

LA VETA FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

La Veta Fire Station
100 Birch St
La Veta, Colorado
MINUTES

April 13th, 2023 @ 18:00

Present: Directors Heikes, Chimenti, Valdez, and Brunner were in attendance. Director Mower was absent.
Staff: EMS Director/District Administrator Eddie Ray and Fire Chief Ron Jameson.

Guests: Cindy Jameson, Jim Littlefield, Melissa Ray, Mike Lacy, and David Steffan. Jim & Sue Alt, Kim Brunner joined via ZOOM.

Call to Order – Pledge - Roll Call

The meeting was called to order at 18:00, the Pledge of Allegiance was given, roll call was taken.

Approval of Agenda

* **MSA:** The April 13th, 2023, Agenda was approved.

Minutes

* **MSA:** Minutes of the March 16th, 2023 regular meeting were approved.

Public Forum

- Mike Lacy introduced himself to the Board of Directors as a candidate for the Board of Directors at the upcoming May 2nd election.
- David Steffan addressed the Board of Directors regarding a letter of support from the La Veta Fire Protection District for the La Veta Trails group as they are applying for a grant. Dave also explained the history between La Veta Fire Protection District and the La Veta Trails group. He also explained the benefits that the La Veta Fire Department would receive from the group.
 - * **MSA:** The Board of Directors approved the writing of the letter of support.
- DEO Cynthia Jameson addressed the Board of Directors giving an update on the status of the election. Cynthia stated that the election is moving along just fine. She has sent out 4 absentee ballots so far and she reminded the Board of Directors that the deadline to apply for absentee ballots is April 25th. The cost to mail the absentee ballots is about .85 and she will submit all mailing expenses at the end of the election. Cynthia has all the signs made and they meet the specification according to the requirements of election. Danette Chimenti will be the alternate judge for election day. Cynthia will be meeting with Sue Pezze on May 1st and verified that everything is ready, and all supplies are available for election day. Cynthia also reported to the Board of Directors that she received a phone call from Jim Alt that Cynthia had been calling the candidates to get information on the candidates, Cynthia stated that she had not been calling them and the information was false.

Guests, Correspondence, and Presenters

Treasurer's Report

- Director Brunner stated that he and Eddie Ray met with Century Financial and Tim Dixon regarding the financial reports and how the reports are sent to us. We have been receiving reports based on an accrual basis, but we should receive the report on a cash basis. That will give us a clearer picture of our financial condition.
- Director Brunner explained that the department is actually setup as a modified accrual. This is the accounting basis that Special Districts use. One item that Tim Dixon pointed out to us was that the "Contractual Allowances" line item is far too small and should be evaluated and corrected to more accurate. The Contractual Allowances is a line item to account for the amount of uncollectable debt. Currently the number is still set at the amount from when the district first started transporting

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

patients to the hospital, \$14,000.00. The number of patients that are now being transported to the hospital and the billable amount, as well as Medicare/Medicaid has increased substantially. Tim Dixon suggests that we look at the number and better calculate it based on current data. This will take time to calculate.

- Director Brunner stated that he spoke to Tim Dixon regarding the best advice as to where to put the \$72,000.00 that we recently received as a result of the back taxes being received from the Railroad. Director Mower requested that we investigate the options at last month's BOD meeting. The advice that Tim Dixon gave was that we look at the amount of interest we are paying on the outstanding loan and compare that to what we are making on interest on the money we have in the bank. Tim Dixon suggested we allow the money to build in the bank rather than applying the funds to the outstanding balance of the loan.
- EMS Director Ray reported on the EMS billing company that we are using. We have talked to 2 companies. We have 2 other companies we will be looking at in the next 2 weeks. We hope to be able to have a recommendation at the next Board meeting.
- * **MSA**: The treasurer's report was approved as presented.

Fire Chief Report

- Chief Jameson reported on the number of trainings that have been conducted recently in the district.
- The Rural Engine Boss training went well and was well attended. There were 3 fire departments that attended the training session.
- The propane training is scheduled for May 13th.
- The DFPC grant was unsuccessful.
- The work lights on the Tender were not working correctly so they were replaced with LED lights, and they are working great.
- New batteries were installed in E-51
- E-63 broke down on its way home from a fire in the Aguilar area and was towed to the repair shop that recently repaired the turbo on the unit in La Junta.
- Chief Jameson has been working with Huerfano County on the burn permit requirements and who is responsible for the burns. The county Health Department is now getting involved and are suggesting that restrictions be placed on the size and number of burn piles be limited. Chief Jameson stated that if they want to place restrictions on the burns then they should be more involved in approving the burns themselves. Chief Jameson stated that the Health Department would be meeting with the Fire Chiefs and the County Commissioners on April 28th to discuss the issues.
- Chief Jameson reported on the E-911 authority board. The fire departments have not had a seat at the table although we do have to work with them. The county is working on getting all three fire departments a seat at the table and having more input into the decisions that are being made by them.
- ISO inspection has started, and Chief Jameson stated that the information is being gathered and ready for the inspector to review. The mutual aid agreement with the neighboring departments are helping our inspection and our ISO rating.
- * **MSA**: The Board of Directors agreed to accept Mason Davis as a member of the La Veta Fire Protection District as he has completed his probation period.
- Chief Jameson presented a job description for the Communications Officer position. * **MSA**: The Board of Directors accept the new job description as presented by Chief Jameson.

EMT Director's Report:

- Training: LifePack15 operations and communication with the hospital.

- No major maintenance issues for the month.
- We had 15 total calls, 12 were transported to the ER, 3 were refusals or cancelations.
- Director Ray has completed the work on reporting data and information for the required CMS reporting.
- Director Ray reported that Rescue 1 is experiencing an issue with the automatic dump system and will need to be sent to a repair shop in Golden Colorado. There is no estimate on the cost of repairs.
- The RETAC grant funds will be coming soon in the amount of \$10,000.00.
- The EMS Basic class will be completed on Saturday. We will have 7 students graduating and ready to take the NREMT exam. We have the possibility of having 4 new EMT for the district to add to our team.
- We had a combined training with the fire department and the EMS, the training involved Huerfano County Fire, Gardner Fire, La Veta Fire, and La Veta EMS.

Administrator's Report:

- Administrator Ray reported that all the administrator items have already been covered earlier in the meeting.

Old Business

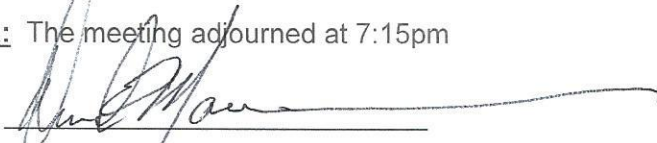
- The Board of Directors reviewed the SOPs regarding the fire training. The changes were made to the SOPs and they are all up to date. * **MSA:** The Board of Directors approved the completed and updated SOPs as they have presented for the 2nd reading.
- The district inventory is coming along. The inventory of the gear and equipment on the fire trucks is up to date. Most of the district radios are accounted for, we are still looking for 6 800 radios. Director Brunner requested that we present a list of the inventory at the next Board meeting.

New Business

- No new business

Executive Session – not needed.

* **MSA:** The meeting adjourned at 7:15pm



David E. Mower, Secretary