

**Minutes East Grand Fire Protection District
Board of Directors Meeting
June 22nd, 2022**

Board Directors Present: President Mark Pappas, Vice President Garth Hein, Treasurer Rachel Hoyhtya, Secretary Richard Kramer, Pension Chairman Brian Dolan.

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.

Legal Counsel Present: Linda Glesne.

Director Mark Pappas opened the Board of Directors meeting at 18:02 p.m. There was a quorum of Directors present. Todd added an update from Linda regarding the new FAMLII legislation to Board Business. There were no public comments.

- ❖ Director Garth Hein moved to officially recognize the current Board Officer positions after our recent election – Mark Pappas as President, Garth Hein as Vice President, Rachel Hoyhtya as Treasurer, Richard Kramer as Secretary, and Donald Maurais as Member at Large.

The Board reviewed the May 25th, 2022 minutes.

- ❖ Director Garth Hein moved to approve the May 25th, 2022 minutes as written. Director Richard Kramer seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Discussion of Financials: Kristen gave the financial report. COLOTrust interest rates continue to climb. There were two refunds under the Impact Fee Account which is rare. Kristen explained that one was due to a payment made on-line that was not understood by the party to be “exempt,” and the other was due for a duplicate payment for a triplex pre-paid for in 2006 with the Coyote Creek Plat. Garth asked what type of structures are considered exempt under the Impact Fee Rules and discussion ensued what structure type, size, and uses are considered exempt from fees. Todd also explained the old system of taking Impact Fees when a subdivision is platted. This is no longer in practice. Kristen noted the anticipated use of our annual Safety Grant money and anticipated refunds from agencies across the County for their new map books. Mark asked for an explanation of the layout of the property taxes on the budget report. This was reviewed.

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

Mark Pappas recessed the Board of Director’s meeting at 18:17 p.m.
The Board of Director’s meeting was re-opened at 18:22 p.m.

Chief’s Report: Election results are concluded and filed with the State. Todd confirmed that Tim Day, our Accountant, is happy with our current financial responsibilities and separation of duties between Todd, Kristen, and him. South Station utility design is still being worked through. Wildfire season has started with a bang with large fires in NM and AZ. The Rainbow Gathering location has now been confirmed to be taking place in Adam’s Park in Routt County. Steve has set up an ROV training involving the rescue of a dummy in the Lion’s Ponds. On par with calls from last year. Todd, Dennis, Ron Thurston, and Brad White met with Legislators from Summit and Routt / Rio Blanco Counties and discussed taxation issues and assessments.

Fire Prevention Bureau Report: The Bureau has been busy with inspections for existing buildings. Northern Water is coming along. This month has been slow with new Plan Review and Inspections. Braidwood has been finalized and is occupied, looks great! Team Rubicon has been doing strong work in our County with their volunteer wildfire mitigation work. Ryan and Todd were looking into splitting the cost of a new trailer with Grand Fire to assist with Rubicon’s chipping work, but it was deemed unnecessary at this time.

Training Coordinator Report: Recent trainings included live fire, ROV rescue scenarios, extrication, low angle rescue, and wildland radios. Academy is complete with three new members graduating to Probie status. Hose testing is complete with only 300’ failed and no replacement necessary this year. Sent a crew to Granby to participate in a training involving forceable entry with roof operations and search.

Board Business: Dennis presented the amended Plan Review and Inspection Fee Schedule. Verbiage regarding “requested re-inspections” was improved and fees were increased slightly to match current inflation rates.

- ❖ Director Garth Hein moved to approve Resolution 2022-6-22-01 “ A Resolution of the East Grand County Fire Protection District Amending Plan Review and Inspection Fees.” Director Richard Kramer seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Dennis then presented the Adoption of the 2021 Wildland-Urban Interface code. Simply stated, this Code is designed to keep us safer from wildfire than we currently are. Once the new Community Wildfire Protection Plan is in place, the current code in question will be amended to include new mapping of our County's current wildfire danger and where mitigation is most needed. Grand County OEM is moving forward with the new CWPP Study. EGFPD will participate as well with funds we have separated and allocated exclusively for CWPP studies. This money is a mixture of donations from the YMCA and the Denver Water Board. The District has also contributed funds. Our study will no longer be a stand-alone resource but an "appendix" of the County's. Todd noted that there is not a lot of expected upfront impact from the adoption of the 2021 WUI Code and hopefully the County and Towns will be cooperative in adopting the code as well. Garth asked who would oppose it. Realtors and builders are worried about the added cost to construction and ownership. It is also noted that current construction will not be required to upgrade, this is aimed at new construction. The State is also looking at adopting a Statewide WUI Code.

- ❖ Director Garth Hein moved to approve Resolution 2022-6-22-02 " A Resolution of the East Grand County Fire Protection Distric No. 4 Adopting the 2021 Version of the International Wildland-Urban Interface Code by Reference." Director Richard Kramer seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Kristen presented the revised market study proposal from CPS HR which now includes a Total Benefit analysis. In an effort to comparison shop, Kristen contacted two other agencies as suggested by CPS HR, and they do not have any time to take us on as a client. A lengthy discussion then ensued regarding the next best steps to take in order to comparison shop market studies and who best to contact. Linda believes that a Market Study is valuable and in important work product to our agency and suggests we not get too bogged down on the bottom line. Linda stands behind the integrity of CPS HR's work. Linda suggests calling Employer's Council and SDA for advice on other options. Linda does not suggest trying to execute an informal, in-house study, as the data is extensive, our jobs and District are incredibly unique, and only trained professionals have the expertise needed to perform this study. Moving Forward Kristen will contact SDA and Employers council for more information.

Linda then presented the new CO Family and Medical Leave Insurance Program (FAMLI) which was passed in November of 2021. The Board must decide before the end of 2022 whether we will be opting "in" or "out" of this program. Opting in will happen automatically for a contribution start date of January 2023 and benefit availability date of January 2024. No formal resolution will be needed for this option. Opting out of the program can be done at anytime before the end of 2022 and will require a formal vote and resolution. Opting out in future years will require a 6-month advance notice for any changes. The FAMLI program is intended to provide paid access to paid leave to all eligible employees who receive compensation at or above \$2,500 annually for a wide variety of personal and familial health issues including serious illness, and circumstances surrounding pregnancy, birth, adoption, foster care, and safe and / or exigent leave. We can decide to participate fully, partially, or not at all in the FAMLI program. For our District, with less than 9 employees, the annual premium would be .45% of employee's wages paid for by us or the employee. CEGR suggests that the Board analyze the cost effectiveness to the District to provide either FAMLI or an alternative plan to staff. It is noted that if the District has sufficient polices in place already cover what is addressed by FAMLI there may not be much use for enrolling in FAMLI. The Board requested that Kristen look at our current short-term and long-term disability programs currently in place and how they compare to FAMLI before a decision will be made.

The meeting was adjourned at 20:00 pm.

Mark S. Pappas

Garth Hein

Rachel Hoyhtya

Rick Kramer

Donald Maurais