

**Minutes East Grand Fire Protection District
Board of Directors Meeting
November 18th, 2020**

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

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

Director Mark Pappas opened the Board of Directors meeting at 18:05 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.

- ❖ Director Richard Kramer moved to open the 2021 Budget Hearing. Director Donald Maurais seconded. The motion passed unanimously. The Hearing was open at 18:06 p.m.

Director Mark Pappas asked (3) times for any public input on the proposed 2021 budget. There was no public. There was no comment.

- ❖ Director Richard Kramer moved to close the 2021 Budget Hearing. Director Steve Loo seconded. The motion passed unanimously. The Hearing was closed at 18:07 p.m.

The Board reviewed the October 28th, 2020 minutes.

- ❖ Director Garth Hein moved to approve the October 28th, 2020 minutes as written. Director Donald Maurais seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Discussion of Financials: We have gone over budget on our new line item, “Meals”, due to the East Troublesome Fire. This will be adjusted for 2021. “Capital Outlay Building” is more than we planned for as the asphalt part of the Tabernash project experienced unforeseen rate increases. Kristen will have the details of the Western Slope Health Care Group dissolution reimbursement ready for the Board next meeting. The training room AV project is moving along with installation projected for December.

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

Chief’s Report: The Williams Fork and East Troublesome Fire have been returned to local resources. The Incident Management Teams have left the County. There was discussion regarding the IMT’s type of response to the East Troublesome Fire’s blow up Wednesday the 21st when Grand Lake was evacuated. There were over 300 homes destroyed, many of them being primary residences. The Pay Equity study is under way and Kristen has provided them with the requested information they need to get started. The Water Rescue Drone could still be purchased this year, but if it not, we have also budgeted for it in 2021. We have received the technology upgrade grant for 492 which will increase needed capacities, including credentialing on-site. Rick asked for an update regarding ongoing discussions over a possible pension benefit increase. The increase was not approved after the 2019 Actuarial study. The District had to increase it’s contribution for 2020 just to fall back within a 20-year funding period after FPPA increased their assumptions. If the Board decides, we can add (3) extra studies to the 2021 actuarial and revisit the viability of a benefit increase.

Fire Prevention Bureau Report: The Bureau remains busy. There was no discussion.

Training Coordinator Report: Trainings will be cancelled for the rest of November (2 Weeks) to stay within COVID limitations and keep our crew healthy. There will be on-line training for CPR and EMT renewals. Operational protocols have also been changed for the crew’s safety working amongst possible exposure. We installed new tires on the Bobcat and 475. Steve is working through the process of billing the Division of Fire Prevention and Control for the District’s response to the East Troublesome Fire. We will be reimbursed for the crew’s roles on the fire as well as the use of our equipment. Kristen has worked through the billing for Nick Wall’s federal resource order as Status Check-In for the fire as well. There was minimal damage to our equipment, including a few small sections of hose and damage to (2) Pulaskis. A few days ago, the crew extinguished a small residential structure fire before there was any interior damage. Max Fire is working on a small punch list for the new 481. There is a District in Pennsylvania that is interested in purchasing of the old 481. Steve Loo asked for an update on Braidwood. Todd believes they are going to tear it down and start over. There was a short discussion of the status of volunteer retention.

Mark asked for public comment. There was no public.

Board Business: The Pay Equity Study is underway. We are not sure when to expect the final presentation from CPS HR. We are doubtful it will be ready by the December 9th meeting, but they do understand we strive to have a plan in place before the start of 2021. Steve Waldorf is being promoted to Assistant Chief, Jed Henry is being promoted to Captain, and Garrett Sullivan is being promoted to Lieutenant. Formal announcements will be made when we can have a safe awards ceremony. The County is working to set up a regular schedule of rapid COVID testing for first responders and front-line workers. East Grand will help in any way needed. Don noted that the rapid tests are not very accurate, returning

many false negatives and positives. There was a lengthy discussion over what types of PPE and procedures we are using and what we can do better to protect ourselves from COVID while responding to incidents, even if they seem “low risk”. It is requested that Todd check into increasing the variety of our COVID specific PPE. The Board scheduled the annual workshop for Thursday, January 14th , at noon. Kristen will send everyone the January 2020 workshop notes. Garth asked to discuss the increase in Impact Fees that was put on the backburner in March. Todd suggested we revisit it on the next required review cycle, fearing the East Troublesome Fire and the rapid increase in COVID cases will overshadow the discussion. Garth requested further discussion to be had at the December Board meeting with the goal of making a decision on how and when to move forward with an increase in impact fees.

❖ Director Rick Kramer moved to adjourn the meeting. Director Garth Hein seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 19:21 p.m.

Mark S. Pappas

Garth Hein

Steve Loo

Rick Kramer

Donald Maurais