



CRYSTAL LAKES VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

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

Business Meeting Minutes

August 22, 2024

Meeting called to order at 1805 by Chief Clark.

Attendees: Mike Clark, Brad Chido, Jody Sandquist, Jim Kubichek, Jon Gessert, Sue Gessert, Doug Race, Mark Weeks, Susan Rau, Keenan Boswell, Milo David, Marilyn David, Harold "Alex" Alexander, Jay Smith, Karen Smith, and Evan Rau. Guest: Board Treasurer Tom DeMint

Approval of the Agenda – Jody Sandquist moved to approve the agenda as written, Jay Smith seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

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

Discussion Topics

Personnel

- No discussion.

Operations

- Incident reporting update – Discussion was brief, but all were reminded to get reports in quickly after an incident and that the IC cannot complete their report until all the run reports are in. We also covered that the station report needs to be a run report that identifies everyone who was at the station.
- Incident Review – Mike wants us to review all the calls of the previous month and discuss concerns and lessons learned. Alex brought up that he has received complaints from property owners about the use of sirens. Reminder to only use sirens when necessary, such as blind corners and when there is traffic around—middle of the night is not necessary. Apparently, sirens were used at a Beaver Meadows LZ, and it scared the horses, which broke down the fence. Mark reviewed that we used to use sirens all the time to alert folks that we're doing something. When folks complained about siren use at night, we quit using them at night and relied only on lights. Now we only use them if emergent.
- Radio Communications – Topic was moved up in the agenda since it came up in discussion during incident review.

- Mike brought up that this topic came up during the Chiefs Meeting, which 900/Dispatch was at. They had comments/feedback, mostly concerning the water rescue on Panhandle Reservoir and 900's frustration with the call. Lots of talking over dispatch; we are NOT listening to radio traffic and instead act as if our own radio traffic is most important (too focused on our own radio traffic). Tom DeMint brought up the "Dim Wit" Rule – Does It Matter What I Transmit? Sue Gessert brought up that there was just a lot of information that needed to be communicated on that call, but it came back to listening to the traffic and timing your communications. Also, don't clog up the radio with things that do not need to be said.
- Discussion about the trouble that some radios/radio channels have in our area – Mike brought up that RFLVFD is looking into installing a repeater at the station in order to get better radio communications within Fox Acres. Discussed using 64D, but it needs to be "in sight" of other radios. Rist Canyon had a call where someone had to go to the top of the hill to relay communications to and from Dispatch and the incident. Alex mentioned the VHF repeater and radios as a possible solution—SDRs have VHF radios, and we get better range with VHF over 64D. Mike said then we are carrying 2 radios. The yellow dual-band radios were supposed to solve this problem but are clearly not the solution, as they don't work well, and Alex was granted permission to sell them. Mike wrapped up the discussion by mentioning that when we call in, we should listen to the traffic and wait for an opportunity to call in. No need to rush to call in. Mike also mentioned that overall, Dispatch's input was that we are doing better and that CL is really good at reading the TAC info and using the correct channel for the call.
- Back to Incident Review – Jim brought up the smoldering shack on Prairie Divide and how that was handled. The Panhandle Reservoir water rescue revealed the need for binoculars at the Boat Shed. We briefly went through the last ten calls as a reminder as to what we had. Jim pointed out that no one should engage folks with an illegal campfire until at least two responders are on scene. This led into a discussion about how we're supposed to respond to fire and smoke reports in Red Feather's district. Fire – we automatically respond and take Tender unless something else is requested. Smoke – we are all to respond to the station (including SDRs) until there is further information. Call in and go to the station, even if we haven't been directly paged. The IC can always call 900 after the incident to get a run number if they didn't catch that Crystal was on the call.
- Response protocol updates – Reviewed that Brush 2 is temporarily housed at CL6/CL16's house (filing 8 lot 60). If there's only one of them available, they will respond to the station to pick-up a second person. Otherwise, they will respond directly to scene. Reminder to always have two people in every response vehicle.
- Apparatus Usage – If you remove an apparatus from the station, let the group know via the GroupMe text group. Also let everyone know when the apparatus has been returned and is back in service. Mike threatened to limit what apparatus can be used if this protocol isn't followed. We all need to be able to arrive at the station and know what is there and what to expect when there's a call.

- GroupMe Text Usage – This is to be used to alert folks when you are on/off the mountain only. Mike said it should not be used to alert folks about traffic information, but through discussion was convinced that traffic information can be helpful and should be texted as a tool to alert responders on how to get to scene. Evan backed this up by revealing that UCH units aren't automatically alerted to road closures, so knowing what's going on on 74E and being able to communicate that is very helpful for a timely response.

Equipment

- Apparatus
 - Engine, Tender, and Brush 1 have not had their monthly checks yet.
 - Brush 2 is done and in good shape.
 - Both Squads have been done and are in good working order.
- Station
 - The exterior lights are somewhat fixed. Tracking down a replacement sensor for one of them and swapped out sensors so that the light closest to the pedestrian door works. However, that light does not illuminate the area very well. Need to install something closer to the door.
 - Tender valve has been ordered, customer service will be confirming its ship date, last told it was 2 weeks out which puts it's arrival at around September 5th.
 - The replacement bumper for Squad 1 has arrived and will be installed by the end of the weekend. A new antenna, cables and mounts have been purchased for installation in Squad 1. Cables will also need to be purchased for Brush 1.
 - Station cleaning – Milo and Marylin cleaned the station yesterday. Mark pointed out that the boat shed needs to be added to the list of cleaning duties and said he'd write up boat procedures.

Training

- September Training Subject: Cumulative Scenario – Training dates are September 5th, CLVFD, and September 7th, Joint. Brad has not talked with Ryan at Red Feather yet and will not be able to make this training, but he will have everything set up and ready to go. It had been proposed that this training happen at Beaver Meadows, but it will be a busy weekend for them, so they're looking at other options. Evan stated that that was an idea we had when he was training officer, but it's never really come together. It was mentioned that it would be good to get a walk-through scheduled with Beaver Meadows so all of us know the layout and the situational particulars when it comes to the resort. Alex suggested doing a preplan and then taking the entire department. This led Mark to bring up the need for trainings that are particular to the Crystal Lakes district, such as the evacuation training we had in August. District familiarization was discussed.

Safety

- Jim talked about unsafe driving practices. There seem to be more and more people driving faster and in the middle of the road, allowing for less time for folks to react, so don't forget to

use a siren going around blind corners and drive defensively. He reminded everyone that it's not our emergency and to drive more slowly to ensure you actually make it to scene or the station. While we don't usually get the MVAs that the other mountain departments get, it could still happen.

CL FIRES

- Board updates – Jody Sandquist has stepped down from the Board, and there are now two new directors. Jim Kubichek has joined for at least the next year and will fill the role of vice president. Deb Goldberg, who volunteered during Fun Day, has also joined the board and will be transitioning into the secretary position. Micaela Myers has been named the president, Kathy Dillon-Durica will remain treasurer, and Susan Rau will continue in the role of communications officer.
- The Rummage Sale is coming up, with two more collection days before the sale on September 1st. The sale will be preceded by the Brick reveal at 8:45am.
- Next up is the Chili & Bread cookoff.

Department

- Red Feather Fire Days is Saturday, August 31st. We will be taking 3 trucks for the parade (Engine, Tender, and Brush 1) and need volunteers to drive and ride along.
- 2nd Annual Nacho Average Volunteer Fire Department is set for September 6th at Beaver Meadows. Families are welcome. Please RSVP to Robin Lauric by the 26th.
- Mill Levy update – We're still waiting on the ballot number but should have that by September 6th. The committee is going through the property owners list now to identify eligible voters.
- Mike reviewed current county fire restrictions, which are set to expire on August 31st.

Information Items

- The only Information Item from the agenda that was discussed was Ameila's extended leave through November.

As the Membership Desires

- Doug Race announced that he will be retiring at the end of December.
- Mark and Doug are conducting chainsaw safety classes for Poudre Canyon in support of a grant that department received from Larimer County.
- Milo is looking for his flash drives. Susan knows she has several and will get them back to him.
- Alex brought up radios, sirens and disassembling Support.

A motion was made by Doug Race and seconded by Jody Sandquist to adjourn at 20:25. The motion carried unanimously. Then Doug rescinded his motion in order to reopen the meeting to discuss voting in the two probationary members, Harold "Alex" Alexander and Keenan Boswell.

No ballots were prepared, but the department Rules and Regs were reviewed, and it was determined that we could take a verbal vote. Alex has fulfilled the requirements to become a full member, but the Chief and Training Officer need to review Keenan's training record. It was

determined that the membership would vote on Alex, but Keenan's vote would be postponed. The vote to make Alex a full member was unanimous.

Mark Weeks moved to adjourn, Doug Race seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 2031.

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Rau