

LA VETA FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT
La Veta Community Center

MINUTES
March 12, 2015
7:00 P.M.

Present: Directors Brunner, Shrout, Littlefield and Nielsen were in attendance. Director White attended via telephone conferencing.
Staff: EMS Director Schmidt and District Secretary Pezze.
Guests: Matt Krause, Mickey Schmidt, Michele Appel, Peg Littlefield, Kim DeTray, Richard Pezze, and Tucker Shrout. Reg Rudolph and Don Keairns from San Isabel Electric Association were present through the Public Comments portion of the meeting.

Call to Order

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

Minutes

MSA: * Minutes of the February 12, 2015, 6:00 P.M. special meeting were approved as submitted.

MSA: Minutes of the February 12, 2015 7:00 P.M. regular meeting were approved as submitted and corrected.

Public Comments

Michele Appel, President and Peg Littlefield, Treasurer of the La Veta Fire Protection Auxiliary presented a check in the amount of \$32,105.91 for the purchase of a new Physio Control LifePak15 heart monitor. Michele wrote the grant and applied to Caring for Colorado, through the LVFPD Auxiliary, for the grant funds. Caring for Colorado awarded the grant and waived any matching requirements so the monitor was funded for 100% of the purchase price. EMS Director Schmidt and the Board expressed their extreme appreciation to Michele, Peg Littlefield and the Auxiliary for their help and support.

Reg Rudolph and Don Keairns of San Isabel Electric Association addressed the Board and advised that their Association had applied to CO Bank, a bank that they work with, for their Sharing Success Program on behalf of the LVFPD new Station project. CO Bank awarded \$5,000.00 toward the Fire Station and San Isabel and their electric supplier will each match the grant funds for an eventual total of \$15,000.00. The Board expressed their appreciation for the contribution and Mr. Rudolph advised that they will arrange a photo opportunity with a large cardboard check in the near future.

Correspondence

None.

Treasurer's Report

MSA: The Treasurer's Report and payments for the March 21st, 2015 meeting were presented and approved.

New Station Owner's Representative Report

Brian Risley, CRP Architects, and Louis Nazario, H.W. Houston Construction presented Houston's final cost detail and estimate for the new Fire Station. The basic building estimate was \$1,511,980.00. Risley explained the "add alternate features" and their associated costs that the Board needs to consider. Those being Alt. # 1) Curb and gutter along Moore Ave. \$11,450.00, Alt. # 2) Concrete outside the building \$22,161.00, Alt. 3) Landscape & Irrigation \$42,412.00, Alt. # 4) Insulation package \$84,902.00, Alt. # 5) Heating & boiler \$39,016.00, Alt. # 6) Finish community room and restrooms \$196,303.00, Alt. 7) Emergency generator and automatic transfer switch \$118,203.00. A major concern was that the basic cost did not include any heating system. After discussion it was decided that the most desired add alternates are Alt. # 5 – heating and boiler (\$39,016.00), Alt. # 4 – insulation and interior wall finish in the truck and ambulance bays (\$84,901.00) and add back the concrete slab in community room (but not the full finish).

MSA: The Board approved moving forward with the budgeted cost of \$1,990,000.00 and that the construction contract be completed and signed in that amount. The approved building features will be the plans as presented and with the add alternates of heating and boiler, insulation and interior wall finish in apparatus bays and concrete slab in the community room, with the final cost not to exceed \$1,990,000.00. Roll call vote was taken as follows: Director Littlefield "Aye", Director Nielsen "Aye", Director Shrout "Aye", Director Brunner "Aye" and Director White, "Aye".

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

Brian Risley advised that he will finalize the contract and have it ready for signatures immediately. Louis Nazario will work on developing the new cost of the final GMP amount in accordance with the Board's directive. Nazario advised that he will develop a construction schedule and a draft of a drawdown schedule for the Board's information. Risley explained that Houston Construction cannot charge the District for any services until the "Notice to Proceed" has been issued by him. Nazario advised that Houston will work on the metal building plans on a good faith position in order to get that portion of the project initiated.

Director Littlefield tasked Nazario with being as receptive to the local contractors' questions and contacts as promptly as possible. Also, to use local contractors as much as possible on the construction project.

MSA: The Board approved adopting and signing Resolution # 2015-03-01 authorizing the District to incur debt and sign a loan contract with the Fowler State Bank in the amount of \$1,100,000.00 for construction of a new Fire Station and designating signers on bank documents.

The attorney letter requested by Jonathan Fox at Fowler State Bank relating to election results approving the District's ability to incur debt has been completed by Gary Hanisch.

Wildfire Mitigation Service (WMS) Report

Paul Branson was absent and the Directors reviewed the WMS report distributed earlier. A copy of that report is attached to these minutes.

MSA: The Board approved Paul's proposal to develop a program to use members of neighboring fire districts, who we have mutual aid agreements with, for the La Veta Fire P.D. mitigation crews.

Director White asked about the Jr. Firefighter program referenced in Paul's report. Director Brunner clarified that the duties and restrictions regarding Jr. Firefighters were discussed and solidified at the last Fire Dept. operations meeting.

EMS Report

1. 6 EMS calls with 5 patients transported and no transfers.
2. Received the free A.E.D. from RETAC via Colorado Rural Health and will determine where to place it.
3. Will help with grant reviews in Pueblo on March 19th.
4. LVFPD is submitting all training expenses for reimbursement through RETAC funds from the County.
5. Training sessions with Jeff Torr and Dr. Weber were re-scheduled to March dates due to weather.
6. Malea and Sue will attend the Wilz Trauma Symposium in Pueblo on March 7.
7. Malea, Chris Hudson and Dave Mower will attend the International Trauma Life Support classes in Walsenburg on April 2nd and 3rd.
8. Jenny Halstead and Chris Halstead have re-certified their National Registry certifications. Jenny is also interested in becoming a certified CPR instructor.
9. The air conditioner on Rescue 2 (1999 Ford amb.) is leaking again and La Veta Oil put 'stop leak' in the system to see if it resolves the problem.
10. Presented the radio and pager logs and also a new parka log.
11. Presented an analysis of the nighttime, EMS calls and the number of responders to those calls. Will visit with EMTs to see if they will volunteer to be available for night calls without 'on call' stipends.
12. Jake Thomsen advised he will be responding to more nighttime calls.
13. Will wait until May to determine action on the EMT students who have not fulfilled their tuition obligation, to date.
14. Working on the job descriptions with Director Nielsen.
15. Continuing to work on contacting Homeowner Associations regarding CPR/AED training and AED placements.
16. Would like to remove Glen Wyatt (due to inactivity and moving out of District) and Mike Christian (due to inactivity) from the EMS roster.

MSA: The Board approved removing Glen Wyatt and Mike Christian from the EMS roster.

Fire Chief Report

Lt. Matt Krause presented the Fire Chief's report in the absence of Chief DeTray who was at work at Trinidad Amb.

- 1) 5 calls: 1 MVA, 2 smoke sightings, one dumpster fire and 1 semi-rig fire – driver put out fire with his fire extinguisher.
- 2) Feb. 2 training on SCBA with Lt. McConnel and 12 other Firefighters and 4 Jr. FFs in attendance.
- 3) Feb. 21 training on pre-incident plan review with Lt. Loveall and 11 other Firefighters in attendance.

- 4) An application from Justin Jameson is pending and will probably be presented at the April meeting.
- 5) Chief DeTray attended the Division of Fire Prevention and Control grant scoring on the weekend of Feb. 20th in Denver. He felt this was very beneficial and will help in writing future grants. 3.2 million dollars are available and requests totally nearly 18 million. The results should be announced in April.
- 6) Continuing work on surveillance system for Cuchara Station.
- 7) Regarding COLS Certificates from the Keystone conference: The 3 officers have submitted letters to Director Briese and Mr. Briese wants to meet with the officers this month to rectify the situation, possibly March 25th.

Old Business

Director Littlefield asked about the inquiry he had received from a woman in Texas who was interested in helping write grants for the LVFPD. Director White advised that he would research the information and report back to the Board at a later date.

The job description for the District Secretary position was presented as requested and discussed briefly.

MSA: The Board approved increasing the District Secretary salary from \$13,764.00 annually to \$17,764.00 annually. District Secretary Pezze expressed her appreciation to the Directors for their consideration.

New Business

The proposal to change the start time for regular Board meetings from the current 7:00 PM to 6:00 PM was presented.

MSA: The Board approved changing the official start time for regular monthly meetings to 6:00 PM in lieu of 7:00 PM starting with the April meeting.

The thought of holding two monthly Board meetings through the construction of the new station was briefly discussed. Due to schedules it was decided to remain with one monthly meeting and try to streamline the meeting with the objective of having quality communication, concise department reports and confidence in the new station construction team with the goal of maintaining transparency for the sake of public perception.

MSA: The meeting was adjourned at 9:34 P.M.



Shannon R. Shrou, Secretary

LVFPD Wildfire Mitigation Service-Monthly Report for 3/12/15

RR ERP-A recent derailment, that later resulted in grain cars rolling downhill and into Barb Steffan's meadow, has drawn more attention to this issue. My last report from Mrs. Steffan indicated that Huerfano County officials were involved and that the Railroad has a schedule for removing the railcars. Huerfano County is supposedly pushing to have a national track inspector visit. A track assessing machine is also supposed to be coming our way possibly in April. I have received no word yet regarding Director Brunner's contact with Matt Abbey or of any deliverables from that contact. Two attempts to walk the rail for radio check/GPS were thwarted by deep snow.

Wildfire Mitigation Service- 2014 SRS Title III funds which had been misplaced by CO State have finally showed up and were passed along to the WMS to complete projects already approved by HC BOCC. I am compiling two invoices that will allow the WMS to be reimbursed for TIII projects it was paying to continue (CWPP revision and Firewise development). I was also advised, and S. Pezze confirmed, that we actually have more funding available to utilize than before. The down side with this funding stream is that there is no SRS Title III funding expected for 2015 at this time. The DNR-WRRG grant is now rolling out to the public and the client contract stage will soon begin (most likely before April). Grant funding from CSFS is presently being implemented as the beginnings of a Shaded Fuelbreak that is located on the eastern edge of the Spanish Peaks POA in Cuchara.

Projects worked on in January and/or Continuing this month:

-Grant attainment and execution planning has been the priority task for February and has involved working with landowners, POAs, CSFS and Huerfano County. At the moment, we are beginning the implementation of two grants and exploring two others (one from the BLM for an extension for the Red Hill Project and another is a Forest Restoration Grant that will most likely be applied to areas newly prioritized by the watershed assessment). The DNR-WRRG grant will require a significant amount of mapping and monitoring tasks that are also being incorporated into the WMS process.

-LVFPD CWPP revision work continues with the completed watershed assessment priorities being merged to our plan, WUI updates and recommendations added, and future Action Items identified and planned out. Consultation for this falls heavily on CSFS and/or USFS personnel. Huerfano Co is helping with GIS/maps.

-With the return of the TIII funds, I have returned to my original plan and am focusing on developing Middle Creek, Raspberry Mountain, Indian Creek and Cuchara Pass Ranch into active Firewise Communities. Cuchara Pass Ranch will require county and LVFPD approval as it is a collaboration between two counties, fire districts, and watershed interests.

-The Cuchara area Evacuation Trigger map project is almost finished with much help from Jeff Byland at HC. Jeff and I hope to assemble the base map this week. I am meeting with Diego Bobian on April 27 to prep the next table-top exercise with multiple agencies. Several access roads are available for LVFPD initial response but may need to be put into GPS later in the season.

-The Cucharas River Wildfire/Watershed assessment is complete and the resulting data is being applied to the 2015 CWPP where appropriate as it is completed. A newly formed watershed coalition is forming that covers our area. WMS seeks to participate in this in order to explore further funding or network resources.

-The Red Hill project is frozen for now due to deep snow. The initial treatment of surface and ladder fuels is complete. BLM personnel has informed us of the availability of more money if we wish to extend. We do and are hoping to clarify that plan when other priority work is completed.

-As weather permits, the WMS crew will continue either burning slash piles or working on the Red Hill or Black Hole fuel break projects. Recent storms have been particularly intense with much snow.

-The WMS is exploring the feasibility of forming a saw crew that includes only present firefighters from our Mutual Aid network. Stonewall fire is excited to participate and thinks that they can assist us with dispatching either personnel or apparatus for national fires. WMS crew not out on dispatch would work locally on wildfire mitigation projects. Is the BOD open to considering the development of such a program?

Junior Firefighter program- The JF SOP is not complete due to my schedule, however we are getting good information regarding workers comp and insurance issues associated with this program. LVFPD Operations will need to determine how it seeks to approach certain JF tasks. JF Vinnie continues to create useful program specifics that outline roles, expectations, and training goals.