

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

**Meeting Minutes of the Estes Valley Fire Protection District
February 20, 2013 7:00 p.m.
Dannels Fire Station, 901 N. St. Vrain Ave., Estes Park, CO 80517**

Board: President Sue Doylen, Vice President Frank Theis, Treasurer Doug Klink, Mark Igel, Jack Rumley

Staff: Chief Scott Dorman, Secretary Landkamer

Also Attending: Public attendee Dot Dorman

Absent: None

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

President Sue Doylen called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Chief Dorman led the Pledge of Allegiance

Secretary Landkamer performed roll call- All present

PUBLIC COMMENT / BOARD COMMENT

Public comment: None

Board comment: None

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Moved by Mark Igel, seconded by Frank Theis to approve agenda as listed. Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Moved by Jack Rumley, seconded by Doug Klink to approve the 1-23-13 and 1-30-13 meeting minutes. Motion carried unanimously.

REPORTS

Fire Chief Report- Chief Dorman encouraged the board members to attend the 2013 SDA Conference to be held in Keystone, CO on September 18-20, 2013. Dorman has attended this conference in previous years and stated that the board members would be exposed to valuable information about being a board member of a Special District at this conference.

Chief Dorman recently attended the ISO Training at the State Chief's Meeting in Denver. At this training, they reviewed the new ISO rating system that will go into effect on July 1, 2013. There are many improvements that will be made like no equipment equivalency standards. They will also put more weight on the distance fire engines are located from property. Dorman stated that for a department of our size, the EVFPD has a very good rating as the lower the number rating, the better. The majority of departments nationally are an 8 or a 9 and Estes Park, currently rated a 4, falls within the top 15% in the nation. The ISO provides information to insurance companies with ratings. Additionally many insurance companies now need to know the distance a property is from a hydrant and also from a fire engine. Jack Rumley commented that after losing his home in the Woodland Heights Fire, Farmers Insurance was very receptive and gave him a wonderful rate. The State Insurance Commissioner needs to adopt the new ISO changes.

The Chief attended a meeting with Senator Udall yesterday to discuss the 2012 and 2013 fire season. Many city representatives attended this Senator's meeting. The discussion consisted of talking about the aftermath of the 2012 fire season and how the water quality has been affected by the state's wildfires. It was also stated that approximately half of the homeowners that lost their property in the High Park Fire were underinsured. Funding is a large problem with fuels mitigation and the ability to add more culverts. The Senator stated that in 2013, he wants to have more air tankers readily available to assist in fighting the fires and suggested the Air Force provide aircraft to be utilized. Chief Dorman had the opportunity to speak with the Senator and stated that in regard to the Woodland Heights Fire, Estes Park lost 23 homes but what saved the town from losing so many more, was the fact helicopters were nearby. Chief commented that towns need other resources besides tankers such as these helicopters. The Senator said he would look into that area. At the meeting, the US Forest Service stated that the outlook for the 2013 season is to be dryer than average and the ERC of fuels are at a high potential for large fires in the state. The fire activity is expected to start in March of 2013 unless an increase in precipitation happens between now and then. No one representing the Town of Estes Park was at this meeting and the only two fire department / district representatives were from Poudre Fire Authority and the Estes Valley Fire Protection District. It was noted that the RMNP did not make a comment about the water quality after dealing with the Fern Lake Fire.

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Chief Dorman talked about the Senate Bill 1325 which talks about collective bargaining. Comment was made that this is good for career firefighters but not for small Special Districts with volunteers. Governor Hickenlooper has said he does not approve of this current form and will not sign it as is. Klink mentioned the last bill would affect departments with a minimum of 50 personnel and this one would affect all. If this bill passes and becomes a law, it could impact a Special District financially.

Last Saturday, firefighter Jon Landkamer was presented with a Community Service Award from the Optimist Club. Chief Dorman nominated Landkamer to receive this honor and mentioned the following qualities that led to this nomination; a loyal member of the EPVFD for over 22 years, Lieutenant then Captain position, Dive Team Leader, Incident Commander at Woodland Heights Fire, maintains multiple certifications, Secretary of the volunteer organization, a true leader and a firefighter you can always count on. The Chief and his wife Dot, along with Jon Landkamer and his wife and children attended the event at the Stanley Hotel last weekend.

Chief Dorman talked about the Bank of Colorado and the new online bill pay that the district started last month. The bank removed Chief from authorization of payments and this was a direct conflict of the policy set by the EVFPD. It in fact should take a resolution by the Board to remove the Chief's name from the signature card. Doug Klink said the bank got confused with people's names and somewhere the wires got crossed as the corporate offices are located in another state and Klink was traveling at the time the messages were confused via phone. Klink said the bank should have this problem fixed by the end of this week. Klink stated that after talking to the district's accountants it was discovered that many districts have a higher dollar amount that require two signatures in order to be processed. Currently the EVFPD has a \$5,000.00 threshold for a double signature. It was agreed that after the Chief looks at potential high dollar bills, a higher amount will be established and voted on.

Letters from the Windcliff homeowners were passed around for the board to view. Windcliff has donated thousands of dollars from the homeowners association as well as private homeowners to the EVFPD and the purchase of a new engine for the district.

Igel asked if the Chief met with the homeowners outside Loveland that are currently in the EVFPD's boundaries. Although Chief has not met with them, he stated that unless Loveland Rural wants to add them to their district, they will remain part of ours. The EVFPD has a mutual aid agreement with Loveland Rural to make sure these homes are protected.

Vice President Theis asked for an update on Old Man Mountain. The two owners of the property, a private owner and UNC, have failed to respond to the Chief's letters. The district attorney said there is not much the EVFPD can do as the property owners are protected by law. Our firefighters assume liability when they go to Old Man Mountain and perform these rescues while understanding that they are risking their lives to help save others.

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

Chief Dorman met with Steve Miller, an Estes Park resident retired from Poudre Fire Authority, and discussed the strategic plan process. Miller stated that the board should not be involved at this stage of the planning process. Chief commented that the district needs to get the stakeholders involved in this process. When the current strategic plan was made, the district did not get stakeholders involved and thus did not get a buy-in from the volunteers or the community. This was a mistake. Chief Dorman said we need data and information before the district can proceed and get the community involved. Poudre Fire Authority uses an ICS strategic plan and it was decided that the Estes Valley Fire Protection District will ask feedback from numerous community boards, community members, community officials and other organizations that have a stake in this strategic plan. Frank Theis asked how all this will get accomplished as it is an extremely large amount of time and work that will be needed to accomplish this goal. Chief stated that Miller agreed to help with this process. President Doyley wanted to be sure the Mission and Vision Statements of the EVFPD were included in the foundation of the information given to the stakeholders. This strategic plan process should take about 6 months to complete. The Board unanimously agreed to consult with Miller and use his expertise to aid us in the strategic plan process. Klink stated he would Chief Dorman to bring back the cost of using Miller's services at the next meeting.

The Chief's evaluation was discussed. President Doyley drafted a policy and Mark Igel modified this version and drafted his own. Igel and Klink both expressed their desire to have an Executive Session without the Chief present. President Doyley said the Chief deserves to hear what is being discussed about him and a second Executive Session without the Chief present is not in the best interest of the relationship between the Board and the CEO. Jack Rumley concurred with President Doyley and stated that in his 37 years with Excel Energy, he was always included with his evaluation process and there were no secret meetings that took place without him present. Theis does not think an Executive Session for the evaluation process is needed as the board is establishing a policy that will be used into the future.

At the next meeting, there will be an Executive Session first without the Chief present and then inviting the Chief in to discuss his review. This also suggested that the board members complete their evaluation forms and give them back to the Vice President to compile. An average will be taken from all numbers in the point scoring section and comments will be provided to all. A vote to adopt the Fire Chief's Performance Review with specific revisions as agreed upon by the board was moved by Klink, seconded by Rumley. Motion carried unanimously.

Next regular board meeting scheduled for February 27, 2013 at 7:00 p.m. at the Dannels Fire Station.

Meeting adjourned at 9:05 p.m.


Suzanne Landkamer, Recording Secretary

"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."