

**Minutes East Grand Fire Protection District
Board of Directors Meeting
October 28th, 2020**

Board Directors Present: President Mark Pappas, Vice President Garth Hein (remotely), Treasurer Steve Loo, Secretary Richard Kramer, Director Donald Maurais.

Staff Present: Chief Todd Holzwarth, Fire Marshal Dennis Soles, Assistant Fire Marshal Ryan Mowrey, Training Coordinator Steve Waldorf, Volunteer Coordinator Jed Henry, Office Manager Kristen Rybij.

Director Mark Pappas opened the Board of Directors meeting at 18:12 p.m. There was a quorum of Directors present. Mark asked if there were any changes or additions to the agenda. There were none. Mark asked for public comment. There was no public.

The Board reviewed the September 23rd, 2020 minutes.

- ❖ Director Donald Maurais moved to approve the September 23rd, 2020 minutes as written. Director Steve Loo seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Discussion of Financials: ColoTrust is down to .23%. Taxes are in at 99%. The preliminary budget is ready for review. Our revenues in 2021 will be the baseline for future budgets in accordance with our ballot measure. The method for calculating the mill levy for the 2021 budget remains unchanged. There was a short discussion regarding Amendment B and if repealing the Gallagher Amendment would affect our revenues. Affects are projected to be minimal, or non-existent, due to our ballot measure that backstops against revenue losses. It is noted that our ballot measure also protects us from the effects of a recession or disaster, such as the recent East Troublesome Fire.

- ❖ Director Richard Kramer moved to pay the bills. Director Steve Loo seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Chief's Report: The Williams Fork Fire has basically reached possible maximum containment and shows minimal fire activity. They will continue to monitor hot spots. There was a lengthy discussion of the East Troublesome Fire and the unprecedented "fire cyclone" behavior that took place Wednesday night October 21st. High winds, extreme drought conditions, and a collapsing smoke cloud pushed the fire to a growth of over 100,000 acres (~156 sq. miles) in less than 24 hours; an event never witnessed before. Under these conditions and at only 20% contained, the East Troublesome Fire grew to be the second largest wildfire in Colorado history. Winds during this event were clocked at 70-100 mph. At 6:30 pm on Wednesday evening, Chief Holzwarth called for "everyone at their stations with all hands-on deck." Our crews joined forces with ~ 26 County units as well as Aspen, Summit, Eagle River, and Vail Fire Depts. to battle the blaze. The current IMT was in transition and tied up working on Highway 125 at the time. Our local effort resulted in hundreds of structures saved, and multiple life-saving rescues without any injury to first responders or civilians. Law enforcement was able to evacuate Grand Lake in approximately an hour and a half, a feat that normally would have taken most of the day. It was noted that there were two avoidable civilian deaths, attributed to their personal choice. The crews worked day and night until a storm front arrived on Sunday, calming the fire activity. The gratitude for the hard work and dedication of our crew and all involved cannot be expressed in words.

Fire Prevention Bureau Report: There was a short discussion over the new gates at Devils Thumb ranch.

Training Coordinator Report: There was more discussion of the East Troublesome Fire and the department's response. Family flu shots took place a week ago. Everyone passed the Fire Two practical. A small fire department in WY is interested in purchasing the old 481.473 was sold through a sealed bid. Jed is busy working on getting bunker gear and uniforms ordered. The awards party and holiday party are on hold due to COVID restrictions. We purchased 4 new radios through the VFA grant. They were used a lot on the East Troublesome fire and worked well. They are also easy to clone.

Mark asked for public comment. There was no public.

Board Business: The Red Dirt meeting is scheduled for November 2nd. The Board moved the November meeting to the 18th to accommodate the Budget Hearing and Thanksgiving. They moved the December meeting to the 9th to accommodate the State deadline for adopting the budget. Todd signed the Pay Equity study agreement today. This study will align us legally with the new law as well as help us develop a compensation plan for the future.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 19:36 p.m.

Mark S. Pappas

Garth Hein

Steve Loo

Rick Kramer

Donald Maurais