

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Meeting Minutes of the Estes Valley Fire Protection District

October 28, 2020 5:30 p.m.

Dannels Fire Station, 901 N. St. Vrain Ave., Estes Park, CO 80517

Board: Mike Richardson, Ed Ford, Jon Hodde (ZOOM), Larry Leaming (ZOOM)

Staff: Fire Chief Wolf, Board Recording Secretary Goetz

Also Attending via ZOOM platform: Dave Hamrick, Randy Brigham, Doug Klink, Asst. Chief Jon Landkamer, Cpt. Rick Spear, Cpt. Justin Kearney, Lt. Christopher Thomas, Lt. William Harkins, Brad Harris, Rachel Hofsess, Mark Igel, Ryan Leahy

Absent:

The following minutes reflect the order of the agenda and not necessarily the chronological sequence of the meeting.

Due to the COVID-19 precautions this meeting was held as a hybrid meeting.

Ed Ford called the meeting to order at 5:31 p.m.

Chief Wolf led the Pledge of Allegiance

Secretary Goetz performed roll call – all present

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

None

PUBLIC COMMENT / BOARD COMMENT

No public comment.

No board comment

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Moved by Larry Leaming, seconded by Mike Richardson to approve the agenda as written. Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Moved by Larry Leaming, seconded by Mike Richardson to approve the 9/23/2020 meeting minutes as written. Motion carried unanimously.

Presentations: None

REPORTS

Fire Chief Report –

Administrative Division:

Grants

- Received \$10,000 reimbursement grant from DOLA for COVID expenses
- Received \$20,000 for Larimer County Behavioral Health 2021
- Other
 - Member compensation for wildfires
 - Received approximately \$25,000 in wildfire reimbursements for CH70
 - XX member shifts for Glen Haven
 - XX member shifts for Estes Valley

Prevention Division:

- Fire Restrictions
 - Stage 2 (Ban), for Estes, Larimer County, Arapaho Roosevelt Forest, and RMNP
 - Operational permits for exemptions while ensuring safety
- Ready, Set, Go! Grant Program
 - Site visit recap
 - Kiosk approved

Training Division:

- External Classes (Hosting/Instructing)
 - Fire Academy
 - On hold due to wildfires

Operations Division:

- Calls Stats
 - 10/28/2020: 495 (-8%)
 - 10/28/2019: 538
- Notable Incidents
 - Cameron Peak
 - East Troublesome
 - Ponderosa Structure Fire

Cameron Peak Fire:

- 1) 08/13 – Fire started, with Estes units responding on initial attack under mutual aid (E-2)
- 2) 8/23 – LEWSTONE (3 operational periods)
- 3) 09/05 – Fire threatens Rocky Mountain National Park. Started attending meetings with Incident Management Team (IMT) and Rocky Mountain National Park (RMNP).
- 4) 09/06 – 9/22: Embedded with IMT to support Estes Valley interests
 - Ensured that IMT and other partners were aware of values at risk in the Estes Valley
 - Provided local intel to Division Supervisors and Branch Chief for terrain, holding features
 - Provided all preparatory work done to date that could add value:
 - i. Wildfire modeling and response plan, built in 2017
 - ii. Community Evacuation Plan, built in 2018
 - iii. Fuel models and wildfire risk assessment, built in 2018
 - iv. Detailed GIS maps of district with pertinent features, built in 2018
 - v. Community Wildfire Protection Plan, updated 2019
 - Served as liaison for the Estes Valley to IMT. Collected and communicated concerns from numerous local agencies.
 - i. Estes Park Police Department / Emergency Management
 - ii. Estes Park Health
 - iii. Glen Haven Fire
 - iv. Loveland Fire Rescue Authority
 - v. Private landowners to arrange land use agreements for line construction, drop points, landing zones, and helicopter fill sites
 - Maintained communications for Estes Valley Fire
 - i. Daily updates to agency to all members and Board
 - ii. Communicate with Officers about potential needs
 - Increased public messaging
 - i. Informational flyers in English and Spanish on website (completed by Prevention)
 - ii. Updated Town electronic message boards about drones
- 5) 10/2 – 10/6: Served on Highway 14 Structure Protection Group
 - Completed qualification as STEN
- 6) 10/14 – 10/21: Assisted in Glen Haven
 - Completed qualification as TFLD
 - Provided much needed leadership and liaison for local resources
 - Integrated Estes Valley units as appropriate, providing valuable experience for Estes Firefighters
- 7) 10/21 – present: Emergency Operations Center
 - Serving as co-Incident Commander for EOC with TOEP, filling org chart
 - i. PIO shared by TOEP, Goetz, Richardson
 - ii. Logistics shared by TOEP, Sullivan
 - iii. Operations shared by TOEP, Capo
 - iv. Embedded: Utilities, RMNP, LCSO
 - Coordination to evacuate the entire Estes Valley for the first time ever
 - i. Utilized plans built in 2017 to accomplish
 - ii. Took approximately 5 hours to clear all (half of expected time)
 - iii. Ongoing work to determine roll back plans

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- Coordinated with IMT on needs for different fires
 - i. Worked with structure protection specialist, communicated priorities identified in 2017
 - 1. Protection of hospital
 - 2. Protection of water supply system
 - 3. Protection of radio towers
 - ii. Provided mutual aid surge, including 36 engines and 113 firefighters
- Coordinating meeting for all local government/cooperators to ensure communication
 - i. Worked with utilities providers for shut off and restoration
 - 1. Water
 - 2. Electric
 - 3. Gas (Xcel)
 - ii. Regularly scheduled coordination meeting with
 - 1. School
 - 2. Rec District
 - 3. Sanitation Districts
 - 4. Chamber / VEP / ELA
 - 5. Others
- Ongoing threats:
 - i. Snow helped, but less than 1" of rain equivalent
 - 1. FBAN update
 - 2. IR update
 - ii. Cameron Peak – North Fork Drainage
 - 1. 1200 acres 1 mile from Glen Haven
 - 2. MAPs set for potential impacts to Estes
 - iii. East Troublesome – Thompson Zone
 - 1. 4,500 acres 1 mile from YMCA
 - 2. MAPs set for potential impacts to Estes

Chief Wolf is proposing to use the income from his wildland fire deployments to pay the department members for shifts they did while deployed on the fires. Amount to be determined by total income and total fire shifts done. Jon Hodde noted his conflict as his wife, Megan Hodde, was deployed on the fires, but he supports supporting the department members.

Motion by Larry Leaming, seconded by Mike Richardson to approve compensation to the members for shifts not to exceed amount billed for Chief Wolfs deployments. Motion carried unanimously.

Treasurer's Report- Jon Hodde reviewed the September 2020 balance sheet(s) including, but not limited to: governmental funds and schedule of capital assets, statement of revenues, expenditures, and changes in fund balance for general operations, operating reserve, Tabor and capital reserve were also provided. Sales tax projections were discussed.

Moved by Larry Leaming, seconded by Mike Richardson to accept paid bills. Motion carried unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS

Extension of Disaster Declaration

While we are operating under a disaster declaration the board needs to formally extend the order at each board meeting.

Motion by Jon Hodde, seconded by Mike Richardson to extend resolution 20-02 continuation of declaration of local disaster emergency. Motion carried unanimously.

2021 Proposed Budget

Chief Wolf again presented the proposed 2021 budget with no significant changes since the last presentation. There were no questions or discussion from the board.

NEW BUSINESS

Active Membership Policy

Chief Wolf presented to the board the active membership policy and how COVID has affected our call volume. Paged calls are down 25%, therefore Chief Wolf proposes a modification of 75% of target to be in good standing for the year of 2020. This will be written up and brought to the board for formal review on 11/11/2020 and then for approval on 11/25/2020.

Fee Waiver Request – CDOT Facility

Chief Wolf presented to the board the request for a fee waiver by CDOT for a facility on Elm Road. Chief Sullivan submitted a letter showing support for a reduction but not a full waiver of fees. The board discussed what has been done in the past and if this fit within the scope of our policy.

Motion by Mike Richardson, seconded by Larry Leaming to support Chief Sullivan's recommendation of retaining the plan review fee of \$500 and 50% reduction of the impact fee. Motion carried unanimously.

Board Vacancy

Dave Coleson resigned from the board effective 10/19/2020. There are three people who have expressed interest in the position, Dave Hamrick, Randy Brigham, Doug Klink. This position will be filled by appointment and go until the next election in 2022. All three prospective board members introduced themselves and gave a brief background of experience to the board. Lt. William Harkins asked what the process is. Jon Hodde expressed a desire to fill the vacancy soon and to not delay. Mike Richardson expressed that he feels they should have a connection to the department so they can maintain connection to the membership. Larry Leaming voiced that having too many people on the board with an operations background is a disadvantage. That the board needs to represent the community and needs to be visionary. The board encouraged the membership to get to know the candidates and provide feedback. Erika Goetz to send an email to the membership and provide contact information for the candidates. Erika is to collect feedback from the membership and provide that to the board. The board intends to fill the vacancy at a board meeting on November 11th.

Resolution 2020-04 Wildfire Disaster Declaration

Chief Wolf signed an emergency declaration for wildfires on October 23rd, 2020. This declaration needs to be approved by the board within 7 days.

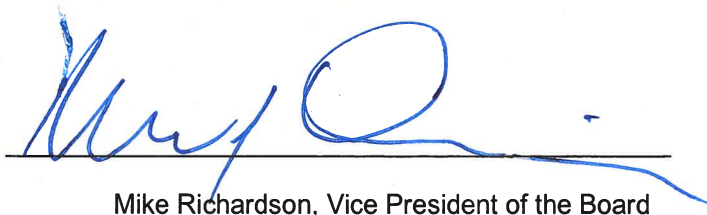
Motion by Larry Leaming, seconded by Mike Richardson to approve resolution 2020-04 for Wildfire Disaster Declaration. Motion carried unanimously.

Chief Wolf expressed that many outside agencies have had high praise for our department and membership.

President Ed Ford thanked the staff and membership for everything they have done these past few weeks.

The next regularly scheduled board meeting will be Wednesday November 11th, 2020 at 5:30 p.m. at Dannels Fire Station.

Meeting adjourned at 6:40p.m.



Mike Richardson, Vice President of the Board

MR/eg

The Mission of the Estes Valley Fire Protection District is to provide the citizens of and visitors to the Estes Valley with superior fire prevention, fire protection and emergency services in a safe and efficient manner."

"The Mission of the Board of Directors of the Estes Valley Fire Protection District is to establish policy, goals, strategies and financial leadership that are the foundation for the long-term sustainability of the District."