

**Minutes East Grand Fire Protection District
Board of Directors Meeting
February 28th, 2024**

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

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

Director Garth Hein opened the Board of Directors meeting at 18:14 p.m. There was a quorum of Directors present. "Rough Draft - New Job Descriptions" was removed as an official agenda item, although a raw form of them will still be passed out to the Board. Garth requested follow up from Todd regarding his plan for getting the County's Fire District Board members together this summer. He would like to plan a summer BBQ and invite a State Legislator or two to join us. After a few years of obstacles, his plan is to pick a date, plan it, and whoever can make it can, instead of trying to poll everyone for a date that is mutually agreeable. It would be a fantastic opportunity to showcase the progress on the South Station and chat with the Legislators about issues we are facing, especially with STRs. Garth then asked what is being done to get the Towns and County on board with the WUI amendments. This was just discussed at a recent meeting with representatives from the Granby, Fraser / WP, and County building departments. The WUI Code is meant to be a standalone code but its addition to the Residential Building Code (RBC) has also been proposed. The WUI code is already in place with the issue being a lack of resources to actually enforce it. If kept as a standalone code, it would be our job to enforce, and we would have to become a part of the building department's plan review process. We would not be qualified to field inspect most of the requirements though such as siding, roofing, and decking. If added to the RBC, the Towns and County would be in charge of enforcing code items during plan review and inspections. Both of these options present time and staffing concerns for each department. Everyone is working on a mutually agreeable system with the end goal of getting a plan in place before Colorado mandates enforcement of a Statewide WUI Code. This would take power away from local government and the parameters could be much harder to adapt to than what we produce amongst ourselves.

The Board reviewed the January 24th, 2024 minutes.

- ❖ Director Richard Kramer moved to approve the minutes as written. Director Ryan Barwick seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Discussion of Financials: Kristen noted that we have had our first installment of tax revenues deposited which were much less than anticipated as extrapolated from last year's figures, this possibly due to lack of prepayments as everyone waited to see how SB23B-001 was going to affect their bills. Kristen pointed out the low fund balance in our Wells Fargo General fund, this being our current strategy to keep as much of our money earning for us while we progress through paying for the South Station. Kristen created a spreadsheet to track our finances in relation to the South Station. This included all fund balances, anticipated revenues, and projected project costs alongside operation costs. It was initially created to get an eye on the true necessity of obtaining a lease purchase. It does not appear that we need to take this route yet, but the necessity, or lack of, will become more evident as the months track. Director Barwick requested that Kristen add a line item to track each of our fund balances monthly so that a quick glance is enough to show us our financial position. She will revise.

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

Chief's Report: Most of the steel is set for the lower section of the South Station with steel placement in full progress. We responded to our first call there the other day after the steel crew snapped the gas riser. The legislature is still looking at solutions to the STR crisis, maybe reclassifying them as non-residential. Todd attended the 2024 Colorado Critical Issues Briefing. Garth asked about the old Beaver's Lodge. The plan is to replace the building with a recreation center meant for the subdivision's private residents. Fraser is proceeding with their Downtown Development (TIF) vote. The Red Dirt Hill project is underway and will hopefully start on the west side in 2025, and east side in 2027. CDOT was not open to input from us. The Headwaters Rescue Authority is discussing additional assets for our County such as a side-scan sonar and boat(s) alongside research for funding and grant options. We finished 2023 with 493 calls.

Fire Prevention Bureau Report: Sprinkler and alarm plans are slow this month, but development reviews are still strong. Ryan continues to work on the STR Inspection Program and anticipates meeting with the STR committees. Dennis reiterated that he would continue to work with the building departments on the assimilation of the WUI Code with the RBC.

Training Coordinator Report: Jed gave the report for Steve. There was a brief discussion over how we will work through putting on the S-212 class for Sawyers. Jed will look into if there are any legal issues with a District Board Member and Firefighter's participation in the class. EMT training is going well with the addition of outside trainers coming in to teach. One-on-Ones are also going well this year and as always, garnering lots of helpful feedback. Garth requested discussion over whether or not the Board should take the current Sexual Harassment training available (although not mandated) for the Board. The Board agrees that it would be beneficial that they be required to take the one-hour class in order to be on the same page as the Staff and Volunteers. Todd will get them registered and suggested they take the supervisor course version which has more legal-focused education in it.

There were no public comments.

Board Business: Todd presented Big Valley's project schedule which includes a projected timeline for all facets of the project from building structure to the finishes. Ryan explained the current STR Inspection program status to the Board. He has recently met with the TOF and the TOWP. The TOF and County are on board and ready to proceed after we work through the logistics of shared language and program structure. The TOWP is on board as well but will be bringing it in front of the Council and then to their Board meeting. Due to the sheer number of STRs and the program they already have in place, their timeline for full implementation with us is looking closer to a year. Ryan then presented the rough job descriptions and highlighted that Staff concluded the best route to support our staffing our needs will be to advertise for positions that will firstly take care of filling the coverage gaps we struggle with and then secondly address administration needs as they become more evident. They are slated to be 4-day shifts comprised of 53 hours and will hopefully consist of a Lieutenant / Fire Inspector, Engineer / Prevention Technician, Wildland Coordinator, and EMS Coordinator. Director Barwick asked if we had budgeted for the contents of the South Station. Todd noted that we had not yet budgeted for the contents of the South Station but intend to as our needs come into focus. He also made note of the contents we already have in storage.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 19:50 p.m.

Garth Hein

Donald Maurais

Rachel Hoyhtya

Rick Kramer

Ryan Barwick