

**Minutes East Grand Fire Protection District  
Board of Directors Meeting  
December 9th, 2020**

Board Directors Present: President Mark Pappas, Vice President Garth Hein, Treasurer Steve Loo (remotely), Secretary Richard Kramer, Director Donald Maurais (remotely), Pension Chairman Brian Dolan, Pension Trustee John Krueger.

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 Rybijn (remotely).

Legal Counsel Present: Linda Glesne (remotely).

Public Present: Chief Brad White (remotely), Grand Fire Battalion Chief Ron Thurston (remotely).

Director Mark Pappas opened the Board of Directors meeting at 18:07 p.m. There was a quorum of Directors present. The swearing in of FF Michael Cravens, FF Tucker Foulkes, and FF Raoni Orlandi as well as Resolution 2020-12-09-01 were added to the agenda. Mark asked for public comments. Grand Fire District #1's Chief White and Chief Thurston expressed their gratitude for the support and resources we gave to help with the East Troublesome Fire. They shared their appreciation for our Districts decade-long relationship. Mark mirrored their thanks and appreciation with our own, noting the invaluable asset our strong relationship is for our community. Mark also noted the success of our combined efforts in the Mountain Mutual Aid (MMA) program.

The Board reviewed the November 18th, 2020 minutes.

- ❖ Director Steve Loo moved to approve the November 18th, 2020 minutes as written. Director Garth Hein seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Director Mark Pappas swore in Firefighters Cravens, Foulkes, and Orlandi.

The Board reviewed Resolution 2020-12-09-01 Retired Firefighter - Return to Active Service - Benefits.

- ❖ Director Richard Kramer moved to approve Resolution 2020-12-09-01. Director Garth Hein seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Discussion of Financials: COVID has affected our year end budget numbers as it halted many of our daily operations, but on in a positive way as the District saved money. Todd explained the overspending of budget item "Capital Buildings" was due to higher-than-average asphalt prices. Steve Loo asked where the \$10K deposit came from. It is was the first installment from the sale of 473.

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

The 2021 budget was reviewed and adopted.

- ❖ Director Steve Loo moved to approve Resolution 2020-12-09-A To Set Mill Levy. Director Richard Kramer seconded. The motion passed unanimously.
- ❖ Director Gath Hein moved to approve Resolution 2020-12-09-B To Appropriate Sums of Money. Director Donald Maurais seconded. The motion passed unanimously.
- ❖ Director Mark Pappas moved to approve Resolution 2020-12-09-C To Adopt Budget. Director Garth Hein seconded. The motion passed unanimously.
  
- ❖ Director Garth Hein moved to recess the Board meeting for the Pension Board Meeting. Director Steve Loo seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

The Board of Director's meeting was recessed at 18:39.

The Board of Director's meeting was re-opened at 18:54.

Chief's Report: Chief updated the Board on recent happenings at the County, including the termination of our County Manager, Kate Macintyre and the resignation of our County Public Health Director, Brene Belew-Ladue. Ed Moyer will be the interim County Manager. The Board discussed the lack of understanding around why the County Manager was terminated and the tremendous loss to the County the resignation of Brene brings with it. Garth requested that the Board and Staff create and share with the community, a letter of support for the decades of service Brene selflessly gave to our community. On a positive note, we have a new County Emergency Manager, Joel Cochran, who brings a plethora of experience and expertise to the position in a time when most needed. In other news, Chief Ratzmann is no longer the Grand Lake Fire Chief. Todd noted that the wildfires have cooled off for now and there is a county-wide ET Fire AAR planned for next Friday via Zoom. There will be a third-party facilitator. The pay equity study and policy are in the works with CPS HR. The Water Rescue Recovery Drone was recently purchased jointly between us and Grand Fire #1. It was purchased earlier than planned to take advantage of special discount pricing. Other entities in the County will be financial contributors and part owners of the drone. The IGA governing this is being created. It will be a part of a County Component Entity (like the 911 Housing Authority) covering

responsibilities such as finances and audits. Each entity involved will have several folks trained on its operations and we intend to keep knowledge current with County-wide trainings. Our portion of the payment will be due in a few months and is budgeted for. The County is committed to \$50K of the project for 2021. It is noted that we have many water sources in our County, and they are all potential hazard for drownings. Steve Loo asked if the Drone was portable. The Drone is portable and does not have to be a part of a watercraft. It only needs a small generator to power it and has enough cable line to reach to the deepest places we know of in the County. The Training room AV project is in the works. Open Burn Season is still closed. There was a short discussion over past Hep A and B vaccinations that took place at the station. Steve Loo noted that when he was Office Manager, these vaccinations were done at the Station through the County Health Dept. It was also noted that Brene did not support the removal of vaccination programs from the County. This was a project she worked hard to facilitate over the years. Mark asked where our place in line for the COVID vaccine as First Responders fell. Information regarding a vaccination schedule is currently inconsistent among the CDC, CO Health Dept., and Governor. There was discussion over whether to make the vaccinations mandatory within the District. Garth suggested we seek advice over this from our Medical Director. Mark suggested the vaccine be mandated for the District as we work with the public in situations where they have no choice but to be in contact with us and we carry a responsibility to keep them safe from infection.

Fire Prevention Bureau Report: Dennis is in the process of completing inspections at Zephyr Mountain Lodge. New construction is still busy. There was a short discussion over the future of Beaver's Lodge; rumor has it that it may be turned into an educational facility. It was noted that bringing it to Code will be extremely difficult given its current state.

Training Coordinator Report: The District now has gowns to be used as an additional layer of PPE for COVID when warranted. The awards and holiday parties will not be held this year despite the efforts Jed made to plan COVID-friendly events. Jed will still distribute gifts to the District as a Thank You. Steve is still trying to sell 481 and is currently in communication with a Dept. in Pennsylvania. The guys recently went out on a chimney fire at the Timberline Lodge that ignited in a solid ceramic chimney tube. It was extinguished with a fire extinguisher by the time EGFPD was on scene, although 24 members responded! Garth asked how reimbursement for our participation in the ET Fire were coming along. Steve has billed out just over \$40K and is waiting for response from the State's DFPC. There was discussion over the process of submitting for reimbursement and what rates we use to calculate billing. The future of deploying our resources for wildland fires outside of our MMA areas was then discussed. Do we go "all-in" with the development of a wildland crew and purchase of dedicated equipment or stay put with our current activity participating in MMA deployments. These still give us plenty of training experience. Todd noted that we are just getting our "toes wet" and maybe in the future it will be an "all-in" scenario. Todd explained his struggle with the business model of "buying trucks to leave the District to make money for the District," and currently feels that our main objective should continue to be to cover our own District. Don noted that any deployment is solely at our discretion and profits should offset the cost of wildland equip while giving our volunteers the opportunity to make some money. The Staff and Board agree on these advantages and just want to make sure we move forward thoughtfully with ease and that we have a plan in place to create an aptly certified crew to fill these deployments. Linda closed discussion with comment that she will research the legality of mandating vaccines for the District and feels that there should be no problem with this if religious and medical exemptions are given.

Mark made official note of the promotions of Jed Henry to Lieutenant, Steve Waldorf to Assistant Chief, and Garrett Sullivan to Officer. He also noted that Todd and Dennis were awarded the 2020 Citizen of the Year Award by the Winter Park / Fraser Chamber.

Mark asked for public comment. There was none.

Board Business: Dennis was presented with his 30-year Ax. There was discussion over the status of increasing our impact fees. Todd suggested we put this on hold for now and complete another study in the future when the pandemic and its effects on our County smooth out a little. In the meantime, we will work on our relationships with the towns and County as well as educate them on what these fees mean for us and them. Kristen explained the status of the dissolution of WSHCG and when our reimbursements are projected to be collected. She noted that Staff and Volunteers were enrolled under the new plan and that everything was all set to begin our relationship with PSHCG.

- ❖ Director Mark Pappas directed the District to move forward with all necessary steps needed to complete enrollment with PSHCG. Director Donald Maurais seconded. The motion passed unanimously.
- ❖ Director Garth Hein moved to adjourn the meeting. Director Richard Kramer seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 20:04 p.m.

---

Mark S. Pappas

---

Garth Hein

---

Steve Loo

---

Rick Kramer

---

Donald Maurais