

**Minutes East Grand Fire Protection District  
Board of Directors Meeting  
February 22nd, 2023**

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

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

Director Mark Pappas opened the Board of Directors meeting at 18:28 p.m. There was a quorum of Directors present. There was no public present. There were no additions to the agenda.

The Board reviewed the January 25th, 2023 minutes.

- ❖ Director Garth Hein moved to approve the January 25th, 2023 minutes as written. Director Donald Maurais seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Discussion of Financials: COLOTrust and LPL interest rates are stagnant. FPB fees are above average for this time of year due to the systems being installed in the WP Workforce Housing project. January taxes are in, and we have paid our first installment on the Market Study.

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

Chief's Report: The Legislative session is underway and pertinent bills are being monitored by the CSFC and SDA. The Headwaters Rescue Authority met and planned for the future delivery of a dedicated boat to house our Sonar and ROV equipment. Federal Emergency Declarations for COVID are soon to be removed. Open burning is still underway with lots of mitigation completed during the recent weather. Calls are up by 15 compared to January of 2022. There are currently four companies on the pre-qualification list with Munn for the South Station. Garth asked Todd for the status of the 2022 EGFDF Annual Report. Todd noted that he will have it ready for the March meeting. Garth requested that Todd present the report at the upcoming meetings of the County Commissioners, WP Town Council, and the Fraser Board of Trustees. These will be scheduled.

Fire Prevention Bureau Report: The A-Frame club has been given its Certificate of Occupancy. Dennis has been busy with development and plan reviews. There is a mix of commercial and residential going into the old James Peak site. There was discussion over the future of the unfinished Grand Park development next to the Foundry and any relevant safety issues we need to be concerned with, which are few at this point in construction.

Training Coordinator Report: Steve and Jed have been busy conducting their annual "One-on-Ones" with the Volunteers. Volunteers were all given the option to conduct their interviews in the absence of Jed in light of the District's current litigation he is involved in. Out of the 29 interviews concluded so far, no one denied Jed's presence. When asked, everyone also said they felt comfortable coming forth with any concerns to Jed or Steve under our current "Open Door Policy." Additionally, everyone was asked how they felt about the current litigation involving Jed and the consensus was either "none of my concern" or "glad things are being done." Volunteer feedback concerning our program was positive and we have quite a few interested in EMT training, Engineer training, and Hazmat Ops. Steve then presented the Board with our current Resident Program and Drug & Alcohol Policy for review. There was lengthy discussion regarding the current alcohol policy in place and what can be done to mitigate any future liability due to alcohol, drinking, and intoxication at the station. Currently alcohol, drinking, and intoxication is prohibited while on duty and everywhere in the station (including vehicles) besides private resident rooms. Steve noted that if we decide to make East Grand a dry station, we must also address how to deal with the possibility of residents coming home intoxicated after drinking outside of the station. Garth asked the Board for some introspection into, and discussion over, the similarities between how societal norms shifted 25 years ago to accept the hazards of smoking and its ban from public places to society's currently changing view and gradual acceptance of alcohol's negative impacts on public health. Why don't we give the ban on smoking at the station a second thought anymore but still struggle with how to deal with alcohol at East Grand? Is it time we shift the way we think about alcohol & intoxication at the station and align with the direction society is heading? Mark added that although both are health hazards, smoking does not impair judgement and function and reminded everyone that alcohol is what fueled the behaviors that spurred our current lawsuit. Mark is in support of moving forward with an alcohol-free station. Don agreed with his concerns and feels that allowing alcohol, drinking, and intoxication at the station, in any capacity, is too risky and noted that our current litigation could have been significantly worse. In addition to a new policy dictating a dry station, Mark would also like it to more clearly define regulations surrounding alcohol and intoxication in conjunction with shift & resident duties - i.e., shall we implement alcohol testing in conjunction with any accident or Workers Compensation incidents? Rachel agreed with moving forward with an alcohol-free station for all previously stated reasons and to eliminate any gray areas regarding our alcohol policy. Rick and Garth added that they were in agreement with an alcohol-free station and the Board requested that Steve revise the Alcohol & Drug Policy to reflect this and have it ready for review at the March meeting. Steve then opened an in-depth discussion over our District's rules regarding proper use of the Chain of Command and his concern that this has not been adhered to by our current Membership while dealing with recent litigation. Steve noted that not only do we have the Chain of Command in place, but we also have a Grievance Policy and Grievance Committee

to utilize when issues arise so that they can be dealt with properly, mitigating unnecessary conflict, and allowing for proper investigation into the matter. Mark confirmed that the Board agrees with these policies 100% but the waters got a bit muddied during our recent litigation and lawsuit as Members were told they could go directly to Mark or Steve with any concerns. When the person you are complaining about is the person you are required to complain to, Mark feels that a break in the Chain of Command is valid. The situation was unique, and the Board was navigating new legal territory with best intentions. Garth added that discrimination, sexual harassment, and a volatile workplace are three acceptable reasons for leapfrogging the Chain of Command and wants to make sure the Membership is educated on this and understands that if they do, the next steps would be to contact Todd (or current Fire Chief) and legal counsel. Mark then reminded everyone that the Volunteers were not the only ones to break the Chain of Command recently as Staff also did when salary concerns were brought directly to the Board during the January 2022 meeting. It was reiterated that the Chain of Command is securely in place, but each situation has the potential for uniqueness and is worthy of flexibility if needed. The topic was changed to last month's incidents and Garth noted that 25% of the calls were EMS assists. He reiterated the Board's willingness to continue assisting EMS but reminded Staff to keep an eye on numbers and where our resources are going.

Mark asked for public comment. There was no comment.

Board Business: Dennis presented the proposed amendment to the Plan Review and Inspection Fees, which included the typical annual adjustments for inflation, but also a new "STR Inspection Fee" and a "Dangerous Building Fee." As the Towns and County are working through the nascent stages of STR regulations, they requested a STR Inspection Fee be added to our schedule. No one is quite sure how District-specific inspections will look regarding frequency and dictation of responsibility. The Towns and County have hired Code Enforcement Officers and it is our hope that this will be integrated into their duties as our FPB does not have the resources to deal with the enormity of this job, although we are happy to offer our support. Dennis then explained the hopes that implementing the proposed, hefty, "Dangerous Building Fee" will better motivate folks to take action if a building or appliance presents a danger to themselves, workers, or visitors. Garth requested that Dennis explore other Statewide / Regional STR Inspection fees and adjust ours accordingly. Mark feels that a flat fee for all units no matter the size is questionable, and Garth thinks the fees may need to be increased to match anticipated workload and other District's STR Inspection Fees.

Director Mark Pappas opened the Public Hearing regarding adoption of the proposed amended Plan Review and Inspection Fee Schedule. Public comment was requested three times. There was no public present. Director Rachel Hoyhtya closed the public hearing.

- ❖ Director Rachel Hoyhtya moved to approve Resolution 2023-2-22-1 "A Resolution of the East Grand Fire Protection District Amending Plan Review and Inspection Fees" with the stipulation that the STR Inspection Fee amounts will be further explored and adjusted upward as needed to match the going rate for similar tourist destinations. Director Richard Kramer seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Director Richard Kramer moved to open the Public Hearing regarding adoption of the proposed amendments to the 2021 IWUI Code. Director Rachel Hoyhtya seconded. The motion passed unanimously. The hearing was opened, and Mark asked for public comment three times. There was no public. Director Richard Kramer moved to close the Public Hearing. Director Rachel Hoyhtya seconded. The motion passed unanimously, and the Public Hearing was closed.

Dennis presented the proposed amendments to the 2021 WUI Code. In summary, all three Fire Districts are looking to adopt the same amendments dictating that required fire resistant building materials will be based on what type of fuel, and thus wildfire danger, your building is surrounded by. This will be mapped out in the County's current CWWP. This approach not only aims to lower building material costs and increase the ease of procurement, but it is our hope that it will also motivate the homeowner to mitigate wildfire danger in order to save money on building materials. There is the possibility that the State adopts a Statewide WUI Code and the best way to maintain control and eliminate confusion at the local level is if the Towns, County, and Districts are united in adopting the same amended version of the 2021 WUI Code.

- ❖ Director Garth Hein moved to approve Resolution 2023-2-22-2 "A Resolution of the East Grand Fire Protection District No. 4 Adopting Amendments to the 2021 Version of the International Wildland-Urban Interface Code by Reference." Director Richard Kramer seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Dennis presented the plan for the Fire Alarm Safety Incentive Program and there was a brief discussion over the details before the Board unanimously agreed that we move forward with the program.

- ❖ Director Mark Pappas moved to adjourn the meeting. Director Rachel Hoyhtya seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 20:44 p.m.

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Mark S. Pappas

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Garth Hein

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Rachel Hoyhtya

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Rick Kramer

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Donald Maurais