



LEFTHAND FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Lefthand Board of Directors

Date: March 10, 2009

Location: LH Station IV, 7300 Lefthand Canyon Drive

Time: 6:10 PM

Call to order: Board President Noel Lindenmuth called the meeting to order at 6:10 PM. Directors present: Brian Walko, Jack Kutscher, Hildy Armour and Deb Stirling. Others present: John Benson (Chief Boulder Mountain Fire Authority), Fred Huff, Seth Patterson, and Susie Patterson.

Mutual Aid discussion with John Benson

John and the Board of Boulder Mountain Fire (BMFA) would like to establish a Mutual Aid agreement with Lefthand Fire. As a neighboring district, we can be a benefit to one another. Draft agreement prepared by Fred Huff was given to all Board members for review and comment. John suggested the two departments train together as well.

BMFA Mitigation Program

The Lefthand Board of Directors was interested to learn more about BMFA Mitigation program. Here are the highlights:

- Mitigation program is 100% funded by: Small allocation of the BMFA Operations budget, plus grants, plus homeowner contributions for onsite mitigation work.
- Two full time employees (Mitigation Coordinator & Supervisor) plus 6 part time crew members.
- Program is 8 years old and 100% booked.
- Successful with grants for egress and ingress.
- Members of mitigation crew are not BMFA volunteers and are wildland certified 130, 190 with either EMT or First Responder certification.
- Mitigation crew will respond during the day to fire/medical calls. If call, clock off from Mitigation Crew work and clock on to fire/medical work.
- Crew monitors hours with Crew Time Reports (CTR). Timesheets are also used to track hours spent on individual projects.
- Mitigation crew personnel respond via crew vehicles. BMFA volunteers bring emergency vehicles.
- Wages: Mitigation Lead \$15.50 hr, part timer's \$12-14 hr.
- John indicated there is enough work in the queue to hire 12 part timers; mostly private property projects.

John indicated the Mitigation Program was difficult to establish and offered any assistance so Lefthand does not make the same mistakes. Some challenges BMFA faced:

- Initially there was reluctance by the BMFA Board to hire fire/medical experienced individuals for their Mitigation Crew.
- Ensure applicants come in with basic wild fire education (130, 190) plus medical (EMT or 1st Responder). If they don't have it, have them work a couple of months before the fire department puts them thru a class. Need to get some pay back before the department invests in these individuals.
- Managing the dynamic of a paid Mitigation Crew responding to calls within the district during work hours. How you to manage the expectation with the volunteer fire fighters? John offered some advice: The Mitigation Crew is there to assist and bolster the response of the volunteers who can not get away during the day due to family and work demands. The volunteers recognize the benefits and now the program is generally accepted. It's all about customer service and quick response.

As a next step, the Board will meet for a working session to discuss and decide how to build a Mitigation team. Day and time to be determined.



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Old Business

Minutes

At the 2/10/09 meeting when discussing the responsibility of the Mitigation Crew, it should be noted that extensive discussion took place as to whether or not the Mitigation Crew should provide initial call response for wildland and medical calls within the district. No decision had been made and further discussions are needed.

Director Amour moved to approve the minutes from the 2/10/09 regular meeting of the Lefthand Board of Directors. Director Kutscher 2nd the motion, which passed unanimously.

Secretary's Report – Thank you letter was sent to the fire fighters at Boulder Rural for their generous contribution to the 'chipper fund'.

Director Stirling moved to approve the Secretary's report. Director Walko 2nd the motion.

Treasurer's Report

Director Walko passed out to those in attendance Profit & Loss Budget vs. Actual year to date through February 2009. Director Walko indicated payment is due for the new Air Packs and tax money from Boulder County has not been received. Director Walko suggested taking the funds out of the Reserve Account and repaying the account once county tax funds are received.

Also presented was a summary of all donations received to date for the 'Chipper' and 'Fire Fighter Gear' fund. To date, LHFPD has received \$14,010.00 and \$3,131.00 respectively.

Director Stirling moved to approve the Treasurer's Report. Director Kutscher 2nd the motion, which passed unanimously.

New Business

Chief's Monthly Report

Monthly Chief's report was sent via email to all Board Members prior to the meeting. In summary:

Agency Cooperation:

- Lefthand will be participating in a multi-casualty scenario on Saturday March 28.
- Recruiting is going well and we currently have 32 fire fighters on the roster.

Mutual Aid Agreements:

Draft copy of an Intergovernmental Agreement for Mutual Aid was handed out to all in attendance for review and comment. Fred Huff encouraged all Board members to compare this agreement with the 'auto-aid' agreement presented by John Benson and note the differences. Lefthand is looking for more of a mutual-aid agreement with the departments directly around us; exception being Rocky Mountain Fire. President Lindenmuth requested Chief Patterson to send the Board a list of departments and municipalities he would like to establish agreements with.

Chief Patterson is currently looking to George Greenwood to rewrite the Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) for LHFPD. Estimate will be presented to the Board once received.

Mitigation Update:

- Continue to work with representatives from Mountain Ridge in an effort to jump start that project.



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- Chief Patterson is meeting with Board members from Lake of the Pines tonight (3/10).
- Autumn Hill is also interested in participating in a Mitigation Program.

ISO (Insurance Standards Organization) Testing:

LHFPD has been notified of a May 9th test date for ISO Certification. Much preparation is needed prior to this date. District records of previous certification along with type and capacity of all equipment must be gathered and organized. With the absence of Big Leroy, our rating might be lower than expected and recertification will be necessary once Leroy comes back online.

Fire Marshall Report

Chief Patterson and Fred Huff met with Jeff Weff (County Building Department). Lefthand is requesting that the county building department provide LHFPD with information on people who are submitting for building permits and tell them to contact the Fire Marshall regarding fire codes. Fred Huff felt that the meeting was a good one and progress is moving forward....slowly. It was determined that the county has the capability to notify us via email when a building permit has been issued for a resident in our district. Chief Patterson advised the Board that LHFPD may end up with some non-complying residences due to county bureaucracy.

Chief Patterson is registered for fire/sprinkler certification classes. Dates: May 19-21, 2009 in Colorado Springs.

Jeff Webb from Boulder Rural has been assisting with inspections during this interim period. Three inspections have been completed with a few more in the queue.

Director Stirling moved to approve the Chief's Monthly Report and the Fire Marshall Report. Director Walko 2nd the motion, which passed unanimously.

John Kelly homeowner at 8426 Foothills Hwy (9/15 structure fire). Per Chief Patterson, John wants to comply with LHFPD fire codes, but does not have the funding through his insurance (American Family) and can not afford to install sprinklers in his structure.

Director Armour moved to grant John Kelly a waiver from the inclusion of a sprinkler system during the reconstruction of his property in lieu of which he is to provide proper mitigation (defensible space conforming to Boulder county codes) and put in a 2500 cistern with a fire department connection. Director Stirling 2nd the motion, which passed unanimously.

Other New Business

Health Club Membership Update - Director Stirling is waiting for survey results from the Chief. Once we have some numbers, Director Stirling will contact health clubs for final pricing.

Administrative Assistant - Chief Patterson, President Lindenmuth and Directors Kutscher and Stirling will interview the final three candidates tomorrow (3/11). Hire decision will be made shortly thereafter.

Mitigation Coordinator Position - Job descriptions were sent to all Board members prior to the meeting.

Adjournment

Director Armour moved to adjourn the meeting. Director Stirling 2nd the motion, which passed unanimously. Meeting was adjourned at 8:05 PM.

Respectfully submitted, Susie Patterson, Secretary, LHFPD