

**Minutes East Grand Fire Protection District  
Board of Directors Meeting  
August 23, 2023**

Board Directors Present: Treasurer Rachel Hoyhtya, Secretary Richard Kramer, Director Ryan Barwick.

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

Director Rachel Hoyhtya opened the Board of Directors meeting at 18:10 p.m. There was a quorum of Directors present. There was no public.

Resolution 2023-8-23-01 and the August Certification of Values will be discussed in Financials.

The Board reviewed the July 26th, 2023 minutes. Kristen will edit JBA to read JVA.

- ❖ Director Ryan Barwick moved to approve the July 26th, 2023 minutes as corrected. Director Richard Kramer seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Discussion of Financials: Impact fees have slowed substantially. We have received the August preliminary Certification of Values from the County. Todd noted that we can finally say with surety that more than half of the County's assessed valuation lies within our District, as it has been hovering close to half for a long time now. There was discussion over why our projected revenues are calculating at less than last years, when in theory, due to the fact that they are stabilized to the 2020 AV in addition to adding in inflation and new construction, they should not decrease over consecutive years. Kristen will look into this further but noted that new construction saw a 171% increase from 2021-2022 alongside a 40% increase in the CPI, whereas new construction only saw a 73% increase from 2022 - 2023 and a 43% DECREASE in CPI. Kristen believes this large swing in numbers created a "perfect storm" mathematically to actually decrease our revenues slightly. She also noting the rarity of 2022's inflation explosion and construction boom. Todd added that we could have taken in quite a bit more had we not stabilized our revenues in 2019, but ultimately would not have taken the full amount as a gesture to the struggles of our constituents dealing with the doubling (and tripling) of assessed valuations and the often-crippling property tax bills accompanying them. Todd introduced Resolution 2023-8-23-01 - "A Resolution of the Board of Directors of the East Grand County Fire Protection District Committing Funds for Construction and Warranty for the South Fire Station Major Site Plan." The resolution outlines an agreement that we will maintain a restricted "fund" for three portions of the South Station project which includes the onsite paving, onsite swale, and eventually the landscaping. The TOWP wants us to set aside 20% of total project costs for a two-year warranty period. The resolution states that although we maintain control of the funds, the TOWP would have permission to draw from them in the event these projects are not completed. The total cost for these projects is \$214,691K and upon passing of this resolution we would agree to restrict \$42,938 in our general funds along with sending a monthly report to the TOWP detailing project completion details, amount paid, and funds restricted for the two-year warranty.

- ❖ Director Ryan Barwick moved to approve Resolution 2023-8-23-01. Director Richard Kramer seconded. The motion passed unanimously.
- ❖ Director Richard Kramer moved to approve the financials. Director Ryan Barwick seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Chief's Report: Work on the South Station is moving along nicely. The drainage swale is roughed in, water and sewer are coming into the site, the new fire hydrant is installed, and the rough grade of the lower parking level and ground floor are shaping up. There was a layer of organic material found under the existing parking lot that will need mitigation before importation of materials continues. Todd noted that the Town of Fraser is still pursuing TIF and is looking at forming a Downtown Development District for this purpose. Their consultants argue that TIF occurs without an increase in property taxes, but Todd believes a more accurate way to describe TIF is that the "tax burden is shifted, and everyone subsidizes the cost of increased demands for service, for 20 years." Chief Cupp of Greater Eagle Fire was not pleased with how this happened in Eagle - quoting that they ended up with "high-end lofts with frozen property tax assessments." Todd will continue to stay current with how the Town of Fraser moves forward with this. Ryan B. asked what the expected timeline is for the South Station. Coming online was originally projected for next fall, but so far, we have not reached completion of any milestone that could

give us more dialed in timeline. Todd believes first milestone to be the pouring of the footer. We do hope to get EMS up and running in the station as soon as we can.

Fire Prevention Bureau Report: Dennis and Ryan have been very busy with inspections and anticipate going into winter caught up. Dennis approved Camp Chief Ouray's new dining hall with a flawless inspection. Dennis also completed the finals at the MPHS's new Continuing Education Center and Granby's new fire station. Ryan B. asked why Dennis is inspecting the high school, or any schools. Dennis explained that he is the only one certified to do them in Grand County and continues to do them instead of deflecting them to the State as a way to maintain a bit of control over the safety of our schools as well as giving them a quicker timeline with our services. He noted that when he reviews and inspects new school projects, he is in fact working for the State. We charge an out of district fee for the plan review and inspection of the schools and are not in charge of general annual inspections. The State still does those. Ryan completed Park Plaza, which is notable as it is always a challenge. When they merged the three existing buildings into one, they lost their firewall separation. There is also no adequate separation between levels. They did sprinkle the lower level which is helpful and proved to work when we had an incident in Idlewild Brewery. The sprinklers were activated, and business was up and running just a few hours later.

Training Coordinator Report: We are now scheduling monthly EMT trainings. Our medical Director, Dr. Darcy Selenke taught this last one and it was well received. These trainings are in response to the increase in EMS calls we run with the goal of skill building and agency connection. We held a County wide VEIS / Maze / Victim rescue training here at HQ, which was a big success with crews from Kremmling FD, HSS FD, Grand Fire, and us in attendance. We have also been training with the ROV in the Lions Ponds. Aerial testing has been completed on 481 and 491. Ground ladders will be tested tomorrow. The technician perceived some defects on the aerial cradle and frame of 491. These were further investigated and found to not be deficiencies, but cracks in the paint and just how the frame's C-Channels were manufactured. 491 is safe and in service. Steve is working with the manufacturer to further confirm the integrity and safety of the cradle and frame of 491. Steve met with the Fire Management Officer for the Sheriff's department to discuss evacuation planning for our side of the County. Fire season truly happens in the fall and the FMO is working on evacuation mapping for the County. We have another County wide training in Kremmling coming up for Auto Extrication.

There were no public comments.

Board Business: Ryan asked for direction from the Board whether or not to move forward with an in-house Short Term Rental inspection program. We revisited ideas for how to tackle such an undertaking, from self-inspection software to a lottery inspection program. The County requires an annual STR registration that would include a fire and life safety inspection. Ryan will move forward with outlining a program that could work for us. He will most likely focus on an online self-inspecting platform with the need of additional hires to manage it.

The regular meeting was adjourned at 19:30 p.m.

not attending meeting

Garth Hein

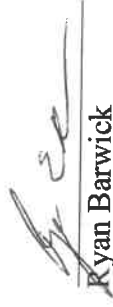
Donald Maurais



Rachel Hoyhtya



Rick Kramer



Ryan Barwick