

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

**MINUTES**

November 12, 2015  
6:00 P.M.

Present: Directors Brunner, White, Nielsen, Littlefield and Shrout were in attendance.  
Staff: Fire Chief DeTray, EMS Director Schmidt and District Secretary Pezze.  
Guests: Asst. Chief Mower, Kim DeTray, Cheryle Johnston, Jim Berg, Paula Berg, Vinny Ozzello and Tucker Shrout. Louis Nazario and Ernie Garcia from H.W. Houston Construction Co. were 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 October 8, 2015 regular meeting were approved as presented.

**MSA:** Minutes of the October 12, 2015 special meeting were approved as presented.

**Public Comments**

Paula Berg, LVFPD Auxiliary, advised that the improvements at the Cuchara Stn. are continuing. The tile installation in the conference room is complete and needs to be grouted. The cabinet installation will be next. The Song of Pueblo fundraiser in October netted \$4,400.00. The annual Volunteer Christmas Party will be held on December 13<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 PM at the La Veta Community Center. The Board, volunteers and audience expressed their appreciation to Paula and the Auxiliary for their continued help and support.

**Correspondence**

A note of appreciation was read from Irina Zhuravsky. She expressed her gratitude to the firefighters and others who helped locate her after she became lost while hiking in the West Peak area.

**Treasurer's Report**

**MSA:** The Treasurer's Report and payments for the November 12, 2015 meeting were presented and approved.

A spreadsheet outlining the incentive reward payment checks for call and training responses from November 1, 2014 to October 31, 2015 was presented and reviewed.

**MSA:** The Board approved increasing the amount that differentiates standard expenses from capitalized expenditures to a new limit of \$5,000.00 effective January 1, 2015.

**New Station Owner's Representative Report**

Louis Nazario and Ernie Garcia from H.W. Houston Construction addressed the Board and gave a progress report on the new Fire Station construction. The foundation and under flooring work of installing draining gravel, vapor barrier, insulation, reinforcing steel and in-floor heating tubes is complete. The first half of the concrete slab has been poured and the remaining half will be completed on Saturday, November 14<sup>th</sup>. The first steel columns have been installed on the north and south sides of the building with the remainder to be installed at a later date. Erection of the roof trusses will be the next step of the construction. Louis presented a construction schedule and advised that the completion date has been moved back to early February, 2016 in lieu of the previous January 23<sup>rd</sup> date. The interior color committee will consist of Chief David and Kim DeTray, EMS Director Schmidt and Sec. Pezze. The light fixture package also needs to be ordered. Brian Risley had supplied a contingency tabulation showing that the lowest bidder's price for the package is now \$22,538.00. \$12,000.00 had been budgeted and the additional \$10,538.00 will need to come out of the contingency reserve. The price includes the fixtures for the community room also. Those fixtures will be stored until that room's interior is finished at a later date.

**MSA:** The Board approved ordering the light fixture package for \$22,538.00 and reducing the contingency by \$10,538.00 for the purchase.

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



### **Wildfire Mitigation Service (WMS) Report**

Paul Branson was not in attendance, due to illness, but had submitted his WMS report earlier via email. A copy of that report is attached to these minutes. Director White advised the Board that, in regard to the FEMA mitigation grant with Huerfano County, John Galusha, County Adm., is developing a Memorandum of Understanding that will need to be approved by both the County and LVFPD before activities can commence.

### **EMS Report**

1. 14 EMS calls with 5 patients transported and no transfers. One training class with Jeff Torr on case reviews, one class with Dr. Weber on AHA guidelines and case reviews, one driving safety training with Chief DeTray and four EMTs attending EMSAC Conference in Keystone, CO. EMTs attending EMSAC were Director Schmidt, Eddie Ray, Jake Thomsen and Tyler Schmidt.
2. Jared Ray and Albert Encina continue to make payments on their EMT class training reimbursement obligation.
3. Ambulance inspections were completed on October 23 and all units passed. Rescue 3 (1992 Chev.) needs to have its siren repaired. It is currently working intermittently.
4. Will present the ambulance renewal application to the County Commissioners later in November.
5. Huerfano County Fair Board has approved housing Rescue 2 (2009 Ford) at the 4-H barn again this winter.
6. Will attend RETAC meeting week of Nov. 16<sup>th</sup>.
7. EMSAC conference was very interesting for the attendees and good training was gleaned, especially in regard to illegal drugs and marijuana additives that are being used.
8. There was a lengthy, complicated, ATV rollover rescue call on Indian Creek Train - Raspberry Mtn. on October 14<sup>th</sup>. The patient was air lifted out by a National Guard helicopter. Director Schmidt advised that she has sent information to the EMS billing company to see if they can send a bill to recoup a portion of the LVFPD expenses.
9. Presented an estimate for purchasing an air bag lift system valued at \$6,770.00. The air bag system is currently included on the proposed application for the Huerfano County Federal Mineral Lease District (HCFMLD) grant, which will be submitted on November 13, 2015.

The Board explained that 20% of the scoring on the HCFMLD is based upon its award being used as matching funds for another grant. Scoring and likelihood of receiving HCFMLD funds for a straight out grant would be severely decreased unless the application includes using HCFMLD funds as match on an additional, outside-of-District funding source, grant. Discussion ensued regarding requesting the air bags on the Colorado Dept. of Public Health & Environment EMS (CO EMS) grant application (50/50 match) in February, 2016. This would be possible due to the HCFMLD's six month provision. There is a possibility of receiving \$5,000.00 from the HCFMLD funding. In the event that the CO EMS grant is not granted, the LVFPD could contact HCFMLD and request revisions. After a brief recess to discuss revising the HCFMLD grant application, EMS Director Schmidt and Fire Chief DeTray proposed the following action: 1) The CO EMS grant application will request \$7,000.00 for the purchase of an air bag system and \$12,000.00 for purchasing rescue ropes and equipment, total purchase cost and grant request will be \$19,000.00. This is a 50/50% match grant. 2) Chris Hudson will revise the HCFMLD grant application will request \$5,000.00 to be applied to the \$9,500.00 match after CO EMS funds are used. 3) Paula Berg advised that the LVFPD Auxiliary would be able to contribute the remaining \$4,500.00 due on the total purchase.

**MSA:** The Board approved authorizing the Operational Directors to submit a grant application (or two) to the HCFMLD with one grant as outlined below. The roll call vote was Director Brunner "Aye", Director Littlefield "Aye", Director Nielsen "Aye", Director Shrout "Aye" and Director White abstained from voting.

Breakdown of approximate funding is:	Air Bag System	\$7,000.00	+	Rescue Equip.	\$12,000.00	=	\$ 19,000.00
	CO EMS grant app.	100%	=	\$19,000.00	with 50% match	-	9,500.00
	HCFMLD grant funds to help defray CO EMS grant match					-	5,000.00
	LVFPD Auxiliary contribution					-	4,500.00

The Board reiterated to Chief DeTray and EMS Director Schmidt the necessity for developing relevant one-year, three-year and 5-year plans for their Departments' goals and outline the prioritization and budgeting plan for their departments' equipment needs over those time spans.

### **Fire Chief Report**

- 1) 5 fire calls: 1 MVA on Hwy. 160 (cancelled enroute), smoke report in Trinchera Peak area, "Lookout Fire" on C.R. 443 which was a lightning struck tree just off Old La Veta Pass Road, mutual aid to HCFPD for structure fire and "160 Fire" a 270 acre grass fire started along Hwy. 160 east of C.R. 410.
- 2) 3 trainings sessions: Oct. 6 on Driving (apparatus with split shift) with 8 FFs and 1 Jr. FF, Oct. 17 on inventory with 9 FFs and Oct. 29 on Driving safety with 6 FFs.



## 3) Presented ISO timeline graph.

Concern was again expressed for the non-operable hydrants in Cuchara and a call will be made to C.S. & W.D. Board Chairman, Art Pierce advising that a letter will follow outlining the LVFPD Board concerns.

Discussion was held regarding the ISO requirement that all business entities with structures be contacted to ascertain if there have been any changes in their structure or operations in the last year. It was decided that the Jr. FFs could make the initial calls to businesses during their 'work-study hours' spent at the Station each school day. Jake Thomsen will then follow up with contacting businesses that have changes or new construction and need to have pre-plan documentation amended or added. Payment to Jake was tabled until the December meeting to determine how many contacts he will need to make and the estimated hours involved.

- 4) Pump testing completed on engines and all trucks passed testing.
- 5) The reconditioned SCBAs will be delivered November 11.
- 6) Will hold HazMat training on Nov. 21.
- 7) Attended the Emergency Operation meeting in Walsenburg and are continuing collaboration with County agencies.

Director White quarried Chief DeTray and Asst. Chief Mower about the amended pager and radio inventory lists that were emailed by Asst. Chief Mower earlier. Asst. Chief Mower will make the necessary revisions as discussed.

- 8) Presented an application from Lisa Lockamy who recently moved to the area, but who does not meet the SOP six month residency requirement.

**MSA:** The Board approved accepting Lisa Lockamy as a Firefighter contingent upon clear background checks and waiving the six month residency requirement. The roll call vote was Director Brunner "Nay", Director Littlefield "Aye", Director Nielsen "Nay", Director Shrout "Aye" and Director White "Aye".

- 9) Will try to schedule a walk-through training with Tabula Rasa gas plant.

Asst Chief Mower informed the Board of his investigation into the October 14<sup>th</sup> Indian Creek Trail rescue call where the National Guard helicopter was delayed in responding due to a bureaucratic quagmire. One individual at the Colorado Search and Rescue Board caused a five and one-half hour delay in authorizing the National Guard helicopter mission to air lift the patient. Permission for the mission was finally acquired by going through the Colorado Governor's Office. Asst. Chief Mower advised that he has permission from Huerfano County Sheriff Newman to write a letter to the CO Search and Rescue officer, on behalf of the County Sheriff's Office, warning that a repeat of the situation should not happen again. Director Brunner asked that Sheriff Newman provide written permission to LVFPD before any correspondence of this nature is sent. Director White asked Asst. Chief Mower to consider working through the Governor's Office to send directions to the Buckley Field command (where the helicopter is stationed) that authorization of helicopter rescue missions, such as this, can come from both the Governor's Office, or one of their authorized agencies, and/or the CO Search and Rescue Board, but not solely and exclusively the CO Search and Rescue Board. Asst. Chief Mower advised he will continue his research on the incident and keep the LVFPD Board informed of any progress or correspondence.

The topic of volunteer physicals was briefly discussed and Todd Oberhue, CEO of Spanish Peaks Regional Health Center has advised that the hospital will entertain some of the tests requested but probably not all of them. Chief DeTray needs to rank the testing priorities for Oberhue's consideration. SPRHC will also offer the program to other Fire Districts in the County if they are interested.

### **Old Business**

The preliminary 2016 Budget was briefly discussed and Chief DeTray requested slight revisions of the Fire Department sub lines. The Total Fire Department Expense line will remain \$80,400.00. The final budget will be approved at the December 10, 2015 meeting and by that time there will be a better understanding of the income and expenses associated with the County's FEMA and Division of Natural Resources mitigation grants. Director Littlefield asked again that the three to five-year capital budgeting plan be presented as soon as possible. Chief DeTray advised that he and his Officers are working on their wants and needs list and the budgeting plan. The LVFPD Auxiliary is also wanting a list of the District's needs.

The Illegal Drug/Alcohol Free Workplace and Testing Policy from Atty. Dino Ross was discussed. Minor revisions of changing verbiage from "members" to "volunteers" and changing "Fire Chief" to "Emergency Service Managers" will be reviewed by Atty. Ross. The policy will again be considered at the December meeting and the Board asked the Fire

Chief and EMS Director to advise their department members of possible adoption of the illegal drug and alcohol policy. The policy will be a stand-alone policy and not actually incorporated into the District's formal Standard Operations Procedures.

**New Business**

None

**MSA:** The meeting adjourned at 8:54 PM.

**MSA:** The Board approved going back into session at 8:55 PM.

**Reconvene at 8:55 PM**

Due to Directors' conflicting schedules the monthly meeting for conducting December business will need to be held before December 10<sup>th</sup>.

**MSA:** The Board approved a Board meeting to be held December 4, 2015 at 4:00 PM. Location to be determined and announced.

**MSA:** The meeting adjourned at 8:56 PM.



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Shannon R. Shrou, Sec.



## **LVFPD Wildfire Mitigation Service-Monthly Report for 11/12/15**

### **RR ERP**

- No developments in September. Base plan requested by Don Mercier.

### **PIP's Update**

-As the one who completed the original plans and underestimated the time involved, I recommend that this project gets underway as soon as possible.

### **HYDRANT TESTING**

-La Veta Hydrants were tested on Oct. 2 with no problems revealed. Excell spread sheets were completed and submitted to LVFPD Chiefs, CSWD, and La Veta Water personnel.

-4 hydrants still need to be tested in the CSWD to have 25% for 2015. No response on inoperable CSWD hydrants or extreme low flow areas. FF Branson covered those hydrants with black plastic the day of testing.

-All hydrant work is volunteer for LVFPD and Jim/Sue Alt, Jim Berg, Paul Branson, Jim Littlefield, Vinnie Ozzello, and Tucker Shrout the crew for 2015. Shannon Shrout and Chris Knowles of LV continue to be solid participants over the years. Russell Keeling made a showing for CSWD and Day 2 lunch was provided by Chief Detray.

### **WILDFIRE MITIGATION SERVICE**

-All DNR projects were completed and 2 batches of contracts have been submitted by Huerfano County to CO DNR for reimbursement to residents of our district. The final batch is being prepared by LVFPD for submittal to HC.

-The present projects for the WMS Sawyer Crew consist solely of Shaded Fuel Breaks treatment at Black Hole in Panadero WUI and Red Hill-Bend Creek Expansion in the Pinehaven/HWY 12 WUI's. Non-DNR contracts are also being executed. Soon the crew will shift to slash pile burning as winter conditions arrive.

-The latest information on the FEMA grant is: LVFPD-WMS General Manager (myself) will manage various project aspects (client outreach and interaction, contractor training, site determination/marketing, project assessments, logistics issues, and some grant documentation). LVFPD-WMS can also field a saw crew as a vendor, however I will need to be uninvolved with its operation. WMS and Fire leadership are discussing options for successfully completing both. Essentially to benefit from this grant, the WMS needs to procure and maintain a Saw Crew Supervisor, ideally 5 experienced crew members and

successfully attain projects through a bid process. Regular business tasks involved with the saw crew will have to be completed by someone other than the WMS General Manager. The next meeting on this item is slated for Tuesday Nov 10 at Station 1 in the pm.

-As clearly documented in these reports, the WMS is involved in several other projects which the GM develops and oversees. With regards to other forest fuels reduction projects in the works; 1) The Black Hole Shaded Fuel Break grant application (with CSFS) is in process and may take some time for a response from the state, 2) The Spanish Peaks Shaded Fuel Break project (also a collab. With CSFS) is approaching implementation stage and will be a contiguous line of treated private properties on the East side of that WUI, 3) Initial outreach and assessment of two fuel breaks in the Middle Creek WUI continue with assistance from CSFS.

-The WMS evacuation readiness outreach continues with Tres Valles now requesting consultation on their POA plan. Our "Ready, Set, Go!" program has been seeded there for about a year. Now they are interested in the details of an actual evacuation. I will be meeting with them the week of the 16<sup>th</sup>.

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

-I have worked elsewhere quite a bit as our main funding (the DNR contracts) was/is in Limbo for several weeks.

-I will continue focusing solely on final work for the LVFPD CWPP Update and Expansion in the next two weeks. Mark Loveall and I are also finalizing the various maps involved with that project. The CORE TEAM meeting for that plan will meet Nov. 19<sup>th</sup> 1000 at Station 1. The final plan will be published shortly after that meeting.

-MAJORS RANCH CWPP—Minor movement on this project in September as the MRPOA core group returns to focusing on this plan.

-FIREWISE COMMUNITIES/USA—Attended the Majors Ranch Firewise day with Don Mercier to address evacuation readiness, their CWPP, and mutual aid response.

-EVACUATION TRIGGER MAP-No response from USFS on this, perhaps there will be after the highly prescriptive CWPP Update is presented.

-RED HILL PROJECT(S)- RED HILL proper is in final documentation stage, basically a lot of photos to arrange and reports to write. RED HILL-BEND CREEK is underway, marked with initial heavy thinning completed. Slash Piles will be burnt there this winter.

-No word on or attendance in Prescribed Fires with USFS yet. Probably not going to happen this year.

-I will be meeting with Director White and Deb Phenicie of the Arkansas River Watershed Collaborative today at 1500 to present what we have going on down here and hopefully learn more about what they are up to.