

**Minutes East Grand Fire Protection District  
Board of Directors Meeting  
October 25, 2023**

Board Directors Present: President Garth Hein, Vice President Donald Maurais, Treasurer Rachel Hoyhtya, Secretary Richard Kramer, Director Ryan Barwick.

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

Public Present: Steve Loo

Director Garth Hein opened the Board of Directors meeting at 18:06 p.m. There was a quorum of Directors present. There were no additions to the agenda.

The Board reviewed the September 27th, 2023 minutes. It was noted that Donald Maurais was remote for the September meeting and that Garth Hein opened the meeting, not Rachel Hoyhtya. This will be corrected.

- ❖ Director Donald Maurais moved to approve the September 27th, 2023 minutes as corrected. Director Richard Kramer seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Discussion of Financials: The preliminary 2024 budget draft was sent to the Board on 10/13/23 and a copy was included in this Board packet for discussion. Todd noted the new revenue and expense place holders for a possible lease purchase for the South Station in 2024. Garth asked why payroll benefits decreased alongside increasing salaries. Kristen noted that in the past we have been overly “generous” with our line items due to our reserves and the difficulty calculating many of our line items with precision, but this year, due to the South Station in particular, Kristen is trying to reign in our projected expenses. Garth then asked what percentage increase the 2024 Salaries were from 2023. Kristen noted the ~ \$300K increase but did not have the exact percent increase. She gave a brief overview of how she calculated 2024’s salary under the guidance of the Employer’s Council and parameters of the 2023 Market Study. She also explained that 2024’s salaries included a sizeable amount for new employees. Ryan noted the need for some clarification regarding our line items but is happy to discuss them outside of the meeting. He also pointed out that it seemed odd to have that large of a jump in salaries alongside an almost flat Workman’s Compensation rate. Kristen had just used their 8-10% projected increase in premiums for her calculation but will examine more precisely how they calculate their premiums and have an updated amount for the revised budget to be presented at November’s meeting.

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

Training Coordinator Report: Steve gave his report first. We put 23 folks from EGF, GF, and EMS through the Driving Simulator course. SCBA Flow Testing is complete. Steve attended the Blue Ridge prescribed burn briefing and then was given a tour of the operations - a great opportunity for networking. In the last month, there have been 5-6 structure fires across the County. Steve complimented our crews for their strong work on the Waterside West Fire that had just taken place that afternoon. Garth then complimented Steve for his strong work calmly handling Incident Command. There was discussion over the Waterside West fire and how we handled the staging of this multi-agency response. Rachel spoke to a visually and audibly impaired community member who was affected by this fire. The woman is concerned with her failing faculties and wants to know if there is a way we (or Dispatch) keeps track of those who need extra help being notified of and / or evacuating an incident. It is noted that this is next to impossible, and the list would be constantly changing. Steve explained that during an incident they do employ many measures to make sure all are safe and evacuated from looking at what cars are present, knocking on doors starting at the fire and working out, and talking to residents there that may know about others needing help.

Fire Prevention Bureau Report: New construction inspections are busy. There have been a few significant development reviews, several that are in the preliminary stages at this point. Wildfire hazard reviews continue. Knox box numbers continue to grow. Dennis met with the Workforce Housing project to discuss their pre-final acceptance requirements. There is a difference of opinion over whether or not a generator is needed as a back-up for the fire pump. They argue that it is not necessary as they have a redundancy in place with two different circuits being fed by

Mtn. Parks Electric. They also noted the absence of any outages in the last year. The engineer is certain there is no need for a generator to power the fire pump. The rest of the requirements are being met and there will be a generator that will operate all the other life safety systems. Garth asked if Dennis has the opinions of the engineer and Mtn. Parks in writing. He does. Garth asked if we could have Linda review the documents to make sure they cover any liability that we may encounter in the future. He will. Dennis also noted that the code says that no generator is needed for the fire pump if there is redundancy proven to work. This has been shown. Todd noted that we also revised their addressing. They wanted to address both buildings at 1 Winter Park Dr. with only Building #1 and #2 as the differentiator. We are having the same problem with Timber Fox, all three buildings have the same address with only buildings A,B, and C to differentiate them – in addition to the fact that the buildings themselves are physically labeled #1, #2, and #3. We will make them revise their addressing to three unique addresses so that there is less room for error during a response.

Chief's Report: Prop HH was a hot topic at the Chief's conference. Some of the State's Chiefs were really against it while others supported it. If Prop HH does not pass, there is already another Citizen's Initiative in place that aims to restrict all entities to an annual 4% revenue increase cap. We are uncertain how, or if, our ballot question will work with this if passed. Todd and Kristen spent a good amount of time working with Linda and Sarah on how we have been calculating our revenues and what we may do differently moving forward. The South Station is on its 4<sup>th</sup> concrete pour and the building foundation is complete. Currently, there is no water supply to Mary Jane due to a burst water pipe that goes under the river. We have helped them fill their tank twice and there is enough water to protect Mary Jane and its shops, Bridgers Cache, and the Arlberg Club if needed.

There were no public comments.

Board Business: The Board agreed on 11/15/23 and 12/6/23 for the November and December meetings. Prop HH may push the receiving of our Final Certification of values later than the first week in December.

The regular meeting was adjourned at 19:01 p.m.

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Garth Hein

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Donald Maurais

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Rachel Hoyhtya

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Rick Kramer

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Ryan Barwick