air dump system on the ambulance box after returning from Alamosa. Rescue 2 (1999 Ford amb.) had oil, lube, alignment, and tire rotation completed at La Veta Oil.

7. Annual ambulance inspections are scheduled for October 23.
8. Working with Enhanced Management Services, the ambulance transport billing company, in regard to collection statements and letters sent to past due accounts. It was decided to use their 'soft billing' collection format where delinquent accounts will not receive collection threats on invoices. All accounts are to be reviewed and approved by Director Schmidt prior to being written off or sent to the collection agency.
9. Working on CO EMS grant considerations. The grant application is due in February 2016.  
Director Brunner asked EMS Director Schmidt to look ahead to possibly changing companies for the patient care reporting and updating current computers. Director Schmidt stated that she doesn't think that there are any reporting systems that are highly recommended but will look at vendors and ask other agencies for their opinions at EMSAC.
10. Working on the billing for the EMS transfer of an elderly woman, from a broken down ambulance on La Veta Pass, to Monte Vista.
11. Working on setting up an account for purchasing EMS supplies from Henry Schein Inc. They are the company now participating in the discount EMS purchasing program. Bound Tree Medical was the previous participant.

#### **Old Business**

The preliminary 2016 Budget was presented. The budget will be revised and discussed again at the November 12<sup>th</sup>, 2015 meeting and approved and adopted at the regular December 10, 2015 meeting. The Huerfano County Assessed Valuation for the current year is \$35,086,931. and LVFPD property tax revenue in 2016 will be \$207,118.00. This is a decrease of \$8,744.00 from the 2015 property tax revenue. Attention will be given to increasing the utility allowances for the new Fire Station's electricity, propane and water and sewer expenses.

Director Brunner presented a template of the Drug and Alcohol policy that he received from Dino Ross, Atty. with the law firm of Ireland Stapleton Pryor & Pascoe, P.C. The policy will be reviewed and discussed at the next regular meeting.

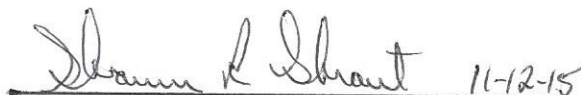
#### **New Business**

**MSA:** The Board agreed to retire to executive session at 8:42 PM for the purpose of negotiations per C.R.S. 24-6-402(4)(e).

The Board returned from executive session at 9:30 PM.

**MSA:** The Board advised that there will be a Special Meeting on Monday, October 12, 2015 at 4:00 PM at the La Veta Fire Station office. Purpose of the meeting will be to meet with Huerfano County Commissions and Administrator to discuss the LVFPD's participation in the County's recently awarded FEMA and Colorado, Division of Natural Resources mitigation grants.

**MSA:** The meeting adjourned at 9:31 PM.

 11-12-15

## **LVFPD Wildfire Mitigation Service-Monthly Report for 10/08/15**

### **RR ERP**

- No developments in September

### **PIPs**

-Compiled an estimate of time required to complete ISO review and update of pre-incident plans. I will have a very general guess to Chief Detray shortly. What I do not know, nor have the time to figure out this year, is exactly how many new businesses are present.

### **HYDRANT TESTING**

-Scheduling and planning was completed with LV Water and Maint personnel. Today (10/01/15) roughly one quarter of the CSWD hydrants were tested (or at least the attempt was made). We determined that a very high percentage (25%) of tested hydrants were completely inoperable, while several others require additional attention to either the hydrant or its immediate surroundings. While inspired by the continued effective collaboration with LV Water/Maint, we are very concerned by the results of today's testing. We will compile our results and present this information to CSWD. We also recommend continued testing in key areas of concern, especially the village area and are formulating a way to do this ourselves (without requiring LV water/maint). Tomorrow we will test the La Veta hydrants.

### **WILDFIRE MITIGATION SERVICE**

-Defensible Space work continued with work focusing on the Wahatoya Canyon (Little Kansas) WUI. Client contacts have lessened as more folks return home. Email correspondence still high.

-I have determined that the vast majority of the DNR grant was used as a match on the FEMA. Subsequently, all DNR-WRRG work has halted pending clarification of the exact amount still available for implementation. Meanwhile, the WMS has shifted over to other projects. In particular, work has resumed at the Red Hill project and will soon begin on the Red Hill Expansion along Bend Creek. We have shifted from 5 days to 4 per week (about a month earlier than last year).

-Significant work has been consolidated regarding Recruitment/Retention needs for the WMS and the district as a whole. As directed, I have investigated points of restriction that impede expansion, as well as a couple other items that I believe provide unnecessary challenges to normal operations. A synopsis of this topic will be made available next week along with a few clear cut requests for the BOD.

-Considerable work has been directed toward negotiating the particular manner of roll out for the FEMA grant award and assessing all its' potential consequences. This is revealing itself to be a complex

process. The exact nature of the challenge will be addressed in executive session at the next board meeting.

-I expect feedback shortly from the CSFS regarding two projects and their grant application status. These grants/projects are the Black Hole Shaded Fuel Break in Panadero WUI and the Spanish Peaks Shaded Fuel Break.

-USFS consultants have returned from western fires. The USFS will be working several prescribed fires this fall/winter and WMS personnel are expecting to participate again on these exercises. This is important live fire experience and also provides the opportunity for completing NWCG task book assignments. I have proposed a final Core Team mtg with CWPP partners on or around Nov. 19 to review the final CWPP Expansion and talk of USFS plans for our district.

**Other projects worked on in September and/or continuing this month:**

-LVFPD CWPP—Moderate progress on WUI “To-Do” lists and proposed project areas. Minor adjustments are being made to the WUI Tactical maps.

-MAJORS RANCH CWPP—Minor movement on this project in September as the MRPOA core group restructures. Some work completed to help them prepare for their annual Firewise Day

-FIREWISE COMMUNITIES/USA—A Firewise Communities introductory meeting was held for residents living in the Wahatoya Valley (along CR 360 & 363). This program has been well received by this WUI and a Neighborhood Assessment is scheduled with Mark Loveall (CSFS) for Oct 10.

-EVACUATION TRIGGER MAP and DRILL- A request for the Trigger map for the Cuchara area WUIs was submitted to USFS.

-RED HILL PROJECT- Photo documentation is occurring for Red Hill post-treatment and Red Hill Expansion pre-treatment. Marking of the Red Hill expansion will beginning this week.

-Continued advocating for crew opportunities with active fire. Basically this is focused on prescribed burns for the Fall and Winter and uses the WMS network with USFS. For one reason or another, no LVFPD crew was dispatched to federal fires this season. Hopefully next season, our district can actually field an apparatus and crew.