

LA VETA FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT
Cuchara Fire Station
400 Panadero
Cuchara, Colorado

MINUTES

August 9, 2018
6:00 P.M.

Present: Directors Littlefield, Nielsen, Heikes, Walker, and Shrout were in attendance.
Staff: Fire Chief David DeTray, EMS Director Schmidt and District Secretary Pezze
Guests: Jim Berg, Paula Berg, Rob Velie, and Jim Alt

Call to Order – Pledge - Roll Call

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

Approval of Agenda

MSA:* The August 9, 2018 Agenda was approved as amended to add Sec. Pezze's request to add Oktoberfest Bonfil's blood drive.

Minutes

MSA: Minutes of the July 26, 2018 regular meeting were approved as presented.

Public Comments

Paula Berg, President of the La Veta Fire Protection District (LVFPD) Auxiliary, advised that the Auxiliary's annual fundraiser, a 1960's Rock N Roll Sock Hop, held on July 28th garnered more than \$20,000 in donations and was hugely successful. The Auxiliary has also forwarded another \$5,300 in donations earmarked for fire equipment repair and purchases. Working on the Stonewall Century Ride to be held August 11th. The Auxiliary has already stuffed the welcome bags and will host an aid station during the Ride.

Director Littlefield advised that there is work being done by Huerfano County, local agencies and government BAER agencies to put pressure on U.S. Forest Service to clean and clear dead and dying trees out of the USFS lands. The Board concurred that this a project in which the LVFPD will participate. There is also progress on coordination of fire training sessions between the three Fire Districts in Huerfano County. Quarterly meetings of Fire Chiefs and Board of Directors' Presidents will be held.

Guests, Correspondence, and Presenters

The conditional use permit for David and Norma Mower's request to add a guest house to their property was approved as presented.

Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer's Report and payments for the August 9, 2018 meeting were presented.

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

A 2019 budget meeting with Directors Heikes and Nielsen and Sec. Pezze will be held after the Certification of Assessed Valuation is received from the Huerfano County Assessor.

EMS Director Report

- 1) 14 EMS runs with 11 patients transported in July 2018.
- 2) Will be working on grant request for the annual 2018 RETAC funding.
- 3) Stocking issues (stethoscope, pulse oximeter, and blood glucose meter) in Rescue 3 (1992 Chev. Amb.) were briefly discussed.
- 4) John Mayfield has renewed his Colorado EMT certification.
- 5) Initiating discussions on how to move forward on the CO Dept. of Health & Environment (CDPHE) grant request in February 2019 for a replacement ambulance for the Cuchara Station. The standard grant is a 50/50 match. However, a waiver of that match can be requested that will reduce the match to 10%. This is a lengthy process with documentation and hearings. EMS Director asked for the Board's direction and they concurred that the LVFPD should pursue the 10% match waiver.

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

- 6) EMS Director Schmidt asked the Board to enforce the agreement signed by Chief DeTray in January 2017 for covering the cost (actual \$1,121.69) of his meals while attending paramedic class. Chief DeTray passed the class but has not fulfilled the agreement's obligation to serve a minimum of one EMS shift per month, respond to night calls, and participate in a minimum of 30 calls within the first year. Chief DeTray's actual response was 2 EMT shifts and 5 EMS calls between Sept. 1, 2017 and May 31, 2018, and 0 participation in night calls. Director Schmidt stated she is following precedence protocol and presented (and read) copies of letters sent to Chief DeTray and the Board of Directors.

La Veta Fire 2 Jim Berg and Director Shroul stated their disagreement with the action. Directors Nielsen and Littlefield stated it was a viable, signed agreement and should be enforced. Chief DeTray stated that he would like to live up to his agreement and repay the \$1,121.69 and requested that it be pro-rated and withheld from his paycheck on a monthly basis over 12 months. He also stated that he tendered his resignation from the EMS Dept.

Upon Director Shroul's advice that he did not receive EMS Director Schmidt's emails addressing the situation prior to this evening's meeting Director Littlefield directed that any future email communication addressed to the Board Directors needs to flow through the District Secretary to be disseminated to the Directors. The discussion referring to on-going conflict between EMS Director Schmidt and Chief DeTray escalated to the point of EMS Director Schmidt ultimately resigning and leaving the meeting. Director Nielsen stated that he desires to see cooperation between the Fire Chief and EMS Director and that this has been addressed before. If the problem cannot be resolved the Board is burdened with making decisions/personnel changes that will move the District forward. Possibly a position that will head both Departments. Director Littlefield stated that he also is adamant about parties working together for the betterment of the District. Fire Chief DeTray stated that he was hasty in resigning from EMS and retracted his comment of resigning from EMS and will continue to serve the District with his skills.

MSA: The Board approved the action to have Chief DeTray repay the \$1,121.69 for his EMS agreement, with 12 monthly deductions from his paycheck.

Director Littlefield will coordinate a meeting with himself and one other Director to meet with EMS Director Schmidt to discuss her future intentions.

Fire Chief Report

- 1) 10 fire calls in July 2018 along with the July 1 to July 12 participation in the Spring Creek Fire: Tree smoldering (possible lightning strike) C.R. 421, 1 MVA MM 285, Hwy. 160, alarm activation C.R. 430, RV fire C.R. 442, multiple smoke reports from Spring Creek burn scan and flooding on Abeyta Creek due to burn scar.
- 2) Fire Trainings in July: One training on July 21 for After Action Review of Spring Creek Fire with 17 FFs in attendance.
- 3) Application from Franklin Geiser was presented.
- 4) Good communication with Fire 2 (Jim Berg) and leadership coverage is available around the clock to handle calls.
- 5) Attended multiple fundraising activities.
- 6) 6612 (2008 Ford brush truck) has emergency lights installed and cargo baskets will be added shortly.
- 7) Paul Newman is working on lettering for the 6611 (2008 Ford brush truck) and 6111 (91 OTT Beck engine).
- 8) The Type 1 engine from Huerf. Cnty. Fire Prot. Dist. (91 OTT Beck) is awaiting radio installation and switching equipment from the old 6111 (81 Ford) should be completed by the end of the week.
- 9) New hose from Jim Berg's donation is in and will be put into service along with the 500' of used 2.5 inch hose.
- 10) Dual band radios and Boost Lite hose are ordered, GPS units have been received and are in place on equipment, replacement headlights are awaiting installation on Comm. 2 (2008 Ford Explorer), primer was replaced on 6611 (1997 Ford brush truck), 3 portable scene lights (discussed with Director Shroul) are ordered at \$143.00 each for Rescue 4 (1999 Ford PU) and 6311 (1998 Hawk).
- 11) Spoke with Directors regarding possible purchase of HCFPD 80' ladder truck with a 1500 GPM pump. Purchase price is approx. \$5,000 and approximately up to \$15,000 needed to repair and certify the ladder unit. Repairs to be completed in Denver or possibly Pueblo. Cost of this unit can be defrayed by the sale of Rescue 4 (1997 Ford) and 7122 (1984 Chevy Kodiak) engine.

Director Nielsen stated that the Board has the responsibility to take a long hard look at capital expenditures, allocations of donations received and wants to see 3, 5 and 10 year projections. Any actions on this truck need to wait until the budget meeting with Directors Heikes, Nielsen and Sec. Pezze.

- 12) Discussing plans to re-chassis 6611 (1997 Ford brush truck) with a used or possible new 550 gas powered truck. More information to be presented later.
- 13) Working on the purchase of items on the VFA grant (\$9,742.50 - 50/50 match) and USDA grant (\$66,500 - 75/25% match).

Chief DeTray will email the Fire Department job descriptions for their review and approval.

MSA: The Board approved the application of Franklin Geiser contingent upon clear background checks.

MSA: The Board approved Chief DeTray to move forward with purchases of \$9,742.25 for the VFA grant.

MSA: The Board approved moving forward with the \$66,500 purchases on the USDA grant upon purchasing approval from USDA Agent, Tineel Baroz.

Plaques with certificates of appreciation for the La Veta Fire Protection District and Chief DeTray from the Federal Type II Incident Management Blue Team were shown to the Directors.

Old Business

Director Walker advised that he has a template Interagency Governmental Agreement (I.G.A.) for an emergency facilities and land usage agreement that he is probably going to need to work on before meeting with County Administrator John Galusha and the Commissioners. Director Littlefield asked that there also be a provision for emergencies that are not actual LVFPD emergencies but where the County would need to use the La Veta Fire Station as a temporary facility. Possibly other agencies can be contacted for templates also.

A workshop was set for 2:30 – 5:00 PM prior to the regular September meeting to address District operations and goals.

Director Nielsen presented his suggested 41 questions for the Survey Monkey survey that will be sent to LVFPD members. Director Littlefield stated that 2 Directors will attend Department trainings prior to sending the survey out to inform the members what the Board's intent is and how the survey will be handled.

The 2018 November General Election regarding de-Gallagherizing was briefly discussed and Upper Huerfano County Fire Protection District's ballot wording that passed a few years ago was presented and discussed. The Board authorized Director Littlefield to contact Attorney Dino Ross and request his recommendation on the ballot wording.

New Business

Director Shroul asked about the sale of the 1987 Ford Pickup (old Rescue 4). He stated that he is willing to advertise and sell it on Ebay. The Board decided to place a minimum reserve start bid of \$2,000 on the unit and allow Director Shroul to pursue sale of the 1987 Ford on Ebay.

MSA: The meeting adjourned at 7:55 PM.



Shannon R. Shroul, Secretary