

**Minutes East Grand Fire Protection District
Board of Directors Meeting
May 24th, 2023**

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

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

Public Present: Stephen Loo.

Director Mark Pappas opened the Board of Directors meeting at 18:09 p.m. There was a quorum of Directors present. There was no public comment. There were no changes to the agenda.

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

Todd presented Mark Pappas with a certificate and a gift honoring his 17 years of service on the Board of Directors.

The Board reviewed the April 26th, 2023 minutes.

- ❖ Director Garth Hein moved to approve the April 26th, 2023 minutes as written. Director Rachel Hoyhtya seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Discussion of Financials: Kristen presented the final costs for the Market Study, which came in at a 1/3 of the cost of their competitor and was completed in half the time. Within these parameters, having a Market Study completed every two years as suggested by the Employer's Council will not be a problem. We have contributed \$10K to the County's and Fire District's CWPP so far. Once final payment is made, we will transfer monies from our Wells Fargo CWPP specific account to reimburse these costs. This money came from donations across a multitude of agencies in our District. The Audit is underway, and all requested documents have been sent to the Auditor.

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

Chief's Report: The final CWPP reports are slated to be published soon. Grand County's assessed values increased by a large margin with residential up 67% and vacant land up 106%. This is significant and we do not even rank highest in the State. The ground-breaking ceremony for the South Station is scheduled for June 6th at noon and all parties involved in the project have been invited. Open Burning is closed for the season and reports show our District had the most permits issued. Grand Park was given an extension to burn their hand piles by the Department of Natural Resources and they are regulating that process. Todd asked the Board if there was any interest in moving forward with planning a gathering of all Board members across all five fire districts. There is interest and it is suggested that we also invite folks from the State Legislature. We have been very busy and are 40 calls ahead of last year. Garth asked Todd to give an update on recent issues that arose between us and the Town of Winter Park regarding the South Station. Todd explained that he believed the building application had been accepted and that we are on the schedule for the June 13th Planning Commission meeting. He then noted that our original plans were not accepted because they did not appear to meet the new Unified Development Code adopted by the Town of Winter Park last year in order to bring homogeneity to the community. It is Todd's understanding that they have recently accepted this third, and last iteration of the original plans which included compromised changes to the landscaping and to the structure of the building itself. Munn's staff did not communicate that these revisions were taking place in time enough for us to get on this month's Planning Commission meeting. The exact cost of these revisions is unknown, but Todd believes it to be within the original scope of the project. The bigger concern is the time we have now lost. Garth is concerned that each revision is costing unnecessary tax dollars and that the criteria being used to deny us is subjective and being decided by folks that are not professional architects. Our architect's goal is to design a cost effective, functioning, aesthetically pleasing station that will still be those things in 30-50 years and they believe that is what they have done. There was lengthy discussion over our options if the plans are rejected again or if the new designs will push us over our original budget. Linda explained that there is a "Location and Extent" clause under Title 32 which states that the only parameters the Town can legally enforce are the location and extent (i.e., height restrictions) of the building. Garth has requested that we notify the Town of this clause and tell them that if there are any more expensive delays to the project then we are prepared to use it. The downside to taking this

route is possible litigation which is sure to add hefty delays which will surely push completion outside of the 2024 contractual agreement. The plan revisions are also not the only delay we have encountered. In February, when they received our pre-application, it took two months just to schedule us for the pre-application meeting. In addition to the delays, our request for waived permitting fees was never presented to the Town Council by their staff. Garth feels that there is an adversarial relationship with the town and would really like to understand why. Garth reiterated his proposal that if we are denied again Todd will draft a memo stating that we will move forward under the protection of the Location and Extend clause with the most cost-effective, budget adhering, design. Garth asked if the other Board members agreed. They do.

Fire Prevention Bureau Report: Plan reviews and inspections were more balanced this month. Development reviews are abundant. Wildland Hazard reviews are picking up. Dennis and Ryan continue to investigate ways in which to have an STR Inspection Program. Upon further research, Ryan has been unable to find any web-based platforms that handle virtual self-inspections. We have already had a few folks call for STR inspections. They were either out of District or it was explained that we do not have a program in place yet. Garth asked if they seemed put off by it. The folks that we spoke to seemed unconcerned and treated it as just another item on their punch list. Grand Fire is building their program as they go by trial and error. They have ten times less the amount to handle than we would. There was a short discussion over the logistics of a program like this. Do we hire 3 full-time, non-operational Fire Inspectors to do this? Do we try to make it a zero net profit service, or do we find a way to use the profits for Fire Prevention and / or Life Safety programs? Garth asked if there is any grant funding for this. No one has heard of any. The new software that is being used to mine unregistered STRs is also being used to flag and fine STRs that are not abiding by their maximum occupancy rules. This is helpful for us as it addresses the life safety issues caused by sardining guests into a unit. Ryan will be starting Wildfire Hazard reviews this upcoming week. The Grand County Joint Wildland Team and GC Fire Chiefs had a GIS based platform created for the upload and mutual sharing of Wildfire Hazard assessments across the County with log ins for all Fire Districts and the County. Everyone will help maintain it and it will be non-profit licensed. The data can then be used during a wildfire or preplanning for one and is anticipated to also help homeowners with their insurance ratings.

Training Coordinator Report: Wildland season is underway. There are 5 in academy, and they are halfway through the curriculum. We have lost a few Volunteers for various reasons. Wildland training has taken center stage the last several weeks. The Wildland Rodeo was a success with over 50 in attendance with folks from each fire district. It was held in Innsbruck with focus on structure triage, an incident within an incident, Incident Command, and communication techniques with our aerial resources. We also hosted the 3rd Annual Wildland Officer's meeting with folks from the DFPC, Sheriff's Office and the USFS in attendance. There was open discussion, but most importantly the continued fostering of interagency relationships.

Mark asked for public comment. There was none.

Board Business: Mark gave a recap of the Red Dirt Meeting. The joint fund holds \$108K. It was requested that we look at projects we can invest in. It was also requested we pull call data and analyze the use of the Red Dirt Station and decide if we need to scale back our annual contribution. Garth asked that we also do a similar data analysis for calls within the South Station's range so that we can have that information in hand when asked to justify either of their existence. Attendance at the SDA conference was discussed. Rachel is interested. Mark administered Don's Oath of Office. The Board figured out attendance at the next Red Dirt meeting in November.

- ❖ Director Mark Pappas moved to go into Executive Session per 24-6-402(4)(f), C.R.S., Personnel Matters and 24-6-402(4)(b), C.R.S., Conferences with the District's Attorney regarding legal advice on specific legal questions.

The regular meeting was recessed at 19:35 p.m.
The Executive session was entered at 19:37 p.m.

- ❖ The regular meeting was adjourned at 20:01 p.m.

Mark S. Pappas

Garth Hein

Rachel Hoyhtya

Rick Kramer

Donald Maurais