

**LA VETA FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT**  
**La Veta Fire Station**  
**100 Birch**  
**La Veta, Colorado**

**MINUTES**

January 10, 2019  
6:00 P.M.

Present: Directors Littlefield, Nielsen, Heikes, and Walker were in attendance.  
Staff: Fire Chief DeTray, EMS Director Schmidt, and District Secretary Pezze.  
Guests: Dave Mower, Justin Jameson, Jim Berg, Sue Alt, Kim DeTray and guest, Stirling Lathrop, Mark Craddock, Mickey Schmidt, Marc Biggins, Liorah Crockett, and Don Kindler.

**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 January 10, 2019 Agenda was approved as presented.

**Minutes**

**MSA:** Minutes of the December 6, 2018 regular meeting were approved as presented.

**MSA:** Minutes of the December 18, 2018 emergency meeting were approved as presented.

**Resolutions**

**MSA:** The Board approved and signed the La Veta Fire Protection District Resolution 2019-01-01 Regarding Posting of Meetings.

**MSA:** The Board approved and signed Resolution 2019-01-02 Huerfano County Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan Adopting Update.

Secretary Pezze presented information on Colorado Open Records Act along with a draft of the Request for Inspection/Copy of Public Records form and a draft resolution. The subject was tabled pending further review by Board members.

**MSA:** The Board approved and signed the La Veta Fire Protection District Resolution 2019-01-04 to Change Meeting Location.

This addresses the location for the June, July and August La Veta Fire Protection District (LVFPD) Board meetings to be held at the Cuchara Fire Station.

**Public Comments**

Sue Alt from the LVFPD Auxiliary presented Sue Pezze with the Auxiliary's "Volunteer of the Month" award. Sue Pezze thanked the Sue Alt for her kind words of appreciation and the LVFPD Auxiliary for the honor of the award.

Marc Biggins addressed the Board and declared his resignation from the LVFPD membership. He further expressed his dismay in regard to multiple past resignations of LVFPD members, the calling of an emergency meeting on December 18, 2018, the fund raising efforts of members of the community for a new brush truck, the recently proposed Memorandum of Understanding between the LVFPD Board of Directors and the LVFPD Auxiliary, the release of the Survey Monkey individual comments, and the appearance of micro-management of Department Heads by Board Directors.

Director Nielsen countered that, in regard to the December 18, 2018 emergency meeting, there is a law case involving the Town of Nederand, Colorado in 1996 that establishes the legality of emergency meetings being held without prior notice in certain circumstances. Additional comments were received from Stirling Lathrop and Mark Craddock regarding the emergency meeting provisions. The final outcome being that the December 18, 2018 emergency meeting terminated upon Stirling Lathrop's attendance at the meeting and no Board actions were taken at that meeting.

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

Jim Berg advised that he has thought long and hard about how he would like to address the Board. He asked if the Board would allow him to present and play Mark Workan's June 27<sup>th</sup>, 2018 Spring Fire video slideshow. He would like to remind the Board of why LVFPD members (Directors and volunteers) serve voluntarily, what the LVFPD Board is in charge of and what everyone should be thinking about as LVFPD Directors and members. He feels there needs to be a "re-set" in thinking and the District cannot be treated like big business when working with a 100% volunteer membership. The Board deferred watching the video slideshow.

### **Guests, Correspondence, and Presenters**

Sale of the 1981 Ford and the 1984 Chevy Kodiak fire engines was addressed. Sec. Pezze advised that no sealed bids have been received for either truck. An email from Mark Brunner was presented stating that he has an individual who will purchase the 1981 Ford fire engine for \$3,500. The email also offered the thought that minimum bids could be lowered by \$1,000 and let out to bid again.

**MSA:** The Board accepted the offer to sell the 1981 Ford fire engine to Mark Brunner's referenced buyer for \$3,500. Also, the Board approved forming a committee of Directors Heikes and Walker to manage the sale of the 1984 Chevy Kodiak engine. The two Director committee is authorized to determine a process of sale and make any final sale decisions.

A letter from David DeTray was presented stating that he rescinded his letter of resignation (as LVFPD Fire Chief) that was effective January 9.

The following motion was made by Director Nielsen: I make a motion to not accept the offer made by David DeTray to rescind his resignation (dated 12/17/2018) as Fire Chief and to reaffirm the formal Board action (see approved minutes date 12/6/2018) receiving and accepting David DeTray's resignation as an EMS responder and Fire Chief (dated 12/6/2018) to be effective 1/9/2019.

Director Walker asked DeTray what thoughts he had put into his resignation and why he had changed his mind so quickly. DeTray stated that he felt a lack of appreciation and respect from the Board. He had conversations with Directors Shrou, Littlefield, Jim Berg about this. DeTray decided to rescind his resignation when Director Shrou had asked him to reconsider his resignation. DeTray then presented another letter of resignation as Fire Chief to be effective 1/11/2019 and stated he would turn in his gear, equipment and keys at 1:00 PM on January 11, 2019. He also presented his wife, Kim DeTray's resignation as EMT and support member of the Fire Dept.

Director Littlefield thanked Fire Chief DeTray for his service and DeTray exited. In view of DeTray's January 10, 2019 resignation Director Nielsen withdrew his previous motion.

A letter was presented from Director Shannon Shrou resigning as a Board Director effective December 21, 2018. He stated that in his employment position as Operations Superintendent with Cucharas Sanitation & Water District needs to take his highest priority at this time.

**MSA:** The Board accepted Shannon Shrou's letter of resignation as Board Director with regret and appreciation for his time and efforts in serving the LVFPD.

**MSA:** The Board approved and directed that a Public Notice be published requesting letters on interest for the vacant Board Director position.

Director Littlefield stated he has visited with David Steffan regarding helping as an Acting Fire Chief during the District's transition period and Steffan is willing to fill the position temporarily. There will also be an organizational meeting scheduled for the Fire and EMS Departments on January 12, 2019 to advise the members of the changes and plans going forward.

**MSA:** The Board approved the action of appointing David Steffan to the position of Acting Fire Chief.

**MSA:** Due to Shannon Shrou's resignation as Board Director, the Board approved the appointment of Director Walker as Board Secretary.

An email from the Huerfano County Water Conservancy District (HCWCD) was presented requesting a letter of commitment for participating as a partner in their upcoming grant application for further study on water storage projects. The Board concurred on this commitment.

### **Treasurer's Report**

The Treasurer's Report and payments for the January 10, 2019 meeting were presented.

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

Director Littlefield advised that he and Director Nielsen will set a meeting, hopefully in the next week, to meet with the Lathrop Family regarding their fundraising efforts earmarked for a new brush truck.

With Shannon Shrout's resignation as a Board Director, Directors Walker and Heikes stated they would jointly act as the LVFPD Auxiliary liaison.

Secretary Pezze advised that she and Debbie McKenzie Johnson will meet on January 22, 2019 to work on closing the District books for 2018. After their preparation, the information will be delivered to CPA Tim Dixon to complete the Exemption from Audit Application for 2018.

Director Littlefield asked Stirling Lathrop if the LVFPD Auxiliary funds have been placed in Certificates of Deposits or some other interest bearing accounts. Lathrop stated he thought this was the case but will check further.

### **EMS Director Report**

- 1) 8 EMS runs with 4 patients transported in December 2018.
- 2) Continuing work on the Colorado Dept. of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) grant for the new ambulance for Cuchara. The submission deadline is February 15, 2019.
- 3) SPRHC has submitted a joint grant for RETAC funds of \$13,000. The next RETAC meeting will be January 15, 2019.
- 4) Wendy Waldrop has not become certified as a Colorado or National Registry EMT and a letter was sent to her recently advising her to repay the LVFPD \$500 as per her tuition agreement. No word has been received back from Wendy to date. EMS Director Schmidt will keep the Board apprised of the status of this payback.

Along the same line Director Schmidt inquired about the balance of David DeTray's commitment to repay his meal expenses from the paramedic classes. The Board concurred that the remaining balance should be deducted from DeTray's final paycheck.

- 5) Eddie Ray conducted one EMS training class in December. He has scheduled 2 trainings in each January and February focusing on National Registry requirements.
- 6) There is a San Luis Valley EMS conference scheduled for February 15 to 17, 2019. Cost is \$125.00 conference fee plus room and board. Approval was granted for up to 4 EMTs to attend the conference as proposed.
- 7) Director Schmidt and Eddie Ray attended a Pre-Hospital Trauma Life Support class at SPRHC on January 4 and Eddie Ray is pursuing becoming a Stop the Bleed instructor and plans to present the Stop the Bleed class for the general public at the La Veta Library in February or March.
- 8) Have talked to the RETAC coordinator about possible EMT class instructors and Eddie Ray has advised that SPRHC is planning to offer an EMT class and an Advanced EMT in the near future.
- 9) The CDPHE profile update is almost complete.
- 10) The Huerfano County Ambulance License renewal application is complete and awaiting receipt of the paperwork.
- 11) Presented a recap of the EMS Department activity for 2018.
- 12) Request for surveillance cameras for ambulance bays. Supplies are missing.
- 13) The final purchases for the USDA gear and equipment grant will be made shortly to close out that grant by its finalization date of February 2, 2019.

The Board concurred that a surveillance system is a good idea. Director Walker and Director Littlefield offered to work on the project. It was also decided to change the door codes at both stations.

### **Fire Chief Report**

- 1) 4 fire calls in December 2018: 1 MVA – Semi roll-over on Hwy. 160, propane gas leak, power lines down and a smoking fireplace due to the damper being closed.
- 2) Fire Trainings in December: Dec. 1 at HCFPD in Walsenburg with 4 attending, Dec. 5 on SCBA with 6 attending, Dec. 8 at HCFPD in Walsenburg with 4 attending, Dec. 9 Work Day at LV Stn. with 5 attending, and Dec. 15 on ropes and knots with 14 attending.
- 3) 7121 (84 GMC Eng.) crankcase was repaired at Pueblo City maintenance shop and the cost is approximately \$4,000, much less than the price quoted by Front Range in Frederick, CO.

- 4) The annual flow back valves have been inspected for the LV Station.
- 5) Multiple burn permits have been issued in January due to the snowstorms providing good burning conditions.
- 6) David Steffan is attending the Colorado Wildfire Academy to become a certified burner.
- 7) Max Martinez from Trinidad Fire is providing training on SCBAs at the January trainings. Cost will be \$250.00.
- 8) Have started the shift system to help improve response to fire calls.
- 9) Items to be completed are: USDA grant closeout by February and LVFPD plans for flood response prior to the January 30<sup>th</sup> table top exercise.  
Director Littlefield offered to work on completing and formalizing the flood plan by January 30<sup>th</sup>.
- 10) Request the Board's approval to promote Robbie Velie, Steven Ames and David Steffan to Lieutenant positions.
- 11) Sec. Pezze attended the Annual Operations Plan meeting on January 9<sup>th</sup> and there are no significant changes for 2019.
- 12) An application from Austin Lingo was presented.  
**MSA:** The Board approved the application of Austin Lingo.

### **Old Business**

Regarding the Intergovernmental Agreement (I.G.A.) for the use of the La Veta Fire Station as an Emergency Operations Center by Huerfano County agencies Director Walker stated that it should be completed within the next 10 days. Director Littlefield offered to participate in a meeting with Cnty. Adm. John Galusha if that would be helpful.

Director Walker stated that there is no progress with the status of the State retirement pension plan. The State should be making funds available in the near future.

The Memorandum of Understanding with the LVFPD Auxiliary is still pending. The Auxiliary "goes dark" for the winter months and will not hold another meeting for 2 or 3 months.

The paid full-time District Chief position was briefly discussed. Director Nielsen stated that he is hoping to have a meeting with the Beulah Fire Dept. personnel about how they transitioned into the same position. Justin Jameson recommended that Director Nielsen also contact Loyd Holliman, the Stonewall Fire Chief, as they also operate in a similar fashion.

The topic of a drone for the LVFPD was discussed and Sec. Pezze advised that the Regional Fire Management Office, Joe Lobiondo has stated that there is a drone operator's instruction and certification course available through the Colorado Center for Excellence. Director Littlefield will share the information with Acting Fire Chief Steffan.

Acting Fire Chief Steffan and Sec. Pezze will work together on the Volunteer Firefighter Assistance grant for the purchase of wildland fire gear, equipment and training. Grant deadline is February 18, 2019.

### **New Business**

None.

**MSA:** The meeting adjourned at 8:06 PM.



Robert L. Walker, Secretary