



CRYSTAL LAKES VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

237 Blackfoot rd., Red Feather Lakes, CO 80545
(970) 881-3521

Business Meeting Minutes

June 27, 2024

Meeting called to order at 1800 by Chief Clark.

Attendees: Mike Clark, Evan Rau, Brad Chiodo, Doug Race, Jody Sandquist, Jon Gessert, Sue Gessert, Susan Rau, Marian Kelly, Harold Alexander, Mark Weeks, Karen Smith, Jay Smith, Craig Mawle. Guest: Shirla Race, Amelia Vann. Attendees from the district board: Susan Vance, Tom DeMint, Robin Lauric.

Approval of the Agenda – Mark Weeks moved to approve the agenda as written, Evan Rau seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Approval of Minutes from Previous Meeting – Doug Race moved to approve the minutes as submitted, Jim Kubichek seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Discussion Topics

Personnel

- Introduction of new Cadet – Amelia Vann is seventeen, her family's lived in Crystal Lakes on Osage for three years after moving back to the US from living abroad. She's graduated from high school and is taking a gap year before going to college. While overseas, she was involved in a number of evacuation and emergency situations, which has given her the desire to volunteer for an agency like CLVFD. Jim Kubichek moved to accept Amelia as a cadet, Evan Rau seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Department

- The Mill Levy Campaign presentation was moved up in the agenda so the guest members of the board didn't have to remain for the whole meeting. The presentation was given by Doug Race and Tom DeMint, followed by department discussion.
 - There will be a measure on the November ballot to retain and reassign 3 of the 4 mills that were part of the mill levy voted in to pay for the bond used to pay for the station remodel (which we've paid off early).
 - History of CLFPD mill levy – We've had the same mill levy rate (5 mills) since the district was formed in 1995. This has provided our operational funds and is the lowest rate the state allows a fire district to charge. An additional 4 bond mill levy was voted in by the community in 2015 to remodel the fire station (these funds could only go to pay off the bond for the station). This will be paid off in December, early, at a savings of approximately \$64,000 in

interest. Retaining and reassigning 3 of those additional 4 mills would set our mill levy at 8 mills to fund operations.

- Reasons for proposing – Safety, Readiness, Resiliency
 - To meet the additional needs created by a growing population in Crystal Lakes and address the increase in wildfire risk caused by climate change, and to maintain and improve fire and medical emergency services.
 - Needs include maintaining an aging fleet; replacing and updating essential equipment/PPE; establishing critical technology systems; addressing inflation costs of operations, fuel, insurance, and utilities; keeping up with needs for retention and recruitment, training, peer support.
 - Apparatus needs – need to replace three vehicles that are more than 20 years old (exceeding NFPA standards); need to be prepared to replace Tender 1 (built 2007) and Engine 1 (built 2008).
 - This year, our operating revenue (from the 5 mills) gave us an operating revenue of \$230,000. Our capital reserves at the moment are \$139,660 (these are the funds saved for doing things like replacing apparatus, emergency repairs to apparatus or station, etc).
- Mill levy example – a \$400,000 property at the current 9 mills pays \$241/year for CLFPD. The same property at 8 mills would pay \$214 annually.
- There was a discussion about the decision to request retention of 3 mills rather than the whole 4 and whether it would be sufficient for our needs going forward. Robin Lauric stated that the board had reviewed the current and projected budget numbers and their fiduciary duty to the district and the community and determined that 3 mills was the appropriate amount to request. However, it will likely result in our needing to continue to apply for and hopefully get grants (and receive donations) to supplement our funding and make it possible to save funds in capital reserves to be prepared to purchase the equipment we need when we need it and to have funds available for the matches required for some grants.

Operations – tabled until next month due to lack of time.

Equipment – tabled until next month due to lack of time.

Training

- July Training Subject: Structure II – Brad Chiodo announced a schedule change for this month – There will be only one training in July, a Joint training with Red Feather on Tuesday, July 2nd at 1800 at Red Feather VFD. Meet at our station at 1715.
- Peer Support Training – Karen Smith and Evan Rau gave an overview of the 40-hour training they took via 911 Overwatch. In Karen’s opinion, this kind of peer support isn’t something that should be done without clinical oversight, which we don’t currently have. One of the concerns this raises is whether this lack of that oversight affects legally mandated confidentiality. State law prohibits someone working in a peer support role from sharing anything said during a peer support conversation, with the exception that they have a legal obligation to report crimes confessed to them, threats of suicide, etc (this prohibition applies even if peer supporters are

subpoenaed to testify in court). They need to explore/understand how the confidentiality aspect works if they operate without clinical oversight. Without financial aid for clinician support, the annual cost could be about \$17,000 a year. Mike will check into what the other mountain departments are doing and if there's an option to pay for a clinician jointly. Evan and Karen will explore other options, including the one being used by Larimer County Search and Rescue, which also found the expense too high but has figured out another option. In addition, more members of the dept need to get training; the peer support program can't be just the two of them. The next training will be Sept 23-27th and there are grants available.

CL FIRES

- July 4th Events
 - Mark went over the schedule of events for the July 4th weekend (sent out via email on Wednesday June 26th) and passed around a sign-up sheet.
 - In a change from previous years, the roads around Basecamp will be closed during the parade. Susan will get a notice out to the community with the times and areas affected and suggested alternate routes.

As the Membership Desires

- Sue Gessert informed the department that Jim Liebl, who was an SDR with his wife at one point, has passed away. He wasn't a member for long but made a big impact and was very helpful. Our condolences to the family.
- Jay Smith has scheduled annual apparatus inspections at Beck's and will get the schedule out to the department.
- Craig Mawle announced that there will be a mitigation workday this Saturday starting at 8:30am. Work will be done on the property of Susan Vance, who won the WUI Day Mitigation Drawing. Information about the work day was sent out in the fire dept group email and in the View. Please come and help out if you're available.
- Jim Kubichek reminded everyone to hydrate, especially during the Fun Day weekend, and to use the electrolyte packets available at the station. Carry a water bottle with you during Fun Day to make sure you stay hydrated. He also reminded everyone that COVID is still around and there's a new variant surging on the coasts. Masks are still appropriate in crowded spaces.

Marian Kelly moved to adjourn, Jim Kubichek seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 2050.

Respectfully submitted,
Marian Kelly, PIO