

**Minutes East Grand Fire Protection  
District Board of Directors Meeting  
April 26th, 2023**

Board Directors Present: President Mark Pappas, Vice President Garth Hein (remotely), Treasurer Rachel Hoyhtya, 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, Assistant Fire Marshal Ryan Mowrey.

Director Mark Pappas opened the Board of Directors meeting at 18:04 p.m. There was a quorum of Directors present. Todd added the Red Dirt meeting to Board Business. There was no public present.

The Board reviewed the March 22, 2023 minutes.

- ❖ Director Mark Pappas moved to approve the March 22, 2023 minutes as amended. Director Garth Hein seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Discussion of Financials: Impact Fees are picking up as we get into building season. Bills for the South Station continue to arrive. Our audit starts May 8<sup>th</sup> and Kristen will be working with Calvin from McMahan to get that completed. Mark asked how the change to bi-weekly payroll had been going.

Kristen has requested everyone send their hours to her the Monday / Tuesday of each pay week in order to facilitate the completion of payroll on Tuesdays for consistency and to avoid it being sent to Chief last minute for transfer approval. This has been mostly successful. The payroll process itself is smooth, even in the face of the extra steps now required for its completion.

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

Chiefs Report: The CWPP is wrapping up and once we have paid our final installment to the County, we will then reimburse the funds paid out with a transfer from our Wells Fargo CWPP Account. The Legislature is seeing the introduction of a last-minute property tax bill which shall not affect us due to the Gallagher measure we passed, regardless of how it affects the RAR or property tax classification systems. The CML and CCI is in conflict with the State and its initiative to increase housing density without regard for its effect on Special Districts and infrastructure. Open burn season closed on 4/23, but Clark was granted a variance to burn~ 100 hand piles in Grand Park under normal weather window restrictions as dictated by the County Dept. of Natural Resources. Todd requested he not burn past mid-June. We are 20 calls ahead of this time last year. Wings Over the Rockies was recently held and Todd noted the robust resources available to us this wildfire season which include (2) Firehawks, SEATS, the MMA, Air Tankers, Modular Units, and Engines, as well as a new interagency dispatch center with increased assets to include employees from the DFPC to help with resource requests and deployment. Deep utility work at the South Station is slated to begin in May and we have set a tentative ground-breaking for the second week of June. Don asked if there was going to be a change to the layout of the intersection at the South Station. There was a lengthy discussion regarding what options we have to control that traffic light / intersection. The TOWP has been talking about round-abouts at the Resort entrances, but it has only been in discussion. Mark asked if we get automatic clearance to control the light. Todd noted that he has talked to the State about that and also noted that he has sent a procedure for our planned ER response from the Station through that intersection with ski traffic. Non-ER? Join the que. ER? Siren and lights.

There was then discussion over what we can do to control the lights that we already do not have control over in town. Garth requested a cost analysis for installing Opticom (or newer GPS technology) into the remaining trucks and lights. Todd noted that installing Opticom is ~\$10- 20K per intersection and~ \$2-3K per truck.

Fire Prevention Bureau Report: New construction has been consistent. Dennis spent most of March on existing building inspections. Ryan presented a rough draft proposal on how we might deal with a Short-Term Rental Inspection Program. He has started to research how other District's handle this type of program, what software could facilitate us, and what the County and Towns Plan to do on their end regarding the safe operation of STRs. Currently, the TOWP, Fraser, and the County are working towards 100% compliance with STR Registrations with new software they implemented that will flag unregistered STRs. As of right now, in our District there are 2,000 registered STRs with new ones coming online daily. Board and Staff agree that there is a real life safety issue with uninspected STR units and our objective with this program is to "create a safe, enjoyable, and profitable community of STRs to the Winter Park and Fraser Valley by creating a life safety inspection program which aims to help provide safe rental environments to the renters while also providing a safe and efficient response of emergency personnel." Many ideas were tossed around for how to conduct the inspections including

using software to facilitate remote inspections, training and hiring third party inspectors (i.e., property management employees), hiring qualified (by us) independent contractors, and/ or sharing the workload inhouse between Staff and Volunteers. There are many unanswered questions regarding what fees would look like, what physical and monetary resources it would take to fund the program, when inspections will be triggered and with what frequency they will take place, and what can be done with non-compliant residences. This program would not pertain to motels / hotels with staff on site and inspections already being conducted. Garth noted that we do not want to be seen as "Big Brother," trying to shut down our District's STRs. This is definitely not our intention and Garth has requested that this be clearly advertised to our constituents. The proposal included a rough break down of the various logistics needed just to inspect the 2,000 we currently have (not including all the STRs which are anticipated to arise), costs for resources, fees that might be implemented per inspection and net gain for the District. The net gain for the District was suggested to be slated for increased operations needed to meet the increase in call volume caused by STRs. Garth requested that we figure out how to implement the program with a net gain closer to \$0 as we move forward with a more defined proposal. Garth suggested that maybe we could use Volunteers on light duty or needing extra hours to help out. He also suggested that it would be helpful to include hard data showing the direct correlation between STRs and call volume when presenting the program to the public. There is concern that our constituents will feel as if we are disrespecting their privacy rights in their personal home, but there is also the view that their privacy rights change the moment they start operating as a business. Kristen asked why inspections are our responsibility instead of the Towns and County. Todd noted that they have hired extra staff and inspectors to deal with these issues but ultimately, they do not have the expertise in fire life safety like we do. Don asked if the Towns and County will eventually mandate a required fire inspection to the STRs. Todd noted that they will support whatever we think is the best route to take, as they have with Grand Fire and Grand Lake Fire. Mark requested that we consult Linda as to what liability we would have if there were a life safety event in a unit we gave a passing inspection to. Todd noted that we will also have access to the County's database of STR data. Don added that when they did remote inspections in his District, it was successful. Mark asked what the future of this program was? Todd explained that he was leaning towards the "self-inspection" model. Ryan noted that self-inspections will tend to keep honest people honest and the most important aspect of them will be the life safety education they will receive, akin to the Wildfire Hazard Reviews we do. It was reiterated that this is truly a brainstorm in its infancy and an actual program will be many months in the making as we watch and adapt to how the Towns and County will deal with this new phase of STR compliance.

Training Coordinator Report: It is already wildland season on the front range. We will be hosting the 3rt1 Annual Officers Wildland meeting with folks from the State, Sheriff's Office, Forest Service, and other Fire Departments. We will be splitting wildland training between HQ, Granby, and Kremmling. The Wildland Rodeo will be in Granby this year and focus on structure protection. There will be many cooperators in attendance. We sent 4 members to FDIC. The south door locks are fixed. We have requested that dispatch call us for all MVAs, even if non-injury. We want to make sure there is life safety for the police on scene, even if it is just visibility and traffic control. We will bring whatever resources are needed to match the severity of the event.

Mark asked for public comment. There was no comment.

Board Business: The election will take place on May 2, 2023. Applications for Absentee Ballots closed yesterday. Judges are secured and trained. It is time to sign up for the SDA Regional Training which will take place on June 15<sup>th</sup> at Grand Fire. Mark and Rachel will be going to the Red Dirt meeting this Tuesday.

❖ Director Donald Maurais moved to adjourn the meeting. Director Richard Kramer seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 19:35 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