

Minutes East Grand Fire Protection District  
Board of Directors Meeting  
September 27th, 2017

Board Directors Present: Frank Dominguez, Mark Pappas, Richard Kramer, Peggy Woods, Steve Loo.

Staff Present: Todd Holzwarth, Steve Waldorf, Dennis Soles, Adam Gosey, Jed Henry, Kristen Rybij.

Board of Pension Trustees Present: Lisa MacKendrick, John Hartlauer.

Public Present: Please see sign in sheet.

Frank called the meeting to order at 18:26 pm.

Additions to the meeting are as follows; Todd will be discussing the Tabernash Water Project. He will also provide an overview of the Volunteer Pension Actuarial Study during the Pension Board meeting.

Frank asks if there is any public comment. Brad Holzwarth comments that the Beaver's PUD to annex into Winter Park was discussed at the most recent Town of Winter Park Planning and Zoning meeting.

The August minutes were discussed with a formatting error pointed out in the financial report. This does not affect the accuracy of the financial report and will be kept as is.

- ❖ Mark moved to approve the August minutes as written. Rick seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Discussion of Financials: We are on track with our general finances. More truck expenses are expected this year. The board is still in discussion regarding whether or not to go forward with recouping our unrealized revenues from the YMCA in the amount of \$391 K with a one-time mill levy increase. It is a difficult decision whether or not to go for any or all of the amount from the taxpayers. Todd shows the board calculations reflecting the impact to the community, residential and non-residential. Due to the fact that the RAR decreased, the impact of this one-time tax increase to residential property owners is softened a bit. The collective impact though, depending on what districts pursue their refunds, could be quite substantial. The impact to commercial property owners will be larger because the RAR is locked at 29% for them. The District is concerned with how this possible abatement will be received by the taxpayers. The Board feels that the taxpayers may look at our reserves and question why we would need this \$391 K, especially after 12 years of operating without it? There are many reasons for recouping our losses regardless of the reserves we have as a District. We are one of the largest Districts in Grand County in regards to area served and the community is growing at a fast rate. Simply put, there are ever increasing structures and people to provide services to. The construction of a sister fire station by Winter Park Resort is in the planning stages and we are currently about to break ground on the Tabernash Water Project, both in an attempt to meet our District's growing demands for fire protection. A new station requires more trucks on top of keeping our current fleet up to date. One truck can cost upwards of a million dollars. On top of fire prevention / planning for a growing community, the threat of wildfire is always imminent. Just one bad wildland fire can wipe out all of our reserves. We also have quite a large commercial community to protect here in Grand County. Imagine the burden to our community if we lost our local businesses or grocery market? Having to travel for goods and dealing with the loss of sales tax revenue would be devastating. It is also noted that we don't only deal with structural and wildland fires but expensive traffic accident rescues and hazardous materials mitigation. Severe weather and the presence of the railroad in our District increases those dangers exponentially. The loss of impact fees from major construction projects that are exempt in Winter Park are also a hit to East Grand Fire. We need to provide service to them whether we collect fees or not. These are only a snapshot of the reasons discussed as to why recouping this income is important to our operations. The District cares very much about our community and the tax burden this would bring to them so alternative options are being discussed. Mark suggests recouping only half of the abatement, which would keep tax payers paying the same amount as last year to us (foregoing the amount they would have saved with the current RAR decrease). Not going for the refund at all is also still on the table. The final decision will need to be made and approved during our November meeting. If we do decide to collect our lost revenues, than it is agreed upon that we will need to have a clear communication plan in place so that the tax payers understand why this is happening and why it is necessary for our continued operations.

- ❖ Rick moved to approve the bills. Peggy seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Frank requested a motion to recess the Board of Directors meeting at 19:18 pm for the Pension Board meeting.

- ❖ Peggy moved to recess the Board of Directors meeting for the Pension Board meeting. Steve seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

The Board of Directors meeting re-opens at 19:37 pm.

Chief's Report: Todd discusses the current Tabernash Rural Water Development Project. This will not only protect homes and commercial property but will bring this area into a Class III ISO rating. The project price has surpassed the current budgeted amount. The contractors have suggested boring the road for piping installation and this brings on extra expense. Boring has many advantages including not needing traffic control during the project, as well as no pavement replacement. Without using the boring method we would need to wait for the State's approval which may require boring anyway. Todd asks permission from the board to approve another \$150 K so that we may go ahead with this project and have it completed in 2017.

- ❖ Rick Kramer moved to approve using the extra funds needed for this project. Peggy seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Todd touches on current incidents, the Volunteer Pension Fund State Match going through, as well as some issues with the new construction over at the Winter Park Christian Church.

Fire Prevention Report: Dennis discusses how busy he has been with currently nine inspections on the table. He extends thanks to Adam for helping to keep on top of the workload. The county is looking to combine with the various building departments as well as East Grand and Grand Fire to create a software package to handle the planning, review, and inspection process of new construction. Subscribers would be given access for \$2100 a year. It is the hopes that one could log on and have access to all information pertaining to new construction, such as approved / not approved plans, reviews, fees, and inspections. The Town Council still needs to approve this project.

Training Coordinator Report: Training is going well. Jed is putting 5 new recruits through intensive 40 hour training. We have 3 volunteers standing out as upcoming driver operators. We are working on a tender shuttle for mutual aid training coming up this month. Steve is still working on replacing 481. New lines have been painted in the bay.

Frank asks if there is any public comment. Brad comments that the tax abatement will be a big bite to commercial property owners. To him and his business it means no new stove or carpeting this year, and feels this could be a common plight among the community. He states that if the Board does go forward with recouping our losses the public may perceive us in a bad light and could take action by voting out the current board members of East Grand Fire. Discussion turns to frustrations regarding numerous rental units in our town that act as commercial property but are taxed as residential.

Board Business / Action Items: The YMCA Affordable Housing idea was discussed earlier during the financials. Todd extends an invitation to the upcoming ColoTrust lunch. Frank comments on how beneficial and great the 2017 SDA conference was.

❖ Rick moved to adjourn the Board meeting. Steve Loo seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

The Board meeting was adjourned at 18:32 pm.

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Frank Dominguez

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Rick Kramer

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Margaret Woods

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Mark Pappas

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Steve Loo