

LA VETA FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

Cuchara Fire Station

MINUTES

July 9, 2015

6:00 P.M.

Present: Directors Brunner, White, Littlefield, Nielsen and Shrout were in attendance.
Staff: Fire Chief DeTray, EMS Director Schmidt, WMS Manager Branson and District Secretary Pezze.
Guests: Cheryle Johnston, Jim Berg and Kim DeTray. Brian Risley, CRP Architects, was 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 June 11, 2015 regular meeting were approved as presented.

Public Comments

None.

Correspondence

None

Treasurer's Report

MSA: The Treasurer's Report and payments for the July 9, 2015 meeting were presented and approved.

Board Director and Treasurer White advised that Tim Dixon, CPA with Dixon, Waller and Company, Inc. reported that all went well with the 2014 audit process.

New Station Owner's Representative Report

Brian Risley, CRP Architects, addressed the Board with an update on the new Station construction. Survey work is being completed and the elevation of the building pad will begin within a week. The building footprint will be painted on the ground upon completion of the pad and passing the compaction, soil testing. The final building permit is still pending but Brian has been assured that there will be no problems with the document. Foundation work can proceed with the provisional permit issued earlier. Coordinating with Houston on minor revisions in the foundation design to match the building anchor bolts, rebar etc. No change orders to report at this time. Final metal building submittal is imminent and delivery of the building may occur a few weeks earlier than first expected. The Board advised that they would like to see a committee (Fire Chief, EMS Director, interested volunteers etc.) formed to choose interior colors when the project gets to that point. There will be a pre-construction meeting regarding the concrete slab due to its technical requirements.

The first drawdown request from Houston is expected around the end of July and the Fowler State Bank is on track to be ready for that payment. Houston's request will be submitted to Brian for his review and reconciliation before it is forwarded to the District for payment. Typically the District may have up to 30 days to pay.

Director Nielsen advised that the USDA REDLG loan application, in the amount of \$300,000.00, has been approved by the San Isabel Board of Directors and has been forwarded to the USDA office for their review and approval.

Wildfire Mitigation Service (WMS) Report

Paul Branson discussed his WMS report and fielded questions from Board Directors regarding his mitigation operations, evacuation planning with the County O.E.M. and Sheriff, and other projects. A copy of that report is attached to these minutes. Paul also discussed his concern for the poor working relationship with the San Luis and Rio Grande Railroad in regard to hazardous materials passing through the District on the rail, track conditions and the frequency of derailments. After lengthy discussion the Board asked Paul to compile a list of the specific needs that he is lacking from the railroad and the basis of authority or the railroad's obligation to deliver the information to the Fire District and the name of a relevant contact person. The Board's ultimate desire is to work in partnership with the railroad.

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

Director White advised that Huerfano County has initiated the process of developing a County Comprehensive Plan. The organizers will contact the La Veta Fire Protection District regarding fire issues such as creating defensible space around new construction projects. Director White asked the department managers to give thought to the process and what they would like to see in the Comprehensive Plan.

EMS Report

1. 16 EMS calls with 10 patients transported and no transfers. 1 training session – June 25th training with Dr. Weber on epi administration in lieu of Epi-Pens.
2. Darcy St. Peter and Sue Pezze will attend I.V. class July 20 to 22 at St. Mary Corwin Hospital.
3. Attended RETAC on June 18th and the Bi-Annual plan was finalized.
4. Need to adopt local policies to protect CQI, patient care report, information from discovery. Will work on draft.
5. The purchasing agreement between EMSAC and BoundTree is in negotiations.
6. Presented draft of proposed letter for tuition reimbursement that will be sent to the students not completing their EMT class obligations.
7. Eddie Ray and Mark Brunner repaired flashing lights on Rescue 1 and 2. Eddie repaired Rescue 1 air dump and leveling mechanism after contacting Braun.
8. Provided ambulance coverage for the July 4 rodeo and participated in La Veta and Cuchara parades.
9. Presented a proposed letter to be sent to in-district patients who have past due balances.
10. John Hudson took Rescue 1 to the Library summer program and gave a presentation focusing on summer safety for kids.

Fire Chief Report

- 1) 4 fire calls: 2 central alarm calls on C.R. 430, rekindle of bonfire and carbon monoxide detector activation.
- 2) June 10th fire training on fire ground communications with 10 FFs and 1 Jr. FF in attendance. June 27th fire training for wildland fire pack testing, shelter deployment and communication drill with County agencies with 12 FFs in attendance.
- 3) Experienced major fail in the paging system. Chief DeTray and Lt. Krause found a bad splice in the Mesa Repeater and it was temporarily repaired and a new cable is being shipped for a permanent repair. Through the process, a better back up system has been developed with County Dispatch. Also, the Page Me equipment, owned by Dave Balsick, was removed from the repeater site and is in the La Veta Station.
- 4) Cuchara Music Fest went well and only 2 Band Aids applied to minor injuries. No other injuries reported.
- 5) Purchases for the VFA and Anschutz grants are complete and Sue will complete the necessary VFA reimbursement documentation for remittance and the final Anschutz grant reports.
- 6) Contacted Tiffany Lipsey at CSU for their interpretation and more information on the minimum Heart Assessment Fire Fighter Physicals. Should have recommendations by Aug. 13, 2015.
- 7) 4 FFs participated in fire safety presentation at the La Veta Library kids summer program.
- 8) At the request of Greg Goodland from USFS, LVFPD Firefighters will collaborate with Huerfano Cnty. FPD Firefighters for a program at Lathrop State Park. They will demonstrate the difference between wildland and structural firefighting. Lt. Loveall and Lt. Krause will present wildland fire fighting information and HCFPD Firefighters will present information on structural firefighting.
- 9) Chief DeTray and Paul Branson will meet with the Stonewall Chief and Assistant Chief on July 10th to continue working on joint issues of fire mitigation, staffing, joint response etc.
- 10) LVFPD participated in multiagency communication drill on June 26th. Chief DeTray attended the after action review and voiced pitfalls of drills and possible improvements.
- 11) Met briefly with, and will continue talks with, Tim Thomsen who owns the property where a Middle Creek substation may be placed. Further talks and research on the topic are forthcoming.
- 12) The surveillance equipment for Stn. 2 has been ordered with a slight \$13.09 increase due to discontinued camera. S/H charges are included. Would like to have Eddie Ray install the system during his EMS shift time.
- 13) Would like to purchase 2 new door locks for the Cuchara Stn. walk through doors. Estimated cost is \$150.00 each.
MSA: The Board approved purchasing two new door locks for the Cuchara Station at a total cost of approximately \$300.00.
- 14) Talking to Mark Sladek about radiant, overhead heaters for Cuchara Station instead of the current forced air heaters. Mark should have a quote by next meeting.
- 15) Will talk to Chris Hudson about obtaining a "hit count" on the LVFPD website and ascertain if a different web master is needed to keep up the site.
- 16) Chris Hudson has stated that he is still interested in attending the grant writing class in Ft. Collins and will live in La Veta probably a minimum of 2 more years.
MSA: The Board approved sending Chris Hudson to a grant writing class in Ft. Collins and total expenses should not exceed \$1,000.00. Chris will need to sign the usual tuition agreement.

17) Presented a request to purchase 3 1.5" gated wye valves at a cost of \$218.50 each (total \$655.50), 3 adjustable nozzles at \$18.00 each (total \$54.00) and 6 adapters at \$20.50 (total \$123.00). Grand total is \$832.50.

MSA: The Board approved an expenditure of \$832.50 to purchase 3 gated wye valves, 3 adjustable nozzles and 6 adapters.

Old Business

EMS Director Schmidt advised that the sale of the older Physio Control LifePack 12 heart monitor has not worked out. The Board asked her to continue to list that monitor and the older ProPack monitor on internet sites as well as with other agencies.

New Business

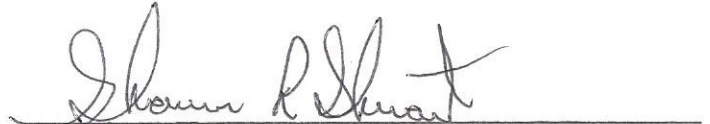
Cheryle Johnston has completed the process to nominate Director Brunner for the Colorado Special District Association's (SDA) Director of the Year award. The process requires a Board resolution approving the nomination and a copy of LVFPD Resolution # 2015-07-01 was presented to nominate Director Brunner.

MSA: The Board approved, adopted and ratified the signing of LVFPD Resolution # 2015-07-01 to nominate Director Brunner for the SDA Director of the Year award.

Director Brunner advised that, in light of Diego Bobian's recent resignation as the Huerfano County Emergency Manager, the LVFPD has written a letter to the Huerfano County Commissioners urging them to maintain, staff and fund the Office of Emergency Management (OEM) position.

Chief DeTray advised that he and Kim have donated their old vacuum, still in very great shape, to the District to replace the old Bissell vacuum. The Board expressed their appreciation for the donation.

MSA: The meeting adjourned at 8:40 P.M.



Shannon R. ShROUT, Secretary

LVFPD Wildfire Mitigation Service-Monthly Report for 07/09/15

RR ERP

No action on this in June due to staff shortage.

WILDFIRE MITIGATION SERVICE

Staff shortage (Jared Ray was in military training all of June) and rains have left me squarely behind on supervisory and/or CWPP Coordinator tasks. Only invoicing, client contracting and grant admin requirements were kept going. Other side projects were suspended with evacuation planning work being the exception.

Mark Loveall (CSFS) and I are completing updated WUI maps for each of our WUI's (13). These maps will be printed and placed in each appropriate responding apparatus. They contain tactical information that assists greatly during active fires (hydrant locations, dead-ends, aviation hazards, structural hazard ratings, etc). Mark has been an invaluable asset for this project (as well as CWPP level planning and assessments).

Jake and I continued to cut out several more Defensible Spaces in our district, primarily in the Cuchara and Wahatoya Canyon (little Kansas) WUI's.

We have designed and are purchasing new LVFPD WMS work shirts for our crew uniform.

General Manager Projects worked on in April and/or continuing this month:

-DNR-WRRG—Client contacts and site visits continued on a regular basis, primarily on Fridays or in the evening during June. Completed projects still need to be documented for the DNR-WRRG grant reqs (area treated, wood produced, how wood was utilized, cost per acre, photos). I am slowly catching up on those.

-LVFPD CWPP—Very little actual text work on this for June, maps and networking/planning only. Met with Larry Fuller to tour area sites for future broad-scale fuel reduction projects (which will primarily on large private tracts and/or USFS land). Mr. Fuller operates a local logging company and is equipped/qualified for these larger projects. These projects will combine a number of initiatives (wildfire mitigation, watershed conservation, forest health) but will most likely be recognized, and utilized, as Shaded Fuel Breaks. These features are essentially large buffer zones that serve to protect local values (lives, property, infrastructure, rivers, etc) and allow for limited size or spread of wildfires. Several projects are being identified throughout the LVFPD. Also, met with watershed rep to discuss collaborative potential with them and to update them on what we have set up in this area. Also, researched/supported related political legislation that is currently being promoted by CO Senators Bennett and Gardner. Following these exciting endeavors as they unfold.

-MAJORS RANCH CWPP—No work on this project in June.

-FIREWISE COMMUNITIES/USA—Worked with two FWC neighborhoods on their annual planning and/or special projects list. Several impromptu meetings with FWC leaders to prioritize future projects or plan this years Firewise Day events.

-EVACUATION TRIGGER MAP and DRILL- 1) No response from Dennis Page (USFS) regarding evacuation trigger maps and I suspect that he may be in Alaska working on the numerous fires there. These maps are critical for our local planning but not essential for our evacuation drill (with its' local agency collaboration exercise). Will continue to push this project. 2) Attended the recent BOCC special meeting with Director Littlefield and Tom Lewis to discuss our evacuation plans and get commitment to the overall concept and more specifically to an actual drill to take place later this year. Meeting was positive and support for this endeavor is high at the Huerfano County BOCC/Admin level. Stakeholders are meeting again on the 17th July to further planning for a simple drill to take place in August. Huerfano County Sheriff Office representation was present and very helpful. I am working on compiling a variety of information that will assist them (SO) in the event of an evacuation and for this drill. 3) I am meeting with Tom Lewis to compile a team to assist during evacuations (and drills). This will most likely include developing a crew of CERT responders to assist agencies in emergencies. Will be working with Laurie Erwin on this list. Also, exploring options to evacuation (safety zones and/or aerial evacuation) for the long term planning. I am very grateful to Director Littlefield (and Tom Lewis) for his prioritization of and assistance with this project. Things are now rolling along! 4) At the BOCC meeting, LVFPD reps stated our districts' support of the hiring of an effective and proactive Director of the Office of Emergency Management. We were advised of HC BOCC prioritization on this matter and that Don Mercier would most likely be the temporary OEM director.

-RED HILL PROJECT- I am working on the paperwork for the additional funding for Red Hill #1 and possibly for an additional project site (and BLM grant) within our district (Middle Creek?). Working this week to meet application deadlines for both.

-WMS POLICY-No action on written policy in June, however various components of the policy were discussed during several planning meetings with Jake (as Crew Boss) with particular focus on being 'Firefighters in Good Standing' and how low volumes of calls may make that standard harder to attain. Also discussed were contractual obligations to EMS, seasonal employment expectations, interest in medical coverage, responding (or not) to local calls, and increasing NWCG certifications.

JUNIOR FIREFIGHTER- Junior Chief Ozzello has been distributing "Ready, Set, Go!" information door-to-door and has nearly completed Baker Creek and Pinehaven Firewise Communities. He is also actively (and to great effect) exploring Child labor laws and other related legislation, including contacting State/Fed agencies in this regard, in order to determine the efficacy/legality, of creating a landscape maintenance Corp (of Junior FF's) to maintain landscapes (cut grass, clean gutters, pass out flyers, etc). No action will be taken until all avenues are thoroughly researched and appropriate steps taken. Stay tuned to more on this topic as we finish compiling input and consultation.