

**Minutes East Grand Fire Protection District  
Board of Directors Meeting  
July 28, 2021**

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

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

Public Present: Grand Fire - Chief Brad White, Sheriff Brett Schroetlin, GC EMS Chief - Robert Good, Grand Lake Fire Chief - Seth St. Germain, Grand Fire BOD President - Alina Bell, Grand Fire BOD Secretary - Katlin Miller, Grand Lake BOD President - David Craig (& wife).

Director Mark Pappas opened the Board of Directors meeting at 18:04 p.m. There was a quorum of Directors present. There were no additions to the agenda.

The meeting started with introductions around the room. Chief Holzwarth and Chief White opened by explaining the history behind the newly formed Headwaters Rescue Authority (HRA). Brad noted that last summer's drownings really increased the urgency to act on a conception that had been in the works for many years. Summit County has been a great resource in the past, but with the caveat of long wait times which normally extinguish the chances of survival, and an additional burden of suspense placed upon the waiting families. East Grand Fire and Grand Fire received a discounted quote from Video Ray at the end of 2020 for the purchase of the underwater ROV and made the plunge. The County-wide Headwaters Rescue Authority was then created. The drone is in operation and "Training the Trainers" training was completed by several agencies in the spring of this year. Chief St. Germain, Chief White, and the County worked to create the bylaws to support the Headwaters Rescue Authority Intergovernmental Agreement (HRA IGA). This has recently been approved by the Boards of Grand Lake Fire and Grand Fire, and the County Commissioners. Todd then requested approval from our Board for our District to join the HRA IGA. Director Pappas asked for any related discussion and entertained a motion to approve our participation in the HRA IGA. Chief White noted this project had previously been out of reach due to technology obstacles and cost. He is so grateful for the advances in technology which have given us first-hand access to life-saving rescue equipment which will greatly increase chances for survival, no more waiting on a dive team. He added that the Authority was created as it was nonsensical for any one agency to have to provide the funding to purchase and maintain a rescue tool of this magnitude. David Craig added that although there is an intrinsic value to the underwater ROV, this collaboration also sends a clear message that this is a milestone of how our agencies work together and shows our eagerness to support the community as a team. Mark noted the lack of participation from Hot Sulphur Springs and Kremmling Fire. It is assured that they, and the whole County, will receive the benefits of this apparatus and folks from their agencies will be offered training no differently than anyone currently in the HRA. We are all there for them and they are welcome to join at any time. Also, the Sheriff has jurisdiction over the County and that side of it will be taken of under their participation as well. The underwater ROV is listed as a State resource (CRFF) and the cost-share amongst agencies is currently being worked out. The intent is to have a \$5,000.00 annual membership fee to create a steady source of funds to keep up with training and maintenance, which will all be managed by the HRA IGA.

- ❖ Director Garth Hein moved to approve the Headwaters Rescue Authority Intergovernmental Agreement. Director Donald Maurais seconded. The motion passed unanimously. Director Pappas and Director Kramer signed the IGA.

All guests exited. Todd gave a quick overview of the cost breakdown to date of the underwater ROV. The Board briefly discussed the anticipated by-in from involved agencies and Todd noted that Mtn. Parks Electric has offered to reimburse us for the cost of the ROV's generator.

The Board reviewed the June 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2021, minutes.

- ❖ Director Garth Hein moved to approve the June 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2021, minutes as written. Director Richard Kramer seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Discussion of Financials: Todd explained to the Board that the approved 2021 "Payroll Benefits" budget line item had been miscalculated. It will not affect the ending balance as we budget all our reserves, and no legal amendments will be needed. Expenses will supersede what was budgeted for though. Kristen can show where the miscalculation took place as well as provide any documentation showing the validity of this year's expenditures under "Payroll Benefits." Taxes are in at 96%. Wells Fargo has yet to reimburse the District with past fraudulent credit card charges which accounts for the balance under the "Miscellaneous Expense" line item. Interest rates remain very low from Wells Fargo, COLOTrust and LPL Financial.

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

Chief's Report: Black Eagle Energy will oversee the gas line reinforcement project slated to be started in August for Winter Park. Todd shared the County's new evacuation map which was a collaborative effort across County agencies. It is mostly based on the fire district boundary lines with some overlapping and room for additional zones to be added. We decided to keep our

General & Property Insurance plan under VFIS after a strong attempt to win our business was made by Charles Wilson. Both companies offered a very similar product. We will start plan comparison earlier next year. Todd noted the addition of our new Cyber Coverage Policy. Other recent happenings included a District summer BBQ with a professional photo shoot of the fire family and all our apparatus (it was too bad there was a concurrent lighting strike and small single-tree wildfire that interrupted the fun), chipping days at the station was well attended, and the crew tabled at the Bike Safety Fair. Todd noted progress on possessing the deed to the land for the South Station was moving forward in a positive direction.

Fire Prevention Bureau Report: It has been continually very busy. Mark asked Dennis how Ryan was doing. Dennis remarked that Ryan was exceeding expectations. Annual inspections at Winter Park Resort are finished up and Dennis is keeping busy with a steady stream of new plan reviews. There is a significant increased interest from local HOAs for community wide wildfire hazard reviews. Instead of a single house walk around in conjunction with a set checklist type document, the community wide review involves a big picture assessment of the development including its members, private properties, and the surrounding public roads / land. Smoking Moe's is now The Devil's Craft, and with a recent remodel, is now up to code. Steve asked what the new structure below the WP Resort Administration building was. It was explained that it houses apparatus meant to pump water from the Fraser River uphill to a retention pond near Discovery Park to be used in snow making.

Training Coordinator Report: We received the VFA grant Steve had been working on which will allow for more BK radios. These will provide for better communication and flexibility with programming. They are backordered due to COVID complications with the mobile radios taking longer than the portables. Steve has been joining the weekly multi-agency fire restriction calls. He noted that due to last years fires and their aftermath, on top of scarce resources, the "let it burn" model is currently not being used. Full suppression mode is the current plan of attack. Jed just finished his Fire Fighter Type 1 and Incident Command Type 5 task books while responding to the small fire on the divide last week. We have done away with the Halligan program and have a new ESO integrated truck check program with the goal to have everything integrated into one platform. SCBA and aerial testing are done, and ground ladder testing is in the works. Jed has been working on updating bunker gear. Steve updated the Board on the current obstacles he is facing with interagency radio communications and what they are doing to work through them in an ever-changing landscape. The District Procedure Manual is almost ready to be pushed out as Steve puts the finishing touches on it in Lexipol. There was a brief discussion regarding recent changes to Sexual Harassment policies and Steve has updated ours with request that the Board, Staff, and Volunteers take the training before August 31<sup>st</sup> 2021. Jed updated the Board on the expected completion of the AV upgrade to the training room. We have ended our relationship with Spaces LLC and the project will be completed by a new contractor. There is a minimal amount of work to be done to complete the project.

There was no public comment.

Board Business: Grand Fire Asst. Chief Ron Thurston will be moving on with the installation of the new generator at the Red Dirt Station after no interest from other entities following the Request for Proposal (RFP). The Tabernash Asphalt project also received no interest after we published an RFP, so Ripper Custom Concepts will be moving forward on it. All those interested in the SDA conference are registered and booked for lodging. Todd introduced a request for monies from our Rural Water Development Fund to help aid a project between Conroy Excavating and Tabernash Meadows Water and Sanitation to extend the water line down CR 820 (Tabernash "Tech Park") and CR 523. The current proposal is for the delivery of domestic water only through a 4" pipe, but they would like to increase that to an 8" pipe and add on 3 hydrants so that it can be used for fire suppression as well. Garth was curious as to why Tabernash Meadows would not be purchasing the hydrants but would agree to maintain them? Todd explained that since they agreed to provide the water to them, they are in charge of the maintenance and testing. There was more discussion over why Meadows would not pay for the hydrants if they were supplying the water, keeping the maintenance, and working on most likely annexing in this area into their water district. Todd agreed to talk to Thom regarding cost-share for the hydrants. Todd then added that Conroy Excavating is doing the work for cost and that Tabernash Meadows is dealing with the task of establishing water rights which will be difficult since the project is out of their district. Garth asked how the District would handle any future (hypothetical) monetary requests from Developers to help with fire suppression systems in new subdivisions, using our past aid efforts as background. Todd assured the Board that it is a requirement for any new development to install these systems on their own. In conclusion, the Board is very much supportive of this effort, and the monies need will be budgeted for in 2022.

- ❖ Director Richard Kramer moved to close the meeting. Director Garth Hein seconded. The Board meeting was adjourned at 19:39 p.m.

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Mark S. Pappas

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Garth Hein

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Steve Loo

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Rick Kramer

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Donald Maurais