

**Minutes East Grand Fire Protection District
Board of Directors Meeting
March 24th, 2021**

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

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

Legal Counsel Present: Linda Glesne (remotely).

Director Mark Pappas opened the Board of Directors meeting at 18:17 p.m. There was a quorum of Directors present.

The Board reviewed the February 24th, 2021 minutes. A grammatical error was noted and corrected.

- ❖ Director Steve Loo moved to approve the February 24th, 2021 minutes with correction. Director Garth Hein seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Discussion of Financials: Impact fees are steady. COLOTrust continues to provide menial interest returns. We moved \$500 K from COLOTrust into LPL's ladder investment options as a short-term way to invest with higher returns. Kristen explained the large deposits recorded on the ledger. They included payment for the sale of old 481, reimbursements from the state for the District's involvement in the East Troublesome fire, payment for the sale of 473, and a refund for our annual worker's compensation audit. Kristen also noted the payment for our new water rescue drone. Chief then showcased the water rescue drone to the Board. Discussion ensued over its mechanics and plan for multi-agency use.

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

The Board of Director's meeting was recessed at 18:35.

The Board of Director's meeting was re-opened at 18:51.

Chief's Report: Chief and Mark gave everyone an update of the workshop they attended with the Winter Park Town Council to discuss our need for the land at the resort originally deed restricted for emergency services a "firehouse," as stated in the deed. They explained the history of the land to the Council and explained the necessity of a South Station located there in order to meet the demands of our growing community. Mark also focused on the District's desire to share this facility and work in conjunction with other first responder agencies. The Council had a lot of questions and was very receptive to our plan and to transferring the deed to us. They were also impressed with the first draft of conceptual drawings of the South Station. Mark reminded them of the success of the Red Dirt Hill station, another multi-agency first response collaboration, and reiterated the importance of agencies working together for the common goal of service and public safety. Next steps include the transfer of the deed which Linda will be working on, and the set-up of utility construction on the site, which Todd will be taking care of. Todd moved the discussion to this month's incidents and noted the 3 head-on collisions that all happened in under 24 hours on March 16 /17. At least 6 vehicles were totaled, and folks were transported. The Board then focused discussion on the car that careened over the side of Berthoud and the successful rescue efforts that ensued. Todd then moved to discuss the recent BOCC meeting he attended where the commissioners discussed their concerns over the fire restriction process currently followed by local, state, and federal agencies. Several weeks ago, the Sheriff called a meeting of all involved entities to discuss the current system, and everyone was in unanimous agreement to keep it in place. The current process uses the Craig "fire restriction template" and involves a group discussion every Tuesday by local, state, and federal stakeholders to evaluate the indices and weather in order to make decisions regarding fire restriction levels. The current process is successful because it creates consistent and concise plans across counties and avoids sharing mixed messages to the community. The BOCC had concerns over what may or may not be added as restricted activities to current the restriction levels. They are currently not in favor of restricting exploding targets, bullets, and incendiary rounds under Stage One Restrictions, but are in favor of increasing the initial offense fine for unlawful open burning from \$100 to \$500. Studies show that exploding targets, bullets, and incendiary devices really do cause fires, especially with the popular use of Tannerite. Linda Glesne joined the meeting. She presented four legislative bills that directly pertain to the District. SB 21-054 - "Transfers for Wildfire Mitigation & Response" is a one-time transfer of six million dollars from the State's General Fund to its Forest Restoration and Wildfire Risk Mitigation Fund. This bill shows the state's commitment to keep the forests healthy considering the tragic wildfires of 2020. HB 21-1008 - "Forest Health Project Financing," was created to provide additional financing to forest health projects by authorizing the creation of "Local Improvement Districts." HB 21-1025 - "Nonsubstantive & Open Meetings Law," changes the language of what constitutes an open

meeting when conversation ensues between Board members through email. SB 21-176 - “Protecting Opportunities and Workers’ Rights Act,” will expand workplace harassment definitions in a way that CCC deems to be so ambiguous that they are concerned employers will be in constant fear of litigation. They do not support this bill and Linda noted that some of the provisions within it go so far as to also differ from federal law. Todd noted that for legislation affecting fire Districts to be successful, it needs to include all stakeholders during the creation of the bill, not after it is drafted. Mark asked Linda for details regarding how the six-million-dollar fund will be disbursed and if it will be an annual thing. Linda confirmed that it was budgeted for this fiscal year only and was uncertain how it was to be distributed. She feels confident though that the severity of the wildfires in our county last year will earmark us for a generous part of the fund. Todd noted that the Wildfire Council has already been busy looking at our counties priorities and creating “Shovel Ready” projects in anticipation of applying for part of this grant money. Todd noted that the state was also working on attaining a Firehawk as part of the DFPC’s airwing and at the very least, will be getting a Type 1 helicopter under contract for the state this summer.

Fire Prevention Bureau Report: Workload has been typical, and Dennis has been spending extra time obtaining CEUs for recertifying his current certifications. Dennis informed the Board of Ryan’s progress and noted that he was doing a great job and was hopeful was would soon have his Inspector One certification. Dennis also acknowledged Mark and Todd for their efforts educating the town of Winter Park about the history of the land deeded for emergency response and the community’s need for a South Station. The building of the South Station is a very important, and necessary step for the District and the service we provide. He noted that they brought the Officers through the Arlberg Club to familiarize themselves with the water system and formulate an operating plan in the case of a fire.

Training Coordinator Report: Steve and Jed are working on graduating the current probie class in anticipation of the incoming spring recruit class. 10 folks will start recruit class in May. The District will be losing three valued members as they move on, and move up, in their fire careers. Steve discussed the success of the old 481 sale. Steve told the Board that there has been talk of hosting an engine from the DFPC at the future South Station for wildfire season and was hopeful for what a great resource it would be for the county. Garth asked for a status update on the upgrade to 492. The goal is to upgrade the connectivity and Salamander credentialing capabilities with the help of a grant from the NW All Hazards Team. The work is slated to be done by SVI. Nick is working directly on the grant for the connectivity upgrade. Todd noted they will also be updating lights and parts of the interior. Steve explained that the engine and chassis is in great condition, has very low miles and should fulfill our needs for the next ~ 15 years with these current upgrades. Jed ended the discussion with a proclamation of Steve’s great ability to execute his duties as Incident Commander at one of the last difficult multi-vehicle accident scenes.

Mark asked for public comment. There was none.

Board Business: Todd presented the Board with the 2020 District Annual Report. This year’s report included a new page to detail the events of 2020 and an annual report from the Fire Prevention Bureau. The staff job descriptions were then discussed. Kristen revised them with the new FLSA exemption statuses and new pay ranges as dictated by the recent pay equity audit. Garth noted discrepancies in the NIMS requirements among staff and Steve Loo noted that Spanish speaking should be a “desired” language skill of all staff, not just the Assistant Fire Marshal. Kristen will edit the job descriptions to reflect more accurately what is relevant for our staff and operations. Mark asked why Assistant Fire Chief was not found in the job descriptions. Todd explained that the District has always separated job assignment from rank and suggests that we continue to do so. The Board is fine with this. Corrections will be made to the job descriptions with final approval planned for the April 28th meeting. Garth asked about the current architectural drawings for the South Station and what stage they were in. Todd explained that the current set of plans was meant to only be used as a visual representation of what was possible for the site and needed for our first conceptual presentation to the town. The District will have to work through the creation of actual architectural plans for the South Station once the project ensues.

The meeting was adjourned at 20:09 p.m.

Mark S. Pappas

Garth Hein

Steve Loo

Rick Kramer

Donald Maurais