

**LA VETA FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT
SPECIAL MEETING
La Veta Fire Station
100 Birch St.
La Veta, CO**

MINUTES
August 20, 2018
7:30 AM

Present: Directors Littlefield, Nielsen, Heikes, ShrouT, and Walker were in attendance.
Staff: EMS Director Malea Schmidt and District Secretary Sue Pezze
Guests: Dave Mower and Eddie Ray

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 a.m. and all in attendance were welcomed by Director Littlefield. The Pledge of Allegiance was given.

Public Comments

None.

Old Business

The purpose of the Special meeting was to confer with EMS Director Schmidt about her intentions for the EMS Director position. She expressed her dismay for having been spoken to by a Board Director in a *ShrouT* disrespectful manner at the August 9th regular meeting. She felt she had presented facts substantiated by documents regarding Fire Chief DeTray's need to repay the District for failing to fulfil the obligations of the agreement he'd signed. This agreement was signed in January 2017 to cover the cost of his meals at the paramedic class that he was taking. EMS Director Schmidt further stated repayment of agreements was not new to the District and she had done so with 5 other individuals within the last few years. This all being within the regular operations of her EMS Director position.

Director Nielsen stated that the majority of the Board supported the repayment action and felt it was unfortunate when the situation ended with EMS Director Schmidt leaving the meeting. He suggested that comments from members other than Directors and Department Heads could be relegated to the Public Comments section of the Agenda. He desires to see the Fire Chief and the EMS Director work together in a professional manner at all times and respect each other in their roles as managers of their respective departments.

Director Nielsen expressed his appreciation for EMS Director Schmidt and the Board asked her to articulate her intentions for the EMS Director position. She stated that she had met with Directors Walker and Heikes a few days after the August 9, 2018 meeting and had told them she would resume her EMS duties and has been responding accordingly. EMS Director Schmidt added that she will not be spoken to in a disrespectful manner in open meetings and was told by ~~the~~ Director that he'd try to do better. *and that he expects the same courtesy.*

The Board concurred that *operational* all issues need to be handled in a professional manner and resolutions reached before a Board meeting. *ShrouT* If issues are to come before the Board all parties need to be apprised of the situation prior to the meeting. *Issues crossing departmental boundaries are to be resolved before a Board meeting if possible.*


EMS Director Schmidt stated that she is willing to remain the EMS Director if she can feel that she has the Board's support when dealing with personnel issues. Especially when she has done her due diligence to present facts according to her department's managerial role. Director Nielsen restated this by saying that Malea Schmidt has agreed to continue as EMS Director on the condition that the Board acts as professionally as the Board expects her to act professionally. She concurred with the statement and was thanked by the Board for continuing in her capacity as EMS Director.

Director Walker asked, and the Board concurred, that Chief DeTray and Firefighter Berg will be required to listen to the recording of this meeting so that there are no doubts as to what is expected of District managers by the Board of Directors.

Upon discovering that multiple Directors will be out of Town for the regular September 13th meeting it was decided to postpone the workshop and regular monthly meeting to Monday, September 17th, 2018.

MSA: The Board approved moving the regular September 13, 2018 Board meeting to Monday, September 17, 2018 at 6:00 and the workshop will be held on the same Monday, September 17, 2018 from 2:30 to 5:30 PM.

MSA: Meeting adjourned at 8:15 a.m.



Shannon R. Shrout, Secretary