



Crystal Lakes Fire Protection District
237 Blackfoot Rd Red Feather Lakes, CO 80545
clvfd.org



Board of Directors

Special Meeting
May 28, 2024
Crystal Lakes Fire Station
4:30pm

Minutes

Purpose: This Special Meeting was scheduled for discussion and decisions on approval of newly elected Department Chief, mill levy, and amending the 2024 budget.

- I **Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order by Chair Robin Lauric at 4:30 pm.
- II **Directors Present:** Robin Lauric (Chair/President), Susan Vance (Secretary), Tamla Blunt (Director), and Todd Cook (Director) via Zoom.
Directors Absent: Tom DeMint (Treasurer)
- III **Quorum:** Yes
- IV **District Members Present:** Assistant Chief Doug Race, Assistant Chief Mike Clark, and Shirla Race via Zoom
- V **Approval of Agenda:** No changes brought forth. The agenda stands approved.
- VI **Order of Business:**

a. Approval of Newly Elected Department Chief:

Robin Lauric moved to approve Mike Clark as the new Chief of the Crystal Lakes Volunteer Fire Department, Susan Vance seconded. Discussion: The Board expressed their appreciation and support for Mike for stepping into the role of Chief. The Board looks forward to working with Mike as Chief.

***Motion** to approve Mike Clark as the new Chief of the Crystal Lakes Volunteer Fire Department passed unanimously.*

The Board expressed their appreciation for the years of service Evan Rau gave to the position of Chief and wished him much happiness in his family's future endeavors.

b. Mill Levy:

The Board expressed gratitude to Doug Race for his continued work on the mill levy initiative.

The Board, along with Department Members, revisited the mill levy rate by engaging in in-depth discussion on the justification and possible resetting of the rate. The minutes from the May 9th Special Board Meeting were referenced, along with the Justification and Mill Levy Considerations presented by Doug Race. It was agreed that the ambulance proposal had been eliminated from the justification.

A mill levy retention rate of 2 was proposed. Concern was expressed that the current capital reserves were not adequate to maintain the quality and effectiveness of service or replace essential aging apparatus over the course of the next 5 plus years. It was noted that the District would be looking at well over a million dollars needed within the next 5-7 years to replace apparatus, including three vehicles currently well over NFPA standards and a tender and engine due for replacement in the next 3+ years. A possible deficit was noted with a retention of 2 mills. Further concern was expressed regarding running the risk of voter fatigue if funds are insufficient and the District had to go back to the voters and ask for more. A mill levy retention rate of 4 was also discussed. The 4 mills would provide adequate funding for the continuation of current operations, apparatus maintenance and future replacement, PPE, technology improvements, and provide for some additional improvement projects. As an assessment management plan for capital projects, it was mentioned that 4 mills would be more ideal. Concern about building up reserves for unknown future projects was expressed. A mill levy retention rate of 3 was discussed. The 3 mills would also provide adequate funding for the continuation of current operations and maintenance of apparatus. In addition, allow for the growth of capital reserves for the planned replacement of apparatus, PPE, and technology improvements. A retention rate of 3 mills would lower the taxes of property owners and would prove more fiscally responsible.

Tamla Blunt moved to amend the wording of the prior motion on the mill levy retention rate from 4 mills to 3 mills. Susan Vance seconded. Discussion: It was mentioned that retaining 3 mills would help with sustainability.

Motion to amend the wording of the prior motion on the mill levy retention rate from 4 mills to 3 mills passed unanimously.

Dates were discussed for the Mill Levy Committee to organize Community

Conversation on the mill levy. June 30th (Sunday) will be a kick-off for Community discussions with possibly a breakfast at the Fire Station (time TBD), July 14th at 1 PM it was suggested to combine Community Conversation with

an Open House at the Fire Station, and the final Community meeting will be sometime in mid-August.

c. Amending the 2024 Budget: Robin asked the Board to review their original discussion with the past Treasurer, Anne Dirmeyer, from the April 26th Special Meeting regarding amending the budget. At that time there was a motion to amend the 2024 budget and a second motion to have Pinnacle Consulting Group follow through by officially amending the budget. There was a concern that the discussion and further motion at the May 16th Regular Meeting to suspend the amending of the budget to July was postponing a decision that had already been thoroughly discussed and agreed upon.

Susan Vance moved to restore the motion made on April 26, 2024, and have Pinnacle Consulting Group amend the budget promptly. Todd Cook seconded. Discussion. Proposition HH was the reason the budget numbers were originally "off."

***Motion** to restore the motion made on April 26, 2024, and have Pinnacle Consulting Group amend the budget promptly passed unanimously.*

VII Next Meeting:

The next Regular Meeting of CLFPD Board of Directors will be on June 20, 2024, at 6:00 pm at the District Fire Station, 237 Blackfoot Rd, Red Feather Lakes, CO 80545.

Adjournment: Upon completion of the agenda, Chair Lauric adjourned the meeting at 6:58 pm.