



CRYSTAL LAKES VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

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

-- Business Meeting Minutes -- *November 22, 2024*

Meeting called to order at 1802 by Chief Clark.

Attendees: Mike Clark, Doug Race, Brad Chiodo, Jim Kubichek, Jody Sandquist, Jon Gessert, Sue Gessert, Susan Rau, Marian Kelly, Jay Smith, Karen Smith, Marilyn David, Milo David, Madison Cardenas, Craig Mawle, Harold Alexander, Evan Rau, Barb Batt, and Amelia Vann. Via Zoom: Mark Weeks. Guest: Todd Cook

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

Approval of Minutes from Previous Meeting – Jody Sandquist moved to approve the minutes of the October 17, 2024, meeting as submitted, Jon Gessert seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Discussion Topics

Personnel

- Keenan Boswell has decided to step down for now. His current situation makes it difficult for him to be a department member now, but if his circumstances change, he's welcome to return.
- New member – Todd Cook is currently serving on the district board and would like to join the department as a firefighter. He and his wife have owned property in Crystal Lakes for eight years; they live in Morgan County but spend as much time in Crystal Lakes as possible. He has eighteen years of experience on Hillrose Snyder Fire Rescue, an all-volunteer department, where he was an EMT and Farm Medic and had training in Hazmat, Wildland Firefighting. The vote on his membership will be held at the end of the meeting.
- Doug's last business meeting – Due to our not having a December business meeting, this will be Doug's last business meeting prior to his retirement from the department after

fifteen years. Chief Clark and department members expressed our thanks for his service and everything he's done for the department over the years.

- 2025 leadership election – Election Official Jody Sandquist distributed ballots to the active members of the department for the vote on department officers for 2025. The results were – Chief: Mike Clark, PIO: Marian Kelly, Safety Officer: Brad Chiodo, Secretary/Admin: Jim Kubichek, Training Officer: Evan Rau, Traffic Control Officer: Jody Sandquist. New officers will take office in January.

Operations

- Incident reporting update
 - Status of outstanding reports – We're currently missing run reports from four calls and incident reports from seven calls. Please get these in as soon as possible so we can get caught up before the end of the year.
 - Run reimbursements for Q3 should be paid. All present confirmed they'd received reimbursement.
- Incident reviews – Discussion on incidents over the past month
 - Incident 66 – Doug mentioned that he happened to be in Red Feather when the call came in, and as they only had two responders at the time, he stepped in to help out and ended up assuming command. His point is that we shouldn't be afraid to offer our assistance to our neighboring departments if necessary. Make sure you ask the members of the responding department if they want assistance first.

Equipment

- Apparatus
 - Monthly check updates
 - Engine 1 – No issues.
 - Brush 1 – Not yet done this month but in good condition. Brad needs to get an inventory form from Doug. Hose reel has been repaired and repainted.
 - Tender 1 – Only issue is one of the small corner emergency lights isn't working. It was noted that we can't use Dextron transmission fluid in Tender and have transmission fluid specifically for it.
 - Brush 2 – Not yet done this month.
 - Squad 2 – Chains and plow have been put on. One of the chains is a bit loose despite Jim's efforts to tighten it up – it's on the front passenger side. Alex will cut it down to fit better. Squad 2 will need to be re-inventoried once we decide which of the gear from Support should go in it.
 - Squad 1 – No issues other than low tire pressure due to changing temperatures. A plow will be added to this vehicle by the end of the year (commercial-grade 7.5-foot blade).

- SCBAs – All batteries replaced, all bottles full and in good condition and all units working properly.
 - Support 1 – Sold to a stonemason from Silt, Colorado for \$5,000.
 - Tires
 - Engine 1 and Tender 1 – We’re going to try to get these done over next few weeks with the goal of getting the tires replaced this year as part of the 2024 budget. Jay’s been investigating mountain fire department tire usage and found that most fire departments that work mostly off-road use logging or rough terrain tires. These tires may also make chains unnecessary, and the cost of the tires is actually somewhat less than over-the-road tires. We’ll be letting RFLVFD know when we have these vehicles off the mountain for tire replacement so they can plan to cover our apparatus needs if we get a call.
 - Brush 1 – Evan recommends getting new tires to replace the over-the-road tires on this vehicle, which aren’t ideal for our roads.
 - Squad 1 – Alex asked if he could sell the old tires removed from Squad 1 some time ago, which was approved.
- Station Report
 - Concrete – Jim mentioned that the chains on Squad 2 appear to be chewing up the floor in its bay and asked if there was anything we could do to help protect the concrete there. Jay will look into it.
 - Mezzanine stairs – Jay has made it so one person can get the stairs out and back if they know how (training to follow). If this works well with continued use, he’ll be looking to replace the mechanism with an electric system.
 - Boat shed battery – Mark mentioned that we need to move the battery to the station once there’s no longer open water on Panhandle Reservoir.
 - Communications updates
 - Mobile radios – We need to check all mobile radios in the apparatus and make sure the VHF ones are reprogrammed with new Forest Service channels.
 - BK Portable Radios – Alex attended a talk on these radios and was convinced that they’re worth their \$4000 price. They’re reprogrammable in the field, can scan across both VHF and 800mHz channels, can be connected to a cellphone, are Bluetooth compatible, and have built-in GPS. BK is working on an app to track the radios’ positions using the GPS. They’re taking three of our old radios for trade-in value, and we’re purchasing three BKs (the current plan is to put them in Squad 1, Brush 1, and Tender 1).
 - VP900s – Collins Communications has a buyer for our four old VP900s and is giving us a trade-in credit against the purchase we’ll be making of the same type of radio the county uses.
 - VHF 1250 radios – Alex asked if he could sell the old VHF radios we don’t use anymore, which was approved.

Training (Brad)

- Department training
 - November training review – SCBA training with Red Feather VFD was a success and everyone did well with extensive SCBA use in an obstacle course.
 - Next up – Radios and Communications. CLVFD training will be December 5th with Joint training December 7th, to be held at Red Feather station.
- Karen Smith is now an officially certified EMT. Congratulations on all the hard work!

Safety

- Jim reminded everyone that shoveling snow is a very aerobic activity and anyone undertaking it should be careful and prudent about taking rests and paying attention to how they feel.
- Department members are permitted to use the Squad 2 snowplow to clear their driveways. Make sure to notify everyone on the group text when you take any apparatus (including Squad 2) out and when it's returned.
- Jim handed around a graphic published by PVREA in their monthly magazine, showing what the various lines on their power poles are.
- Check your home CO detector to make sure it's working properly, has fresh batteries, and isn't more than ten years old.

CL FIRES

- Next event is the Cookie Exchange – Saturday, December 7th from 1:00 to 3:00. CL FIRES members will be decorating Brush 1 for Santa's "Sleigh" on Friday the 6th and will remove the decorations immediately after the event. CLVFD Santa (Alex) will not be going down to Red Feather this year, as they've got their events covered.
- Financials – The Third Quarter fire department income was \$2,888. CL FIRES is currently holding \$92,744 on behalf of the fire department. CL FIRES' own operating account is at \$31,702.

Department Updates/Info

- The memorial service for Jim Tiffin will be held Tuesday, November 26th at Grace Place in Berthoud (375 Meadowlark Dr) at 11:00 a.m. Jim and Jane Tiffin were very active on the department, helping organize our Special Duty Responders, and were integral in starting the Bear Aware program that helped Crystal Lakes Community cut bear break-ins to near nothing within a year. Department members able to attend the memorial are encouraged to go in department dress shirts.
- Reminder – There will be no department business meeting in December. Enjoy the time with your families.
- Station meeting room upgrades planned – The conference table and chairs in the upstairs office need to be replaced. We have money dedicated from both CL FIRES and

the district to fund this. Doug suggested asking the Watkins, community members who designed the station remodel, to craft a proposal and offered to take on getting that arranged.

- Pearl Fire AAR update – There was a county meeting regarding the Pearl Fire, which included the sheriff's department and other county emergency services. There was a lot of praise for CLVFD for its quick identification of the fire location and initial attack on the fire. The county is working on creating a report on the fire response, and as soon as it's available, Mike will be sharing it with the department. As a result of the Pearl Fire, Mike now has access to the Multi-Mission Aircraft (MMA) flight data and the After Action Reviews of other local fires, which he intends to share with department members wherever and however possible.
- The Mill Levy was approved by voters, substantially improving our budget position. Many thanks to all involved in the effort!
- The 2025 Budget was presented by the CLFPD Board the evening of November 21, 2024. The public has until December 12, 2024 to submit questions/comments on the budget. The board will meet on the 12th to revise/correct and approve the budget, which must be submitted to the state by December 15th.
- Holiday Dinner updates – Doug will be sending out an email to confirm numbers – please respond to that ASAP. The dinner will be at the Potbelly on January 9th, starting at 5:00pm for socialization and cocktails, cash bar. Dinner will be buffet style.

As the Membership Desires

- Jody asked if the department had any LifeVacs for removing items being choked on (can be self-used). Evan will check into the utility of this equipment.
- Craig had an odd issue with his new radio where it went on but appeared to not be receiving. When he turned it off and back on, it worked properly. Alex said to bring it to him to be checked out. Evan said it sounded similar to the issues he had with his previous Kenwood, where the volume couldn't be adjusted from where it was when the radio was turned on (so if it was low when the radio was turned on, it would remain low no matter what changes were made after that).
- Evan thanked everyone for trusting him as training officer. He's going to try to freshen up the training schedule a bit from the way it's been the last couple of years. Anyone with suggestions for training, whether it's topics or tools, please let him know.
- At the SDRs' next meeting (December 10th at 4:15pm), they will be going to the most frequently used LZs to review the best places for SDRs to place traffic control locations. Firefighters are welcome to attend, so they know where the traffic control is set up during these incidents.

New Member Vote

- Jody passed around ballots for potential new member Todd Cook, who was unanimously accepted as a probationary member.

Doug Race moved to adjourn, Milo David seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 2004.

Respectfully submitted,
Marian Kelly, PIO