

Minutes East Grand Fire Protection District
Board of Directors Meeting
March 27th, 2019

Board Directors Present: President Frank Dominguez, Vice President Mark Pappas, Treasurer Steve Loo (telephonically), Secretary Richard Kramer, Director Garth Hein, Pension Chairman Brian Dolan, Trustee David Kunkle.

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

Legal Counsel: Linda Glesne

Public Present: None

Director Dominguez opened the Board of Directors meeting at 18:17 p.m. There was a quorum of Directors present. Director Frank Dominguez administered the Oaths of Office for Brian Dolan and David Kunkle, newly appointed Chairman and Trustee of our Volunteer Pension Board.

Frank asked if there was any public comment. There was no public.

There were no changes or additions to the agenda. The minutes were reviewed with no changes noted.

- ❖ Director Steve Loo moved to approve the February 27th, 2019 minutes as written. Director Rick Kramer seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Discussion of Financials: Todd explained that interest rates have finally stagnated and COLOTrust will be staying at ~ 2.6% for the foreseeable future. Todd is working with our financial advisor from SIGMA on ways to increase our return rates on our laddered investments.

- ❖ Director Mark Pappas moved to approve the bills. Director Rick Kramer seconded. The motion passed unanimously.
- ❖ Director Rick Kramer moved to recess the Board of Directors meeting for the Volunteer Pension Board meeting. Director Garth Hein seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

The Board of Directors meeting was recessed at 18:24 p.m.

The Board of Directors meeting was re-opened at 18:41 pm.

Chief's Report: Todd opened his report with a recommendation to the Board that we move forward with conducting a revenue stabilization / mill levy increase ballot question in November this year. He explained that although stabilizing our revenue is helpful, stabilizing it at the current mill levy (with the decreasing RAR) is not adequate for continued funding of our capital improvement plan. He feels that operationally we can get by under the current rate; but will continue to chisel away at our laddered investments with no way to replenish funds. Todd and Kristen will start looking into the process and time-line of conducting the ballot question in November. We are unsure if we would have to proceed with a mail-in ballot, a precinct ballot, or a coordinated election. Garth asked which way would be the most beneficial for us. Todd explained that holding a precinct ballot is beneficial because it brings folks in person to vote, and even with lower turn outs, those who really care (positively or negatively) show up. Support is always better earned in person. Garth asked what the cost margin between a precinct and a mail-in ballot would be. Precinct ballots are relatively cheaper, election judges being most of the cost. Garth then asked Todd how many folks he would expect to show up. Todd said it has been ~5 election cycles since we last held an election and that the last time East Grand asked for a mill levy increase was in 2003. Garth asked what kind of mill increase we would ask for. Todd explained that we would ask for a 1 ½ - 2 mill increase, which equates to roughly \$500 K; enough to keep up with our truck replacement schedule. We currently have money in the bank but without these measures, this will be quickly depleted. Todd then moved onto the rest of his report. The next Impact Fee study will be completed in the upcoming months. They are thinking of changing the basis for all fee calculations to square footage, including residential units. East Grand's 50th Anniversary is this year. The first meeting of the Board of Directors took place on April 18th, 1969. We will have a small celebration at this April's Board of Directors meeting,

complete with a cake and (hopefully) proclamations of recognition from the Towns of Winter Park and Fraser as well as from the County. All interested parties are invited. In August we will have a big open house celebration and unveil our newly branded 50th Anniversary Engine 481! Todd then touched on the fire in Grand Lake as well as a new bill that deals with posting of Board meetings on our website. Calls have been steady this month.

Fire Prevention Report: Dennis noted that March has been a typical busy month. A decrease in submitted plan reviews mirrors what happened at this time last year. Dennis visited the elementary school and it is looking good. There has been on-going discussion about moving their Knox Box. The Alberg Club continues to be a concern due to its distance from the station, its wooded location, and the fact that the complex is constructed almost entirely of wood. There are currently ~3 development reviews in progress. Dennis spent a week at the International Code Conference and participated in some interesting classes; including one that debunked many current forensic science theories used by Arson Investigators. Dennis met with those involved with Sitzmark Building E and discussed some new ideas for elevator fire safety. They discussed a design meant to keep smoke out of elevator shafts while also letting those inside see out (which aims to meet current elevator codes). The product is a magnetized plastic “door” that acts like a blind with a window that comes down over the elevator.

Training Coordinator Report: After months of snowy cold cabin fever, the crew was able to get out last week for some live fire training. March also included haz-mat training, foam pit extrication fun, and avalanche awareness education for the Officers. The risk for avalanches this month was very high, increasing to Level 5 - Extreme after the “Bomb Cyclone” hit the valley. Incentive checks are moving along with (mostly) positive feedback. There are 2 residents moving out and 3 waiting to move into HQ and Tabernash. Interviews were conducted for 7 new perspective recruits and background checks are underway. The IFSTA (International Fire Service Training Association) upgraded their Fire One books to the 7th Edition. Steve and Jed are working on upgrading our curriculums and task books to compliment this new format. Eight folks received their EMT Refreshers and the Wildland Refresher has been set. Steve is trying to coordinate another standpipe / hose-op training in the Cooper Creek parking garage this spring. Hose testing is scheduled for May. Steve has been working on the new iPad set ups; one for Dennis and one trial version for the trucks. Mark asked if each truck would get one if we find they are useful for operations. That is the intent. Garth asked if we can use them for mapping calls while on the trucks. Steve confirmed. Garth then asked how the controlled burn training plans at Beavers were coming along. Steve explained that we will not be able to do that training. There is too much building prep to do in order to adhere to NFPA Standard 1403 and the cost vs. benefit is largely negative. The danger of injury to people and the environment is also great. The building is right on the highway, next to the Fraser river, and the burn would be done in the middle of prime wild fire season. Steve then noted that Jed is currently working on exterior LED lighting at HQ and the interior lighting at the Red Dirt Station. He is also working on setting up a portal for ease of uniform ordering.

Frank welcomed Linda Glesne. Linda handed out the 2019 Bill Tracker. She explained a little about this great resource. She pointed out some of the current bills of interest. HB19-1006 & SB19-037 are focusing on putting more State resources into supporting wildfire mitigation. This is the first time there has been such a coordinated effort by the State. SB19-040 is working to enhance public safety by an integrated statewide process to conduct fire management and preparedness. HB19-1080 provides small recreational benefits for disabled first responders, although not robust like the Cancer Trust, it is a move in the right direction. SB19-052 would give licensed EMTs the ability to practice in a hospital or clinic if needed. She then pointed out the two most troubling bills. HB19-1108 would allow Board members to adopt a resolution giving out-of-state residents the power to vote in their elections as well as allow non-residents to serve as “Advisors” to the Board. This poses many issues and could, in effect, shift the balance of control over important community issues (such as taxing and fees) to non-residents. SB19-118, the Family Medical Leave Insurance Program, is a broad sweeping mandate requiring employees of all sizes to co-fund a medical leave insurance program with their employees (50/50). It looks somewhat like unemployment insurance but includes very broad and confusing verbiage. There are many questions as to how this will play out and the financial ramifications to departments big and small could be significant.

Frank asked if there was any public comment. There was no public.

Board Business: Linda Glesne brought the conversation back to the November ballot question. She suggested that we combine the revenue stabilization and mill levy increase measures into one question. Garth asked how the Districts in the last election cycle worded their ballot questions. Linda noted that most asked for a mill levy increase and revenue stabilization in one

combined question. Linda noted that Gallagher is confusing enough and when these ballot measures are posed separately, folks tend to vote against due to lack of understanding. Garth asked how many Districts last year asked for both measures combined on their ballot question. Linda said that 1/3 of her cases did and all but one passed; this she said, was the result of poor education and their Town being against it. Garth asked if we might face a similar challenge. Todd believes we would have the support of the Towns, or at the very least, he does not believe they would oppose us. Linda will put together a calendar of ballot election statutory deadlines for us as we move forward. She believes the cut off to certify the ballot question is the first week of September. She noted we would only have until then to educate and advocate for the passing of our ballot question. Once we certify the question, we cannot use District funds for any further advocacy. We will use whatever means necessary to reach our audience, such as open houses, social media, educational materials, mailings, and local advertisements. Linda suggested that we also add public discussion of the ballot question to our Board meeting agendas from now until we certify. Todd asked Linda to clarify the rules for how we can conduct this election. She confirmed that we could hold either an independent mail ballot election or a coordinating county election. We cannot do a precinct (polling place) election because the ballot question has a TABOR component. Garth asked if we would have to remove any educational content we may post on social media by the time of certification. Linda said that was a gray area because YouTube and Facebook, for example, are not a District run sites. She also strongly recommends against keeping any educational material on our website past certification. There is a fine line between education and advocacy, and someone could make a complaint to the State. Defending a claim while trying to pass a ballot measure is difficult. Kristen asked Linda to clarify verbiage regarding TABOR elections and “summarizing comments.” The Designated Election Official must take any positive or negative comments submitted by the deadline and summarize them for publication in the White Book and alongside the ballot question. CCC will help us with this. Linda reiterated how important it was to truly know who our population is and to make sure we spread the appropriate public education far and wide. Steve Loo asked what would happen if we pass this measure and then (hypothetically) the State “fixes” Gallagher. Would we be stuck with stagnant revenue? We would have to go to the voters again for any additional changes. He then asked how long a 2 mill increase would be beneficial for us. Todd confirmed that it would allow us to keep up with capital improvements and possibly start replenishing funds. Steve asked if we would put a sunset on this increase. It will be investigated. Linda closed the discussion by confirming how important it was to keep our ballot question as flexible as possible so that we can maximize our outcome.

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

The Board meeting was adjourned at 20:16 p.m.

Frank Dominguez

Rick Kramer

Garth Hein

Mark Pappas

Steve Loo