

FRONT RANGE FIRE RESCUE  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING ZOOM MEETING  
Tuesday, November 10, 2020 6:30PM,  
(Following the Pension Board Meeting)

Due to COVID-19, the Board meeting will be held virtually; instructions to join the meeting can be received by emailing info@frfr.co Individuals who wish to make comments regarding items scheduled on the agenda or wish to address the FRFR Board during public comment on items not specifically scheduled on the agenda will use the Q&A option in the Virtual Meeting and a moderator will deliver the comments to the Board, or individuals may send public comment to info@frfr.co prior to the meeting.

Director Rutt called the FRFR BoD Meeting to order at 18:32. Roll call: Darrin Rutt, Reid Hobler, Jim Young, Greg Freehling, and Blair Howe. Also, in attendance are Chief West, Chief Drage, LSI Kurt Nakata, Christine Champlin, and Vanessa Thorpe.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Said prior at FRFR Pension Meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None.

CONSENT AGENDA: Freeling moves to approve the Consent Agenda. Hobler seconds. Roll call: All "aye." Motion passes.

STAFF REPORTS:

Administration/Financial:

Financial Summary:

- YTD Financials
- Property Tax Revenue 2019 vs 2020

The above items are attached in the Google Folder. The property tax chart, compares what was received in 2019, to what we have received in 2020. We are sitting at 96.9% of our total property tax revenue budget through November

Hobler asked if we will come in where we are supposed to be at 100%. West states we will come in very close. Expenditures will be just a bit under.

Wildland Deployment: This is the first year of participating in the State of Colorado Wildland Deployment and Reimbursement program. We have had members participate in Cameron Peak, East Troublesome, Left Hand Canyon, Pine Gulch, and Williams Fork. We have submitted our requests for \$50,078.03 reimbursement. We have received \$6,996.95 from the State of Colorado. We need to collect some final paperwork and will have one final bill to submit.

Chief West personally thanks Christine for working through the Wildland Deployment. It has been a new and difficult thing to learn and West states she has done a great job.

Open Enrollment for Benefits: We have compiled a 2021 Open Enrollment Book for our full-time members to find all of the information they need to select their 2021 benefits. Members have until November 20th to make their selections and/or changes.

Life Safety: Drage states we continue to operate in Phase 2 of our re-opening plan, with reduced public interactions. Engine company preplans are continuing to progress slowly but with good effect. Inspector Nakata has keeping up with the inspection demands, supporting the engine company pre-plan program, and has started picking up some plan reviews as well. Lieutenant Covillo has been picking up the responsibility for managing the apparatus, facilities, and communications programs.

Logistics: Lieutenant Covillo is continuing to build a strong base for his assigned program areas. He has met with program managers for Apparatus, Facilities, and Communications, and is becoming more actively involved in each of these program areas. We're already seeing benefits from his involvement, with improved follow through on apparatus maintenance needs as well as in wrapping up the Fire Station 2 remodel. He has also begun a recurring process of facility and apparatus decontamination, using the AeroClave we purchased with grant funding. He will be getting more involved in communications (radios and phones) and in quartermaster as we continue to expand his sphere of involvement. His experience and expertise are presenting opportunities to improve efficiencies in these program areas. He is also working towards certification as a wildland firefighter through completion of L-180, S130 and S-190 courses.

Fire Inspections: Inspector Nakata has been monitoring The Compliance Engine (TCE), which is the on-line reporting and tracking tool that we use to monitor compliance with fire protection system inspection, testing and maintenance. He reports that systems are past due for service has increased from 6% to 36%. This is actually a good thing for us, because it tells us that the system is working by identifying systems that need to be serviced. When service is due, TCE sends a written notice to the building owner for any system needing service, and continues to monitor and notify us when we need to step in to enforce service requirements. With their help, we are avoiding having these systems go for years without receiving the required service. Also attached is an updated summary of our October public outreach sessions provided. We continue to see low numbers in this area due to restrictions from COVID-19.

Rutt asked about inspections during COVID-19. Drage states Nakata is presenting with as minimal exposure as he can, but is still holding the current course.

Young asks how often we check our members for COVID-19. West states members are checking daily and self report. We do not do just random testing. Most clinics will not test unless there are symptoms. Members go through the chain of command to report. West states procedures changed a little while back - FRFR pays full salary for the first 30 days of Worker's Comp - in that period of time, Workers Comp reimburses at 66%, and then Worker's Comp pays the employee. Hobler asks if they are doing the CARES Act. West states that is an avenue we could get some reimbursement from, but trying to work it through Workers Comp allows it to where it can be worked through FPPA, etc. We treat the firefighter as though they caught COVID-19 while on the job and an exposure report is done. The BoDs do not want anyone having to worry about the staff making ends meet.

Rutt asks if we pay for the tests. West states we run it through Workers Comp. If individuals start showing signs and symptoms, they go get tested and then the testing is reimbursed to the employee/member.

Informational Updates On Staffing: On October 27th, Inspector Nakata successfully obtained Certified Fire and Explosion Investigator (CFEI) certification through the National Association of Fire Investigators. Obtaining the NAFI-CFEI certification is a very challenging two-part process consisting of thorough credentials review followed by a comprehensive written examination. The exam tests knowledge of both NFPA 1033: Standard for Professional Qualifications for Fire Investigators, as well as NFPA 921: Guide for Fire and Explosion Investigations. Congratulations!!!! Also, on October 27th, Chief Drage successfully obtained Certified Fire Investigator (CFI) status through the International Association of Arson Investigators. This is the highest level of investigator certification available. To qualify to take the exam for the IAAI-CFI certification the applicant must meet minimum levels of education, training and experience, including at least two (2) times qualifying as an expert witness in court. The exam tests knowledge of both NFPA 1033: Standard for Professional Qualifications for Fire Investigators, as well as NFPA 921: Guide for Fire and Explosion Investigations The certification is accredited by the National Board of Fire Service Professional Qualifications (ProBoard) and the Forensic Specialties Accreditation Board (FSAB).

Chief Drage attached charts and graphs pertaining to call volumes, aid, and inspections in the Google Folder

Fire Chief: At October's meeting, we discussed the wildland fire activity that was ongoing at that time. Our responses continued well into the end of the month when a significant snow event helped darken down most of the fires in Colorado. West cannot express enough how proud he is of FRFR's response to this year's fires. We are blessed to have so many members who were willing to step up and be deployed, or step up and provide backfill to our in-district companies. 2020 marked the first year in many that we offered up apparatus and firefighters for deployment and in the past that response was more of a mutual aid, short termed basis. Our wildland program is off and running and we are being seen as a regional asset.

Our three recruit firefighters are doing well at the FRFC Fire Academy. They just completed Week 11. It appears that any formal graduation will likely be done remotely. This is difficult, as our traditions of swearing and all of us being present for such occasions are being challenged by COVID-19. That said, we will do our best to celebrate our new members and we look forward to a time when we will all be able to shake hands and congratulate them in person. This month began open enrollment for our members as they select their benefits for 2020. A huge thanks to Christine and Cindy for their work on this program. Each member has received well written benefits package documentation sent to their home, the availability of meetings with reps to explain their options, and an easy to use online portal.

Kronholm states our new firefighters are in the 12<sup>th</sup> week of their 16<sup>th</sup> week of Fire Academy. They can see light at end the of the tunnel. Again, they are not sure what a graduation might look like. They are working on a few contingency plans and will see what county and state restrictions are. The new firefighters should be online by the week of December 14<sup>th</sup> and get their assignments. Kronholm states we have been able to provide apparatus to the academy. Young states it would be nice to meet them at a BoD Meeting when it is safe. Kronholm states there may be a remote introduction will continue to work on a plan to get the new firefighters in front of the BoDs.

West states similar to the Wildland reimbursement, we receive some financial gains though our affiliation with the Fire Consortium. West states we send resources such as an operator and engine and the Fire Consortium keeps count of this and they reimburse us for these things. We get a stipend and our people get training and teaching opportunities.

#### Highlights:

- West met with Chief Miller of LFRA to discuss an inclusion into FRFR's district in the area of 402 and I-25. We are awaiting the official requests and should have these soon.
- In October, West began regularly scheduled meetings with the on-duty BCs. These occur twice a month and have helped increase dialogue on current topics.
- Chief Drage and West had a meeting with WCSO and West held a meeting with the CSP Captain responsible for the area. These meetings were to assure that we are all working from the same expectations regarding some of the new state

legislation regarding mental health related incidents. Additionally, we are working with UC Health to assure that the protocols match the new laws and that our law enforcement partners are operating from the same understanding. More will be coming out regarding this and the topic has opened the door for better cooperation.

- West held a number of meetings with area fire chiefs. With financial struggles these meetings continue to be vital in building cooperation.
- FRFR members are participating in “Movember.” The annual no shave November event brings attention to men’s health issues such as cancer and suicide. Engineer Neil Ferrell is heading the efforts here and West appreciates the efforts (although my lip is getting itchy!).
- West participated as a bagpiper at the LODD funeral for a Commerce City Police Officer who died in a car accident on duty. West also participated in the services for retired Denver FBI Director Jim Davis. These services were very high profile and were attended by a number of state and national leaders. Last weekend, West played at the Veteran’s Day celebration in Fort Lupton. As always, West appreciates the support of the board and can tell you that these small amounts of time are significant in showing FRFR as a regional participant.
- We have had one-member test positive recently for COVID-19. They are doing well and should return to work in the next week or so. While we have been extremely lucky with the limited number of cases we have experienced, it serves as a reminder that this pandemic is still here. On a personal note, West has had a number of close friends in the fire service get the virus and West can attest to how difficult it can be to recover even when you are in excellent health. While we have not completely returned to the lockdown at FRFR, we have increased the frequency of disinfecting the stations and rigs and are now utilizing the fogging machine every other week. Thank you to President Rutt for deciding to hold tonight’s meeting remotely and increasing safety for all of us.

OLD BUSINESS: None.

NEW BUSINESS:

Selling Ambulances: Recently we were approached by UC Health about the possibility of them purchasing our current ambulances. County, five agencies are serviced by UCHealth, and the majority utilize ambulances owned by UC Health.

The units were purchased by FRFR originally in the interest of assuring we had units should we lose UC Health or another private service. If that were to happen, we would have ambulances and could possibly conduct a Paramedic hiring process and do fire-based transport services. As time has gone on, we feel confident in our relationship with UC Health, and the concept of us purchasing rigs in the future, their maintenance, fuel, and associated expenses may not make sense. In Weld County, three of the five fire departments serviced by UC Health utilize their ambulances. We have analyzed the current ambulances and feel that the three would be valued at just over \$150,000 in total. There are some issues that we would have to work out with the state, as some equipment was purchased with grant funds. Additionally, we would renegotiate the contract to assure that the ambulances would primarily be used in our district.

Financial Or Economic Impacts: Long term savings of maintenance and fuel of the apparatus. Reduction in revenue due to transport reimbursement. Possible renegotiation of rental fees for UC Health, maintaining crew quarters in FRFR Stations.

Staff is recommending that we investigate the sale of these units to UC Health. We would bring the proposal and details to the board at a future meeting for a final decision.

West states there has been a change of leadership at UCHealth. Our contract runs from 2018 until 2023. West has had several meetings and discussions. At the beginning of this situation regarding the contract, there was a lot of turmoil. It was the right decision at the time. West says as things have evolved based on the fact that our relationship is solid and where we currently are, it would be wise to not buy ambulances at this time. West recommends providing service like we do now but not purchase ambulances.

We receive less transport revenue. This has changed because of the model UCHealth is using. UC Health is interested in buying our ambulances.

West states we likely would not receive back the total \$150,000 back because at least one of them was purchased with state funds and it being a grant.

Howe suggests we hold off. Howe states a lot of things are changing with ambulance service. Hobler state as always it comes down to dollars and cents. Hobler asks if we are going to be able to give our communities the service they need. Hobler states that if UCHealth can guarantee they are going to be in our district, then it makes financial sense to sell them. Rutt states we need to make sure the contract specifies that the ambulances will be in our district in some similar capacity that they are now.

Young wants to be careful. He does not want to go backwards with this as we serve the community with great service now.

West confirms that if he is hearing what the BoDs are saying correctly – that everything will be well-stated in the contract including coverage, response times, the availability of ambulances, and continued optimum service, etc.

Rutt asks how others are using their ambulances. West states most other fire districts have separate ambulances for transfers and others are in place for response. West wants to make sure our ambulance staffing is kept up-to-date.

Howe expresses his opinions and feels that we need to chew on this a bit more. Rutt states the motion explains to negotiate and research this a little bit more.

West states it is a change of philosophy and the BoDs should have his assurance that he would bring back the contract with pros and cons before going forward with anything.

Howe has concerns and would like to get rid of some of the unknowns with the ownership of our ambulances. Hobler states we need more information and need more education. Hobler states we can move forward once we have more information and see what it would look like once we have more pieces.

Rutt asks West to look into it a little bit more and come back to the BoDs in December. West will try to get a meeting scheduled with UCHealth and come back with information at the December BoD Meeting.

City of Evans: We have received a petition to exclude property from FRFR's District from the City of Evans. The property is a parcel of open space near the Arrowhead reservoir.

The property in question is currently owned by the City of Evans. It brings in no tax revenue and is exempt from making bond payments to the former Milliken Bond. From a response perspective, EFPD is quickest into the property.

Financial Or Economic Impacts: Long term savings of maintenance and fuel of the apparatus. Reduction in revenue due to transport reimbursement. Possible renegotiation of rental fees for UC Health, maintaining crew quarters in FRFR Stations.

The petition is attached along with an overhead map of the parcel in the Google Folder.

A public hearing would be held at the next Board meeting.

Hobler moves to follow the appropriate guidelines for the exclusion of the Evans Property. Freehling seconds. Roll call: All "aye." Motion passes.

West states that we will have one that will occur with Berthoud, LFRA, and Platteville/Gilcrest in the future.

CORRESPONDENCE: Attached in the Google Folder is a response from David Burns, Weld County Government. West states Chief Drage addressed Howe's request for the tornado siren and did some research. Drage was about to speak about the possibility of this and estimated costs. County would not be able to assist financially and the fire district would be responsible. It was stated that most Towns are going away from the tornado sirens because of technology including OEM and reverse 911 that are approved by FEMA. These emergency notices are sent via cell phone much like an Amber Alert. Their suggestion was not doing anything with a tornado siren.

BOARD REPORTS: Young spoke with the people in Estes Park about the Model B and the Ford Fire Truck. Young states the guy in Estes Park is about three years out from even being able to touch our historic trucks. The restoration man said he could probably get the Ford running again. They did not speak about costs. Young states Rick Babb, a man in Johnstown could work on them. He used to have a restoration business prior to his job in Johnstown. Young asks where the BoDs would like to go with this. Rutt would like to see them fixed up but finances are an issue.

West states he has some ideas that could come from a public education perspective. West suggests setting up a charitable donation set up through volunteers. West states he would hate to see the history of the organization go away. West states that perhaps we could have an entryway and viewability of these apparatus in the new future Station 4... eventually.

Freehling says to get some dollar figures and/or apply for a historical grant. Rutt asks Young to get with Rick Babb and get some figures on how much it would cost for restoration.

Rutt thanks everyone for everything and all of the hard work.

ADJOURNMENT: Rutt moves to adjourn at 19:45. Hobler seconds. Roll call: All "aye." Meeting adjourned at 19:45.