

LA VETA FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT
La Veta Fire Station
100 Birch Street

MINUTES

April 9, 2017
6:00 P.M.

Present: Directors Littlefield, Nielsen, Heikes, Walker and Shrout were in attendance.
Staff: EMS Director Schmidt, District Secretary Pezze.
Guests: Asst. Chief Mower, Jim Berg, and Brian Risley. Kay Whitley was in attendance for the initial portion of the meeting.

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order, the Pledge of Allegiance was given and Director Littlefield welcomed all those in attendance.

Minutes

MSA: * Minutes of the March 9, 2017 regular meeting were approved as presented.

Public Comments

Kay Whitley, C.E.O. of the Huerfano County Hospital District (H.C.H.D.) addressed the Board with an update on the transition of the Hospital District assuming authority of the Huerfano Ambulance Service from the Huerfano County Board of County Commissioners. She advised that it has been discovered that, in order for the H.C.H.D. to collect the highest level of ambulance transport reimbursement funds from Medicare it needs to be categorized as a "Critical Access" hospital and not a "Trauma Level 4 P.F.S." hospital. Critical Care categorization requires that there is no more than one ambulance service within a 35 mile radius. The H.C.H.D. attorney, Joe Bauer, is working to see if a waiver can be filed with Medicare to keep the two ambulance services operating as separate entities. The Gunnison Hospital and Crested Butte ambulance services seem to have accomplished this due to their remote, mountainous terrain locations affecting response times. Ms. Whitley advised that she will keep the LVFPD informed and if a letter of affirmation or explanation or a conference call is needed from the LVFPD she will let the District know. Directors Walker and Nielsen will act as the contacts on this action and EMS Director Schmidt will be involved also. The Board thanked Ms. Whitley for keeping them posted with updates.

Correspondence

None.

Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer's Report and payments for the April 9, 2017 meeting were presented. Adm. Sec. Pezze advised that she researched Director Shrout's concerns for making the \$6,000 payment to Dave Mower for his work on the new fire station. There was no mention of it in regular meetings but it was addressed during the budget workshops and she possibly cut checks to Dave Mower without authorization during regular meetings. Director Littlefield also concurred that the payments were discussed and felt they had been authorized through some avenue. Adm. Sec. Pezze has checked with an attorney at Colorado Special District Association and he advised that the situation could be rectified by ratification of the action and so noted in the minutes.

MSA: The Board approved ratifying the action to pay Dave Mower \$6,000 for his work on new station construction including, but not limited to, air hose installation, shore lines installation, auxiliary (under sink) hot water heaters, radio, public address, internet and communication wiring and antenna installation etc.

Director Littlefield advised that Robert Ryland will be paid for two days of labor for his work on the new station flooring project. This action is authorized by the motion passed at the March 9, 2017 meeting to pay all costs associated with the new station, and subsequently, the DOLA grant.

MSA: The Board approved the Treasurer's Report as presented.

Wildfire Mitigation Service (WMS) Report

Michael Warren's Wildfire Mitigation Service report was presented. Paul Branson also submitted a report on the County's mitigation program. Copies of those reports are attached to these minutes. Sec. Pezze advised that a

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

number of applicants have been interviewed and Kenneth Pacheco has passed background checks and WMS Manager Warren recommends his being hired.

MSA: The Board approved hiring Kenneth Pacheco for the mitigation crew at a starting wage of \$12.00 per hour.

EMS Director Report

- 1) 9 EMS runs with 8 patients transported in March, 2017.
- 2) Completion of the CREATE grant is pending the students passing the NREMT testing.
- 3) The USDA grant for 2 Tough Book laptops has been approved and waiting for "notice to proceed" to make purchase.
- 4) EMS Director Schmidt and Asst. Director Mower gave the presentation on this year's CDPHE grant request at the regional RETAC hearings in Pueblo. Director Schmidt also helped score 7 other grant applications.
- 5) The CDPHE grant's State hearing will be either May 20 or 21. Still waiting for notification of time. This will be conducted via a telephone conference call with EMS Director Schmidt, Asst. Director Mower and Sec. Pezze.
- 6) EMT classes are going well and continuing education hours are available Tuesdays, Thursdays and the first Saturday of each month. Final exam will be on April 27th.
- 7) Mark Brunner has completed his National Registry recertification.
- 9) Eddie Ray and EMS Director Schmidt are in the process of transitioning from High Plains reporting system to the State's Image Trend Elite reporting system.
- 10) On May 7th EMS Director Schmidt will give a presentation at the La Veta Library about EMS/Stroke, in partnership with La Veta assisted living Director Jean Swartz. EMS personnel will assist with public blood pressure checks.
- 11) La Veta EMS will participate in the Walk or Wheel (bicycle) to School program and EMS week activities at the school in May.

Director Littlefield asked EMS Director Schmidt and Chief DeTray for their "wants and needs" list for the LVFPD Auxiliary's consideration.

Fire Chief Report

The Fire Chief's Report was presented by Asst. Fire Chief Mower.

- 1) 4 Fire calls in March: 2 calls fire alarm trouble code at the La Veta Fire Stn. (power outage issue), Fire alarm activation on Hwy. 12 residence (power outage issue) and mutual aid to Huerf. Cnty. Fire Prot. Dist. For structure fire at Rio Cucharas Condos.
- 2) 2 Fire Trainings in March. March 1 on hose advancement, size up, RIT, communications with 12 Firefighters in attendance. March 18 on gear inventory, and station maintenance with 15 Firefighters in attendance. Jim Berg organized and hosted a "I Am Responding" web-inar at 12:00 noon after the training.
- 3) New application from Tom Coseno.
- 4) Fire Catt will perform hose and ladder testing on May 10th. Chief Jerant from HCFPD will also be using Fire Catt for their hose testing.
- 5) Would like to purchase 1 set of Techgen Gear for new support member at a cost of \$620.00.
- 6) 6711 (1991 Ford Tender on agreement from CO Division of Fire Prevention and Control) will be out of service in the near future for repair of the bushings in the walking beams and repair of steering issues. M & M in Trinidad will do the repairs and CO D.F.P.C. will pay the statement.
- 7) Would like to purchase 2 fabricated boxes for Rescue 4 (1987 Ford Utility) from Topar Welding for a cost of \$1,300. Comparable manufactured boxes would cost \$1,700.

MSA: The Board approved the purchase of boxes for Rescue 4 for a cost of \$1,300. The purchase of the Techgen gear was deferred until Chief DeTray can provide more information on the gear to the Board. This can also be included on the upcoming \$67,000 grant request to USDA.

Old Business

Director Heikes is working with Roscoe Engineering, general contractor Jim Chambers, and the Town of La Veta building inspector Rick Jennings to get the plans, documents and permits necessary to proceed with construction of the men's and women's locker rooms. There are several electrical switch issues that will be addressed also. The Board expressed their appreciation to Director Heikes for his time and efforts on completing the new station.

New Business

The Spanish Peaks Music Festival on July 15th was discussed briefly. The Board asked EMS Director Schmidt to coordinate EMTs to cover the event. She stated that she would call the organizer, Jim VanLue and visit with him about details.

The Board was reminded of the April 21st workshop to discuss future capital expenditures and strategic planning.

Director Shroul presented an agenda format that he would like to see the LVFPD use in the future. The Board reviewed the agenda and concurred that they would use the new format.

Jim Berg gave a presentation and demonstration on the new web-based "I Am Responding" paging and recording system that the District is using. Pages now transmit via text, email, and an app downloaded on volunteers' cell phones. The system is capable of advising who is responding to a call, mapping, hydrant mapping, tracking and reporting fire calls, training sessions and much more. There is very good feedback from all volunteers about the system. The Board thanked Jim for his time spent in getting the system up and running and handling the system's administrator duties.

MSA: The meeting adjourned at 8:21 PM.



Shannon R. Shroul, Secretary

LVFPD WMS MONTHLY REPORT

March, 2017

Michael Warren

WMS/FAL Supervisor

CREW

The crew had started back on FAL work. Completed 3 Jobs, Cobb-\$4885.98, Frazier-\$679.28, and McGee-\$1073.28. Due to recent weather however, they have not been able to continue FAL work.

Equipment

Both of the MS 461 chainsaws have been sent in for recall repairs through Big R. The Polesaw recall has been completed. 6012 did have a repair as well for a major oil leak. It is now back and operational.

Current objectives for Supervisor

I am working on finalizing Batch #4 FEMA paperwork for the next RFR. Contacting potential new contracts. I have been contacted by 12 homeowners to date. FAL crew recruitment is still a high priority. Workload management for FAL jobs is ongoing due to weather.

Recruitment

I am working on retaining 1 individual for the crew. Passed the background and now waiting for drug screen to go through. At the moment we have 1 other potential which we are waiting for background.

New Business

FAL crew has a total of 31 jobs assigned to it for this year. 3 of which have been completed.

David Steffan is going to sawyer training April 13-16.

Side Note:

On the side I am moving forward on tracking WMS and FAL earnings in full detail.

Huerfano County

Wildfire Mitigation Program

4/13/17

Manager Update:

-The County is still waiting on the results of our HMGP Request for Reimbursement (RFR#1) to the State. As soon as we get a response we plan to prioritize completing any recommendations from the State, then immediately compiling all files for submittal of RFR #2.

-HMGP Grant staff is completing work projections for the 2017 and the WMS been assigned a full FAL work docket. Low implementation capacity (size and/or number of crews) locally remains the key factor influencing the amount of potential clients served. Additional resource options continue to be pursued by the county to offset this condition. More information on this in May.

-The HMGP admin staff has planned and initiated the program roll-out for the 2017 season. The WMS FAL crew will be joined on the ground by 2 private vendors. Two other formal solicitations are in process. Inquiries from interested homeowners are processed as they are received.

-UHPFD and HCFPD personnel have joined the Manager in beginning to work on their WUI Pre-Fire Attack Plans by getting FFs into the field for data collection, identifying safety zones and dip-sites, and general hazard assessments. We are in collaboration with USFS on this. Base information on this was originally provided a year ago to district fire officers at the 1st Interagency "Lives First" meeting.

-As there is a new County Office of Emergency Management Director, we will be shortly renewing our push for collaborative evacuation drills. We are seeking interested agency parties at this time to work on setting up at least two active drills on the ground.

-Given the changing nature and frequency of wildland fire around the country (and world), we encourage all operations leadership to utilize existing wildfire plans and ensure that responding personnel is fully cognizant of the information they contain. Participation in WUI Pre-Fire Attack plan development is an effective way to do this. For the LVFPD the Pre-Plan project will be greatly simplified as the CWPP already contains vast amounts of WUI information. The County is available to assist in any manner. Stay tuned for news on another "Live First" Interagency meeting in the works.

Submitted by Paul Branson