

Minutes East Grand Fire Protection District
Board of Directors Meeting
November 28th, 2018

Board Directors Present: President Frank Dominguez, Vice President Mark Pappas, Treasurer Steve Loo, Secretary Richard Kramer, Director Garth Hein.

Staff Present: Chief Todd Holzwarth, Assistant Chief Dennis Soles, Training Coordinator Steve Waldorf, Office Manager Kristen Rybij, Volunteer Coordinator Jed Henry, Fire Technician Adam Gosey.

Legal Counsel present: Linda Glesne (telephonically).

Public Present: Chief Ray Jennings, Brad Holzwarth.

Director Frank Dominguez opened the Board of Directors meeting at 18:20. There was a quorum of Directors present.

Frank asked if there were any additions to the agenda. There were none. Frank asked if there was any public comment. There was no comment.

- ❖ Director Mark Pappas moved to open the 2019 Budget Hearing. Director Rick Kramer seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

The Budget Hearing opened at 18:22.

Director Frank Dominguez asked three times if there was any comment from the public regarding the 2019 East Grand County Fire Protection District #4's Budget. There was no comment.

- ❖ Director Rick Kramer moved to close the 2018 Budget Hearing. Director Garth Hein seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

The Budget Hearing was closed at 18:23.

Frank welcomed our guest, EMS Chief Ray Jennings, to the meeting. Chief Jennings was there to discuss EMS's goals for 2019 as well as how we as a District can continue to work with EMS to better service the community. Chief Jennings started the update by informing us how busy EMS has been with a call volume up 30% just over the last two years with ~ 2500 calls in 2018. He noted that 911 calls were outpacing transfers. EMS's employment will be at pre-recession numbers and they plan to change how they are structuring and deploying to meet growing community demands. The deployment plan for 2019 is to have four trucks in the county Monday through Thursday, 5 trucks on Friday, 6 trucks on Saturday, and 5 trucks on Sunday. On Saturday they plan to have 2 trucks in Fraser, 2 in Granby, and one each in District 3 & 4, for example. There will also be additional posting of trucks taking place to fill in the gaps during busy times. Garth asked which District is the busiest. Chief Jennings said District #2, the "Valley" is the busiest and accounts for just over 40% of their call volume. There are approximately 8900 residents that live from Red Dirt Hill to Berthoud Pass. Chief Jennings confirmed that he would be sending Steve their 2019 training calendar and invited those of us from East Grand that need continuing education to them. He also noted that they will be having their annual EMT class and members of East Grand are also welcome there. EMS has changed the class schedule to match that of the Fire Academy for ease of accessibility, EMS has also procured the State of Colorado's Create Grant to help with the fees. Chief Jennings noted that they have not had to increase the price of the class in ~ 10 years thanks to the grant. Chief Jennings went on to explain that one of the most important goals for LEPC this year is to work on wildfire planning and mitigation. Chief Jennings then touched on their 2019 goals for improving communication in the community by beginning work with IPAWS (Integrated Public Alert and Warning Systems), looking into using Comcast and our local Channel TV 18, continuing to use social media platforms, and finally, replacing their sign boards in the local grocery markets. He also noted that EMS was working on integrating into the Mountain Mutual Aid System. Chief Jennings closed his presentation by sharing his excitement for the upcoming year and confirming the strength of our collaboration as first responders together. Steve Waldorf reminded him that we now have 15 certified EMT's on our volunteer roster and are happy to work with EMS whenever needed.

Board Business: Frank moved the meeting onto Board Business first as we had reached our legal counsel Linda Glesne by phone. The Board continued our ongoing discussion regarding how the District is going to deal with the effects of TABOR and Gallagher moving forward. Linda opened conversation stating that she would report the latest on the SDA legislative side of things and asked the Board if they had anything they would like to add to the discussion. Mark asked how the Interrogatories submitted to the Supreme Court in late November from Governor Hickenlooper had done. Linda explained that the Interrogatories were basically a legal document sent to the Supreme Court asking them to validate the existence of Gallagher and explain how TABOR and Gallagher can exist together without killing each other, as these two amendments were never meant to work together. The problem is, Linda stated, no one knows what the Supreme Court will do as they have the discretion to not do anything at all with these Interrogatories. The hope is that they would remove Gallagher from the constitution all together. Mark asked if the supreme court could make a legally binding decision to change the constitution without an active lawsuit in place; just a request from the Governor? Linda said that is was possible because it was a statewide concern but would essentially substitute the Supreme Court making a decision for the entire voting body of the State of Colorado who approved these amendments in the first place; making this the exact reason for them to not want to “answer” these Interrogatories and amend the constitution. Discussion ensued over other possible avenues the District could take to work with the adverse effects of the TABOR / Gallagher conflicts. Possible legal avenues were discussed including if there was anything we could to “force the hand” of getting more uniformity on how property is assessed in our County. Frank asked why a property would not be assessed as commercial if there is a business license attached to it. Linda does not think that the assessors are misinterpreting the definition of residential property under current state statute with respect to these properties that operate as short-term rentals. One way to combat this issue is for us to find a way to change the state statute but Linda reiterated that this would not be an easy task as it is not a popular political move. Many folks, from all walks of life, have a vested interest in keeping things defined as they are. Linda does not have all the answers on how litigation against the County would work or turn out but explained the negative effects it could cause for the District. It would look like we were bringing lawsuit against the individual tax payer, not the County, and that we were essentially picking on “neighbor Joe” and that is NOT what we are trying to do. Is it possible we could gather information on specific properties that we believe are not being assessed correctly to build a platform to stand on, to help improve our tax revenue situation? These issues were discussed in depth. Linda reminded the Board that we can still go the route of proposing a revenue stabilizing ballot question and will have the opportunity once in 2019 and twice in 2020. She reported that all Districts that had a mill levy / revenue stabilizing ballot question on the 2018 November election were successfully passed except one. She believed this to be due to a confusing ballot question and lack of community education on it. Chief ended the discussion by commenting that one of his hesitations with a ballot question like this was not wanting to “beat up” on our commercial properties tax-wise. No one wants Colorado to be a state where no businesses want or can afford to be a part of.

The October 24th, 2018 minutes were reviewed with no changes noted.

- ❖ Director Mark Pappas moved to approve the minutes as written. Director Steve Loo seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Financials: The current financials were reviewed. The 2019 budget along with the new line items was discussed.

- ❖ Director Rick Kramer moved to approve the bills. Director Mark Pappas seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Chief's Report: Todd quickly reviewed the items on the Chief's Report highlighting his meeting with Winter Park Town Manager Keith Reisberg and the Regional All Hazards meeting he attended. He also passed out an interesting statistical synopsis of Colorado's 2018 wildfire season for the Board and Staff to review.

Fire Prevention Report: Dennis ran through his report highlighting his meeting with Tony LaPlata of Top Knot Engineering overseeing the Red Hawk Ranch development. They have a bit of a water pressure issue so buildings on the hillside, up out of the valley, will be sprinklered to help mitigate this. Dennis also noted his meeting with Jeff Vogel of Vogel & Company. They are in charge of Lakota South which Dennis noted will double the size of the current Lakota Development.

Training Coordinator Report: Steve ran through his report highlighting the possibility that Hideaway Village will be demoing its recreation building and that we will have access to it for training.

Board Business: A recent call was discussed along with first responder protocols and what they are when working with an incident of this nature.

Frank asked if there was any public comment. Brad Holzwarth added to the preceding conversation discussing the call, explaining what his and his crew's responsibilities were as stand-by at Headquarters.

The December meeting and January workshop date and times were confirmed.

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

The Board meeting was adjourned at 20:57.

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Frank Dominguez	Rick Kramer	Garth Hein
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Mark Pappas	Steve Loo	