

LA VETA FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

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

October 13<sup>th</sup>, 2022 @ 18:00

Present: Directors Brunner, Valdez, and Mower were in attendance. Director Chimenti was appointed to the Board of Directors.

Staff: Fire Chief Ron Jameson and EMS Director/District Administrator Eddie Ray.

Guests: Jim Littlefield, Sue Alt, Brian Jameson, Haley Jameson, Justin Jameson, Mickey Schmidt, and Malea Schmidt, Kim Brunner, Melissa Ray, Jim Alt

**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 October 13<sup>th</sup>, 2022, Agenda was approved with 1 addition. Director Heikes requested an executive session prior to the vote of the appointment of the vacant Board Member.

**Executive Session**

- The Board of Directors entered into an Executive Session (§24-6-402(4)(f) C.R.S.)
- The Regular Board meeting resumed at 18:36
- Appointment of a Member to the vacant position. Danette Chimenti was appointed to the vacant Board of Directors position. The other interested party was thanked for their interest in the position and encouraged to run for election in the upcoming election in May 2023.
  - Danette Chimenti took the oath of office to fulfill the commitment of the Board of Director for the remainder of the office until the election in May of 2023

**Minutes**

\* **MSA:** Minutes of the September 8<sup>th</sup>, 2022 regular meeting were approved.

**Public Forum**

Jim Littlefield addressed the Board of Directors regarding the confusion of the appointment of the Board of Directors and the vacant position. He thanked the Board of Directors for their diligence in reaching the issue and resolving the issues efficiently.

**Guests, Correspondence, and Presenters**

**Treasurer's Report**

- Director Brunner explained the transfer of \$20,000.00 into the general checking account for the purpose of covering any upcoming bills when the District Administrator was out of town.
- \* **MSA:** the treasurer's report was approved as presented.

**Fire Chief Report**

- Training: Extraction training and car fire training.
- There were no equipment repairs for the month of September

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

- Chaparral Construction LLC. masticated back of station 2.
- The Auxiliary will be hosting a potluck on October 29. Neighboring Departments have been invited to join us. This will be a time to get to know our neighboring department personnel and visit.
- Chief Jameson addressed the training hours of the fire personnel and that some will be falling short of the needed hours of training to maintain their membership.
- Chief Jameson asked the Board of Directors regarding the ability to have individuals to be on the roster to drive apparatuses for the department. There was extensive discussion regarding this issue by the Board of Directors regarding the ability of individuals to participate in the department and be in good standing with the department. It was explained that the EMS training is separate from the Fire training but the hours attending the EMS training qualify to maintain the members to be in good standing with the department. Chief Jameson stated that some volunteer firefighters are trying to respond to EMS calls but are not able to respond due to excessive radio traffic. EMS director Ray stated that the people that want to help with EMS calls whether they are able to respond on the radio or not to come to the scene and they will be welcomed to help on any call. The question was asked regarding the call volume being reported by the State, fire calls and EMS calls. It was explained that the EMS call are reported to the State and that the EMS calls helps the fire side of for call volume and assisting in us qualifying for grants to help the department.
- Chief Jameson gave an update on the mastication project in the National Forest and surrounding areas in our district.
- We received 1 application for membership to the department. He is starting the process.

#### **EMT Director's Report:**

- Training: We communication and radio transmissions. We conducted several scenarios and simulated our reports to the Hospital and to Dispatch.
- The passenger inside dual tire had a failure causing the tire to come apart, when the rubber from the tire came loose it caught the exhaust pipe pulling it from the Turbo. The tire also tore the air line from the passenger side air bag in the rear. The unit is in the repair shop and estimated repairs will be \$1,500.00. The parts are ordered. We are waiting for them to come in to be installed.
- We had 20 total calls, 15 were transported to the ER, 5 were refusals or cancelations.
- We received 1 application for the EMS department.
- I would like to offer an EMT Basic class in La Veta to start in January, the class will be a 3 to 4 month class meeting 2 nights a week and an occasional Saturday. The fee would be \$750.00 per person plus books.

#### **Administrator's Report:**

- The budget committee met and developed the draft budget to present to the Board of Directors. We did increase some of the expense line items due to general increases in utilities and fuel.
  - Director Brunner explained the budget line items and explained why they were increased.
  - Director Vonnie questioned the increase in the professional and legal issues. It was explained that the professional agencies are increasing their rates.
  - Director Chimenti questioned the amount in the grants section and if we are expecting a large purchase. It was explained that we are hoping for a grant to purchase a replacement fire engine.
  - Mickey Schmidt in the crowd asked about the property taxes and why there is an increase in the property tax line. He also questioned the amount in the grants line, it was explained that the staff has requested the amounts to be put in the budget. It was explained that there are funds available and grants that can be applied for.
  - Mickey Schmidt questioned the department salaries. It was explained that the line in question includes the incentives for the end of year checks for the volunteers in addition to the salaries of the employees.
- \* **MSA:** the submission for the draft budget

- The Cuchara Conservation District is asking for a letter of support from the La Veta Fire Protection District as they are applying for a grant. \* **MSA:** The Board of Directors voted to submit the letter of support.
- \* **MSA:** The Board of Directors voted for the SDA Cancer Collaboration and voted to have Director Brunner as the representative and Director Chimenti as the alternate representative.

#### **Old Business**

- The road conditions in Cuchara. The county is still waiting for information from Jade Communication. There has still been nothing done to better the road conditions.
  - a. Jim Littlefield again recommended we contact commissioner Andretta regarding the road conditions. It was also recommended that we attend the public meeting at the commissioners meeting so the newspaper would report it to the public as well.

#### **New Business**

- Increase EMS charges – Director Brunner presented to the Board of Directors a proposed increase in the charges the EMS department for services rendered. It was explained that the La Veta EMS has not increased our rates since we began to transport patient to the hospital 13 years ago. The proposed increase would be:
  - \$1,300.00 for BLS transports
  - \$1,750.00 for ALS transports
  - \$35.00 per mile for transports
  - \* **MSA:** The Board of Directors voted to adopt the increased rates for transports effective 10/13/2022
- Increase for responders pay – Director Brunner presented to the Board of Directors a proposed increase in the amount of stipend that is paid to the volunteers for their services. The proposed increase would be:
  - \$75.00 for transports to the hospital
  - \$30.00 for calls without transportation to the hospital
  - \$100.00 for transports to the hospital plus writing the PCR for the call
  - \$25.00 for training
  - The increase in the transportation rates will cover the cost of the increases paid to the volunteers.
  - \* **MSA:** The Board of Directors voted to adopt the increased rates for the volunteers for their time and per call. The increase will be effective immediately.
- Develop a position for facility manager – Director Brunner presented the Board of Directors a proposal for a position to become the facility manager for the 2 stations. Director Valdez stated that the tasks should be completed by the fire chief and the EMS director/District Administrator rather than creating a new position. There was extensive discussion and questions from the public regarding the position and the amount of authority the position would be given. It was pointed out that the employees are already putting more than 40 hours per week. It was stated that the tasks on the facility manager position should be delegated by the employees. Director Heikes decided to table the discussion until the Board of Directors could discuss and research the topic further.

**Executive Session** – §24-6-402(4)(f), C.R.S. – Discussion of Fire Chief position and the EMS Director/District Administrator. – 17:55

#### **Adjourned Executive Session at 21:56**

\* **MSA:** The meeting adjourned at 21:57

  
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 David E. Mower, Secretary