

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

**Meeting Minutes of the Estes Valley Fire Protection District
August 14, 2024 4:30 p.m.
Dannels Fire Station, 901 N. St. Vrain Ave., Estes Park, CO 80517**

Board: Dave Hamrick, Brian Tseng, Ryan Bross, Mike Lewelling, Chris Buser

Staff: Asst. Chief Jon Landkamer; Interim Chief Paul Capo; Chief of Staff Erika Goetz, Lt. Stacy Sutherland, Marinda Baxter

Also Attending: Captain Rick Spear, Lt. Ron Bruchwalski, Brian Schaffer, Michael Barnthouse, Kelly Brenner, Ryan Leahy, Gabe Bruyere, Lindsey Sutherland, Patti Brown, Frank Theis

Absent: none

President Ryan Bross called the meeting to order at 4:39 p.m.

Assistant Chief Capo led the Pledge of Allegiance

Erika Goetz performed roll call – all present

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Moved by Brian Tseng and seconded by Chris Buser to approve the agenda as written. Motion carried unanimously.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

None

PUBLIC COMMENT

Kelly Brenner – I would like to ask since last time I was here for a board meeting, it was really hard to hear, and I was right behind you. You particularly right there. So maybe speak up a little bit so I can hear a little better? Thank you. That is all. It was not a really big deal. Just a little louder.

Lt. Ron Bruchwalski - So I don't know what Captain Spear might be bringing to the table. I want to steal his thunder. I've had several people come to me with their disappointment in the board. There's a lot of anger, a lot of anger, slight disappointment. We had a board meeting 2 weeks ago and basically you guys were thrown under the bus. You know how everybody's feeling about what's going on right now and nothing has been said to anybody. It was also brought to me at the family dinner no board members showed up for that. It didn't go over very well. And I also hear rumblings in the town everybody talking about having a recall of the board. I don't know what's involved in that or anything like that, but that's what everybody feels right now.

Frank Thies - I hear things too. I know a lot of people in town, and I haven't heard anything about the board doing any kind of awful job or anything, I think you all want it. Hang in there. There are times when you get a little heat, but more often than not having been on this board early on, you spend these meetings with nobody here just doing your job. So I just want to say thank you.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Moved by Ryan Bross and seconded by Brian Tseng to approve the meeting minutes from the 7/31/24 board meeting but double checking the time for entering executive session. Motion carried unanimously. (time for entering executive session was updated to 4:52pm due to typing error)

PRESENTATIONS

None

REPORTS

Chief's Report – deferred to the 8/28 meeting

Volunteer Captain Report – Captain Spear echoed Lt. Bruchwalski's earlier comments that there is disappointment within the membership ranks. Feels that there needs to be effort to rebuild trust and engage with the membership. Volunteers continue to perform and show up and wishes to thank them for their service.

OLD BUSINESS

Strategic Plan – no update

POLICY UPDATES

None.

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

NEW BUSINESS –

Review of Fire Chief Job Description

The board discussed the time and effort put into the job description just over a year ago. Consensus was that the board feels like the job description still reflects the chief they wish to hire. No changes were proposed.

Motion by Ryan Bross, seconded by Dave Hamrick to approve the use of the same fire chief job description for this hiring process.

Next Steps for Recruitment of New Fire Chief

Brian Tseng and Chris Buser had a phone conversation with Warren from Prothman about options for the chief search. Under the existing agreement signed with Prothman if the selected candidate did not work out in the first year, Prothman would redo the search at no additional cost. The district would still pay for any expenses incurred in the search such as flying Warren out for the meet & greet and interview assessments, but costs would be minimal. There were two avenues discussed, an external search and an internal only search. Discussion was had about the pros and cons while also acknowledging the feedback by the membership at the last meeting. The consensus was that we should proceed with an internal only search. Brian Tseng was asked to reach out to Warren to get the process started and to see what the next steps are.

BOARD COMMENT

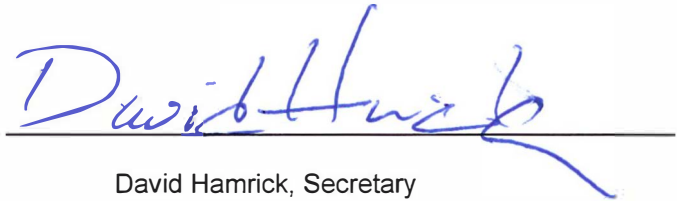
Brian Tseng expressed his thanks to the firefighters for everything they have done with the Alexander Mountain fire, the structure fire, and changes in leadership. He is impressed and in awe. He thanked the firefighters for their feedback and to let them know that the board hears them. Brian is excited to move forward. Ryan Bross seconded those comments.

Chris Buser wanted to thank the leadership team for jumping in during this time of transition.

The next board meeting will be on Wednesday, August 28th.

Motion by Brian Tseng, seconded by Dave Hamrick to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 5:01 p.m.



David Hamrick, 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."