



MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE EVERGREEN FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT APRIL 12, 2016

The regular meeting of the Board of Directors of the Evergreen Fire Protection District was held on April 12, 2016 at the Administration/Training Building, 1802 Bergen Parkway, Evergreen, Colorado.

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER Director Kling called the meeting to order at 5:32 pm.

TIME OF REMEMBRANCE AND REFLECTION: The pledge of allegiance was recited and a moment of silence was observed.

ATTENDANCE

DIRECTORS IN ATTENDANCE: George Kling, David Christensen, Mike Gregory, John Anderson and Jeff deDisse

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: Connell O'Brien, Doug Saba, John Benton, Jon Peligren, Brian LeFave, Jeff Ashford, Krissy Lewis, Mark Heilmann, Danae Early, Sharon Trilk, Scott Kellar, Glenda Serin, Lloyd See, Nate Walowitz, Marlin Ekiss, Christy McCormick, Dale Baxter, Bob and Ruth Detlefsen, Paul and Linda Peil, Yvette Putt, Robert Bender, Michael Grenko, Frank Dearborn, Kevin Gilbert, Jeff Genender, Marc Rosenberg, Kevin Evens, Josie Kelmaier, Betsy Hays, Donald Palmer, Melody McKeever Robie, Chris Almubaugh, Mason Duncan, Judy Hinton, Robert Gottsman, Ryan Rogers, Kate Higgins, Shane Palmer, David Godaire, Candy Decker, Tandy Jones, Bob Walter, Susan Stearns, Deb Evens, Wayne Hazeldine, Carrol See, Daniel Meller, Wayne Sheppard, Cheryl Denbow, Diana Aldridge, Dan Guajardo, Jenny Jesmer, Vanessa Johns, John Putt, Jen Sliemers, Ann Voshall, Rene Kilmer, Gerda Ceremed, Dave Scruby, James Mosby, Greg Grotke, Bill Easterling, Mark Davidson, Judith Weshinsky-Price, Sheriff Schrader, Mike Weege, and Carol Hucker.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Accepted as presented.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Connell O'Brien – This decision has been a struggle for the chief and the board and he is looking for consensus on consolidation and not losing the level of service that we have currently. He has met with Judith Weshinsky-Price the executive director for Jeffcom regarding the mountain districts having a voice over how their dispatch service is provided to best meet the needs of a volunteer fire system. The Jeffcom governance board has agreed to the formation of a subcommittee for the purpose of collaborating on the mountain area fire operations, developing the SOGs and the training guide. A memorandum of agreement was written and a letter of support. One thing we do agree on is that regardless of the decision the board makes tonight he trusts that they will make the best decision for the fire department and that the volunteer organization will get behind the decision 100%.

Joy Glennon – Dispatcher in the 70's- 80's, served as secretary to the district and served on the board. The plan being presented is lacking in information and details. Financial aspects will sky rocket and there are no guarantees to the level of service. The biggest drain on the budget is EMS. The growth of the community and tourist traffic has created a lack of revenue to support the services we need to provide. Your job is to manage the money and support the volunteers and she doesn't feel like the board is doing that. Educate the community with town meetings about the lack of revenue needed to support the services we expect. The volunteers deserve your dedication to do their job.

Jon Slaughter Pelegrin – President of the Board of the North Fork Fire Department. North Fork covers geographically 25% of Jefferson County, the south end of the county. Evergreen has been their lifeline for the last couple of years since taking over their 911 dispatching. We cover 239 square miles with 177 in JeffCo. Services have been everything they hoped for and Evergreen has taken the lead for the mountain area communities. Chief Weege and Connell O'Brien have taken the lead in making sure there is an institutionalized roll in the new Jeffcom, with the volunteer department idiosyncrasies being addressed. The volunteer departments have a totally different protocol than the city departments. Alarms have to go off in other ways to manage the gathering of personnel and equipment. At first it sounded like Jeffcom was too big to handle North Forks one career chief and 26 volunteers. We no longer feel this way. With the addition of the mountain area pod of dispatchers we feel that our needs will be addressed.

We understand our differences and we appreciate what you have done for us and the inclusion in this process. We believe there is sufficient effort in representing our needs and in working with Jeffcom if that is what the board decides. If you decided something else we sure hope to work with you again.

Krissy Lewis – An 8 year resident of Clear Creek County in EFPD and concerned over service level if consolidation happens and unclear how her county will be served in the fringes of the district. *Jeff Ashford and Director deDisse responded that the service provided to Clear Creek residents in the district will continue to be routed the same way they are now. The Fire Chief, several board members, and many firefighters live in Clear Creek County as well.*

Rene Kilmer – Resident at Rocky Mountain Village and is concerned over the speed of a response if the dispatch is located out of Evergreen and that dispatch time would be longer. *Director deDisse explained that at present 911 calls go to the Jefferson County Sheriff's office, the call taker takes the information and determines the call is for Evergreen. Then they transfer the call to Evergreen where another call taker verifies the information and provides it to the radio operator to begin dispatching the call. With Jeffcom the dispatch time should be faster since the secondary PSAP will be eliminated. The process will be more fluid.*

Nate Walowitz – Volunteer firefighter. The effort behind the MOA is because of the dedication to this community and their oath to protect it. It's important to keep in mind that we are all one team, one community, and with compromise and building consensus we can find a path forward that is agreeable as it can be for everyone. He requests that the board and Chief approach the JCECA for concurrence that they will support the mountain pod and the extra cost of this for the value to the communities that will be delivered. And the importance of having fire operations involved in the subcommittee to assure the community and the firefighters need to be safe.

Bob Detlefsen – resident of Rocky Mountain Village since 2007. Thank you for all you do, his parents lived there as well and we saved his uncles life last September by EFR. His is concerned that if dispatch isn't in Evergreen then the dispatchers won't know where locations are. He wondered if using volunteers for dispatching would be an option as a way to keep the service in Evergreen.

Yvette Putt – Fortunate to have an amazing volunteer fire department and our mill levy on our real estate has provided this for years. She doesn't feel that the community has had a voice or enough details in this decision. The decision should be put off until the community has a better understanding and a chance for input.

Paul Peil – This issue is surprising since he felt we were cohesive with the board and the volunteers, and now feels this is not true. There are horror stories about delayed response or inability to find the person with a dispatch outside of the community. Confused by the proposal and would like more time to hear the information we know before a decision is made.

Michael Grenko – Bear Mountain Vista for 6 years, amazed what Fire, Police, and EMS can do but never saw so much confusion about a response until a fire in his neighborhood. GPS doesn't know where his house is because its off about 300 yards. The fire department had trouble finding a fire in his neighborhood 5 years ago and he is worried about someone in Lakewood trying to give EFR directions to an area they are unfamiliar with. Delays of a few minutes can be unacceptable. His worry is about the precision of the system. It might be a good idea to take the time to give the community more information and a chance for input. Concerned that technology can't determine what roads are passable in winter and what is a 4-wheel drive road. *Director Kling commented that he is making notes for things he will talk about after public comment is completed but quickly noted that the technology platform used down the hill is the same as what we use in Evergreen and most of the dispatchers live down the hill now. They do drive training in the district for familiarization. He also noted regarding the requests to delay the vote that there are 8 agencies involved in this process representing 16 agencies total. Jeffcom starts on May 4th whether we participate or not. If we don't participate in Jeffcom our calls will still go to them and then be transferred to us just like they are now with the Sheriff's office. That is the process and the reality. Director Christensen noted that we have another year to put the process in place with the same dispatchers we have currently doing the same job for us but from a different location using the same equipment we use now. Mr. Grenko asked if these dispatchers would also be taking other calls for service. Chief Weege explained that the dispatcher will be supported by additional call takers at Jeffcom. There will be call takers, law enforcement dispatchers, fire and ems dispatchers, and mountain pod that will dispatch for the mountain area fire departments. Mr. Grenko asked what if the mountain pod is tied up doing something else. Director Kling responded that because there will be more dispatchers and call takers available and resources available to call in for big incidents there will be better support than with*

just one call taker and one dispatcher like we have now. Director deDisse commented that his concern has been what would happen with our current dispatching for 6 agencies and what would happen with multiple incidents at the same time. Mr. Grenko reiterated his concern over dispatchers being able to know the district well enough to help EFR find the location.

Someone in the audience asked for clarification of the 911 calls currently going to Golden an additional 2 minutes delay. *Director Kling explained that right now we can have up to a 2 minute delay in calls being transferred to us as they are answered in Golden at the Sheriff's office and an assessment is done for what 911 service is being requested and where the call for service is located then the call is transferred to EFR where it gets assessed again for fire or ems and which fire department needs to be dispatched. At Jeffcom the call will come into one facility, the call taker will begin entering the notes into the CAD system once, the dispatcher will pick up the information and begin toning the call. It eliminates one step in the current process. Director Christensen noted this would eliminate a duplicative loop of typing the data.*

Frank Dearborn – As Fire Marshal he supports the move. He works with the dispatchers every day and will participate in developing new procedures for gate codes, knock keys, slash burns and commercial fire alarms to make sure the services we provide will remain the same.

Mark Davidson – On the department for 29 years and has served as operations chief. While his bottom line is that he is not in favor of the move he wants to defend the district board in the system. A lot of those in the room don't have a ton of information and haven't been well educated on the topic but he trusts that the 5 people and the chief do have all the facts and have done all of the research to know what is going on. Not everyone is going to be completely educated on everything that comes along and that is why we elect these five. You guys have done a lot of homework and research and have put a lot of thought into this and whichever way you go it will be a well informed decision and we need to keep that in mind. A couple of concerns going back 40-50 years dispatch has been an integral part of the cohesive operation team and he is fearful that we will lose that. From last month's meeting the Deputy Chief of Foothills Fire commented on JeffCo missing some essential radio traffic as they weren't listening to what they termed excessive traffic. It is important to understand that the volunteer system operates differently and requires more radio traffic as they have to coordinate apparatus and personnel coming from multiple locations. Where West Metro fire might be sending out units from one station on a call, EFR or Elk Creek might be sending 8 units from different locations and responders are coming from work or home so there is more coordination needed. They can't cut back the radio traffic. They need it to coordinate tankers, water supply, who is doing what. In his years on this department he never worried about asking dispatch too many questions or for assistance because they were part of the system. He feels these concerns need to be kept in mind when working with Jeffcom.

Jeff Genender – Volunteer firefighter. We trust the board but we would also like to be a part of a decision that affects what we do and a tool that we use every day. As a former president of the volunteers and a 20 year resident he requests both as a tax payer and a volunteer that the board not sign the IGA at this time. He believes that this decision deserves input from the citizens and firefighters so this works for our community. Consolidation is ok as long as he is sure that is done with our input. We are attempting to consolidate too rapidly. Dispatch is the one tool that the volunteers and the citizens rely on day in and day out. We are legally bound to give Jeffcom our equipment and if we leave the center then we lose our equipment and investment. There is no burden of customer service on their end. There are no guarantees or recourse if this doesn't work out. Appreciates the work that Connell O'Brien and Judith Weshinsky-Price put in but it's a letter that states the concerns are reasonable and feasible. We have no guarantee. Put this into the contract and put in recourse that if the service isn't satisfactory we can end and then he will be for it. The volunteers have not been part of this decision and he has been told by various people that he had the opportunity to come to the district board meetings to offer his opinion but that is not how we do things. In the past we have had the chief form committees for review, analysis, and recommendation to help the board make the proper decision on apparatus and buildings. Why wasn't this done for this decision? He feels the volunteers have been disenfranchised. He would like the board to bring the community into the decision and to find out the service level guarantees. Please don't sign the IGA at this time, take the time to get the input of the citizens and volunteers.

Kevin Gilbert – He works in an area served by a consolidated center and feels he has received subpar dispatching. He has shared his thoughts and concerns with the chief and the board. If Jeffcom happens your call times will be decreased because we have a shared computer system and it will instantly populate our computers. He feels that not having the call takers and dispatchers in the same room is a

disadvantage as it decreases collaboration. We have a boutique dispatch center with the ability to make instant changes. Volunteer involvement in the writing of new SOGs will increase the burden to the firefighters if they have to sit on committees and be heavily involved leading to their being able to do less and burnout. Consolidation is riddled with red flags and threats of having our finding pulled by the JCECA, NCR, and UASI. He feels the statement that call answer fees will go up is untrue. He is disgusted by these threats to remove grant funding, increase surcharges. There is no plan B if this consolidation doesn't work. There is no reference to a mountain pod or a subcommittee in the IGA. Call for open communication between the board and the volunteers with everything in writing and penalties in place for failure to provide the level of expected service. There may be some benefits but we are being set up for failure. EVFD and the public should have been involved in the process 6 months ago to feel better about the IGA toady. If the board chooses to sign the IGA the board and chief will be held accountable by the firefighters, the officers and the public.

Marc Rosenberg – Assistant Chief of Indian Hills. Biggest concern is that dispatch was broken and when they moved to Evergreen it was seamless and fixed their issues. He would hate to see that go backward.

Jim Robie – 20 year resident. He appreciates the small community and familiarity. We work better when we have local control and input for problems. When we elevate from precinct to county to state to federal we lose control of immediate changes and upgrades. It might or might not be more cost efficient but we lose the service we are looking for. He has not heard any great advantages or defense against the disadvantages being stated. He would like to hear more about the advantages to be gained by giving up the local control.

Melody Robie – Three questions. What was the impetus for this change when it's been working well for a long time? Why was so little information provided to the community about this? Will one or all of the board give a synopsis/timeline of how this came about? If it's not broke don't fix it. What are the pros and cons. Director deDisse told her that questions were being written down and would be addressed at the end of public comment.

Judy Hinton – Moved here in 1989 and doesn't want the big city life, likes the local small community. Doesn't know about the technology of dispatch and the impact on resources but why change this from local to city dispatch? She has not seen an explanation or information. She is fearful of safety as it is part of foundational decision making. She doesn't feel she has the information necessary to get beyond that fear. She asks that the board not make a decision until the community has been informed about how this is going to affect them. If it is beneficial then they can get behind it but if not then why do it. Why make this decision tonight with as much objection as has been raised here.

Robert Gottsman – Thank you George Kling for your efforts and energy on behalf of the district on your last meeting for the board. Communication and not having a board election is a fiscally beneficial approach but eliminates the ability for candidates to come out and hear public opinion. *Director deDisse pointed out that the election was cancelled because there weren't enough candidate for office.* Mr. Gottsman said that the consolidation issue for the mountain agencies we are dispatching now works so why change it and how is this consolidation any different? Funds were spent on the mountain consolidation. *Director deDisse clarified that the funds for that consolidation were provided by JCECA not Evergreen. This is the organization that collects the 911 fees off of your phone bill and distributes it to the fire and law agencies in the county. In the last two years they have spent over \$900,000 on computers and CAD systems in this dispatch center alone. The equipment in our dispatch center was provided by the JCECA.* Mr. Gottsman also asked why the ladder truck could not be sold to raise funds and to share Genesee's truck instead.

James Mosby – (New Board Member effective May 10) Dr. Mosby has EMS expertise as an ER doctor from 1975 – 2008 at Lutheran and St. Anthony Hospitals and on the receiving end of our transports Evergreen has an outstanding ambulance service. He will make certain that aspect of EFR is maintained. The turnout for this meeting tells him that the information about why this IGA for consolidation is being considered has not been adequate for the community. If the reason is to save money, Evergreen is an affluent community and a mill levy to support dispatch and EMS should be discussed. He asks that the board table this decision until the community has gotten more information and to look at the options.

Greg Grotke – Volunteer firefighter. He appreciates the work of the chief and Judith for her engagement in the mountain areas needs. He is still learning about the way the district is funded and the struggles of its budget. We need to be looking at the best way we can manage our finances. A study a few years back recommended consolidation to five dispatch centers and was found to be unacceptable. Now we are looking at consolidating to one dispatch center. He would like to see it considered that there is room

here for an extended mountain pod to be located in the Evergreen center and still maintain the level of service that our current dispatch is able to provide. It is possible to quickly clarify addresses to avoid delays of arriving on scene. He feels there are opportunities to leverage the assets of the community and the county.

Jefferson County Sheriff Jeff Shrader – He is a member of the executive committee for Jeffcom formation and will be a member of the executive board once it is formed on May 4th. The concept of regional communications dispatch started about 4 years ago and over the last two years the conversation has been in earnest. Chief Weege has been very engaged in this topic with the interest of making sure the mountain communities are safe. That is where the conversation started and where it continues to be about safety. How do we make Jefferson County as a whole as safe as we possibly can with the resources that we have? The conversation of safety has been paramount in every discussion. Several years ago, 17 – 18 years he has involvement in a response to Columbine High School and his role that day was assistance in the dispatch center because they needed more help than they had available. When those big events happen like Platte Canyon High School, the lower North Fork Fire, Columbine High School, the other fires we have dealt with we know we need more resources in the dispatch setting. The single biggest advantage to Jeffcom and the reason he is committed to moving forward at the Sheriff's office with regionalization is having the right kind of resources when the big events happen. To make sure the firefighters and community members are safe. It's not an easy decision in his organization or for him; it's not an easy decision for any of the chiefs of police that are in the conversation or the other fire chiefs because we are all giving up something. And what we are really giving up is the relationship we have with the people that we work with. In his case for some people that have been there for 30+ years. That is a difficult and emotional thing to do. But there is also the business side and that is about the safety. There is likely some savings that generate from consolidation that will go back into other parts of public safety but it's about making the communities as safe as possible. It is something they are moving forward with at the county level and they county commissioners have not signed the IGA yet. But in the next two or three weeks it will be brought to them and to the city of Golden for approval. The city of Lakewood approved the IGA 11 – 0 last night and will sign the agreement next Monday night. While this board has a tough decision in front of them he feels there is good reason to consider moving forward at this time and he would strongly encourage them to consider approving the IGA.

Board Responses to Public Comment:

Director Kling – This consolidation moves forward with or without us in May. We have been asked to formalize a decision before May 4th. As we have come through this project, and Sheriff Shrader gave you the timeline for it, we all have had concerns that have been addressed tonight and little by little as we have worked through those much to Chief's credit the closer you are to the project the more in favor of it has turned out for most people including most of the board members as well as the staff. There have been many ideas proposed, some rejected and many taken so it's obvious that we have some influence but we don't have the ultimate control. Sheriff Shrader just mentioned the agencies that have voted for consolidation and they have been largely unanimous votes by elected officials. Mrs. Robie you asked why we are doing this, for one the JCECA is a funding mechanism for technology which is huge in the dispatch world. When he started out dispatch was a vacuum tube radio and two tones. As we have moved to the last 15-20 years technology has offered a ton of additional resources that our dispatch center manages for us. One of those is "I am responding" which JCECA bought for us. We have an AED program that JCECA bought for us to register all of our AEDs and people to use them for quicker responses. Those costs can be reduced by buying one instead of each agency purchasing and allowing us to capture better products at reduced cost. Our dispatch is a boutique and it is awesome but he doesn't know that the marginal decrease will be that great if any. To the point of the firefighters that you give up local control he thinks finances will hurt the safety of the responders and the community much more than any dispatching differences that happen between here and there. The first half of his term Evergreen dealt with its own business and it was pretty easy because the things we chose to deal with were what we chose. But that model has changed and now the things we deal with, the healthcare model changed, the FCC decided to sell off the public safety radio band, and with that they said you need all new radios and we'll help you buy them if you remember to get your grant in on time. So that was a \$1.2 million dollar headache project and then recently we have things like this consolidation. We used to control our whole destiny but that's not true anymore so our budget is being challenged by other things in the national model and that is just reality. Community involvement to Jeff Genender's point when we

used to do things with the volunteers they were at the meetings, they didn't ask to be involved. The reality is nobody came to these meetings until time for the board to vote now. Information in Evergreen is difficult. This has been in the local paper and the Denver Post, it's not a secret. Could we have done better? Yes. Is that not true of any decision that any of you have ever made that you didn't look back after and think you could have done better? Kevin Gilbert said that we made an instantaneous change in auto aid on I70. Mr. Kling has been working on that for 14 years. Chief Weege inserted that it got turned down by the other agency. He feels that during this process he has asked harder questions about this than have been asked tonight but we are seeing that people don't like change especially when it's an unknown. As you become more educated on this topic like the board has had to go through, its human change through education that maybe we haven't provided that opportunity. The biggest threat to get through tonight is timing. We don't control it. It was decided that Jeffcom becomes a real entity in May and we can be in or we can be out and if we are out we may not have the opportunity to get in later and that's not a threat but if we elect to not be in it you all better find a way to give the district more dollars or help us pick what services you want cut. That is not intended as a threat that is just a reality of the size of the wallet. We've heard some examples of people having trouble getting on scene and that is a reality. He has been on five fire departments and that is always a reality with a fact versus fiction component. It happens but he doesn't think it is routine and he doesn't think it will be routine if we make the move. All of our dispatchers will have an opportunity to join Jeffcom and we know from one on one interview that they want that. When we talk in group think they don't want to go but that is also a fact versus fiction reality. Where that ties into us is that if there is a better job down the hill we will become a training ground for people that want to go into the dispatch profession. It takes us 4-5 months to train people now and once they finish they will leave for a better job 12 miles away.

Director Anderson – Two year board member. Thank you Mark Davidson for your kind comments and realistic understanding of who we are; of the community; and how sometimes the communication doesn't happen. We have monthly meetings open to the public, we've been discussing this issue for 19 months since he has joined the board, every month, and we have spent a lot of time looking at the pros and cons. We are all on the same team, living in the same neighborhoods, attending the same schools. He is wholly motivated and as a volunteer to be your elected official would say that volunteers only volunteer one time and after that is a commitment. Some people have more time than others to commit to their obligation and he takes his commitment very seriously. He has spent 34 years in public safety fields in fire, law enforcement, and dispatch. He has been engaging and reaching out on this topic for 19 months. He feels the board started out skeptical and cautious. Chief Weege has worked very hard to fight for our needs and create changes. Has he gotten everything asked for, no but he has been successful to be understood. We take the other mountain departments and our commitment to them very seriously. They have been involved and kept informed. We have had collaborative meetings with their chiefs and board members. He understands your concerns from what you may have read lately and what has been publicized unfortunately this creates concern and fear and this upsets and saddens him that things have devolved to create fear in the community when the board has been working collaboratively. The volunteers have expressed a measure of disenfranchisement and concern that they have not been heard or engaged and he asks those in attendance to believe his assertion that this board has been working on this issue for 19 months. If you look at the attendance of our board meeting minutes you would see that the volunteers have been represented at 18 of the 19 meetings. Their communication channels may have prevented them from getting the information from these meetings shared effectively. Unfortunately the public and the volunteer firefighters don't come to the district meetings. There have been opportunities for everyone to come up to speed and be part of the conversation. He acknowledges and respects the public trust, he holds it dear and inviolate, and he would never violate that trust and make a hasty, uniformed, and misguided decision. This is his pledge to the community. He has listened to all of the comments and finds it unfortunate that some folks think his mind was made up. He doesn't know when or if anyone on the board's mind is made up. Regarding the elections comment, not very many people come to our meetings and there are 3 local government entities. He admitted to never attending an EPRD or EMD meeting. Prior to his interest in EFR he had not attended these meetings. Decisions are made every month on safety and security in the fire and EMS world of our district. Every month those decisions could have a positive or negative effect on your families and the board takes this very seriously. This decision has taken 19 months to consider and some members have been working on it longer. Know that whatever his vote it is a reasoned, informed, respectful, and with your best interest and his experience and he hopes that is appreciated.

Director Christensen – Served as a volunteer and has been on the board since 2010. The service level has been a concern voiced by everyone and it was his concern coming in but he is now convinced that the service level will improve if we consolidate. The fire department website contains an email Chief Weege wrote on the pros and cons of consolidation and no one has argued any of those points. The fact that we would be interconnected with the same CAD system and have a larger pool of people to take calls, the fact of tracking greater resources from other places, the fact that our current dispatchers would have jobs at this center and we would be hearing the same voices, and we have a year plus or minus to work the bugs in the system out so we have a chance to reinvent ourselves with a larger set of resources. He thinks there are a ton of reasons to think that service level will go up let alone cutting out the 2 minutes of duplicative delay in calls. Secondly, regarding money, we can participate at a low level or a more expensive level, or continue on our own. The numbers are in the hundreds of thousands but that will not decide the issue for him, it's secondary. The same argument he had with the training building, \$500,000 but if that helps with training and the training saves one life or structure then it paid for itself. If he thought more money was the solution to this issue to get better dispatch he would come to you but in this case saving money by joining the consolidation will get us better dispatch. These two things go together for him. He is surprised by how many people are here and this is transparent to virtually everybody in that the people that listen to our radios and the people that show up in the same places will be showing up quicker. The dispatchers may be down the hill but they will be doing the same thing with more resources. His has a masters in city planning and a number of people have talked about information that you thought you didn't get. Struggling to figure out and looking for suggestions on what you would suggest we could do? An email for people tracking our news? He is open to suggestion of any good ideas out there he wants to hear them early and often. We have the Canyon Courier and our website. *Someone in the audience asked why we didn't have a facebook page. Chief Weege responded that we do.* We have more big issues coming. In 2017 medical billing practices will change and we have a swing item of \$500k in our ambulance revenue. We'll have to figure out how that is all going to affect us and we will be looking for ideas and would like to keep everyone informed. Any other ideas let him know.

Director Anderson – Come to the meetings. Be involved in your local government. That is the surefire way. We post our meetings agendas and our work products on our website so from the convenience of your home you can see what we have been talking about. If there is something that interests you call the Chief or a board member. Come to the next meeting and be heard. We appreciate your comments and your involvement. He was amazed at the lack of community involvement. There are crickets at our meetings with the requisite staff and volunteer leadership and very rarely does the public attend. They are important meetings and so does the rec district that he should be going to. Come to our meetings please.

Director Kling – Part of the reason you don't come is because you read about what you talked about tonight, an exceptional service that the guys and gals standing in the back deliver and we manage. It's been a great product for you, and you aren't reading articles about how grandma is not getting help at 2 in the morning. The same due diligence that we've delivered that product for 70 years is the same type of process we've gone through to educate on what decision we make here tonight.

Director deDisse – Like Mark Davidson he has been here 51 years and his family has been here longer than anyone in the room. He understands the need for this and understands the concerns. A friend lost his wife in the lower North Fork fire and one of the reasons he could not get through to dispatch is that it was so overloaded with calls at JeffCo with only 2 call takers. His concern from day one when we took on the mountain dispatch for the other agencies has been that if North Fork and Evergreen get a fire at the same time we don't have the resources to handle that. In the snowstorm of 2003 the chief of this department and 3 other people were in our dispatch that should have been out on calls but they were needed to help keep up with the amount of calls coming in. It's important to him that we have a resource to go to and to see that more people to go to and that is one of the factors that he sees's in this. Two letters from past chiefs support this consolidation, Chiefs Jay Griggs and Chris Johnson. Chris is the person that builds these types of systems and he indicates this is coming nationwide. Seven or eight states are going this way. Washington is totally a consolidated dispatch. For the first time the government has done something right. They took your Jefferson County money and instead of putting it into 7 or 8 different dispatch centers where they would spend \$900,000 for 7 CADs they will only need one. He feels that is one of the smarter things they have done. Our equipment that is in the room is the radios and they will stay here. That was the \$1.2 million dollar grant to change to the VHF system. The CAD and consoles and computers were provided by the JCECA. That is the 70 cents on your taxes that you pay

every month on your phone bill called the 911 tax. The JCECA (Jefferson County Emergency Communications Authority) is a board that was put together of 5 members and one county commissioner to manage that tax money. They divide it up and they are saying that all of the money is going to go into getting the consolidation up and running. The JCECA last year alone spent \$950,000 in our dispatch center. The year before they spent \$350,000 in our center. That money is exponential more than what we would get. The number of houses in Evergreen at an average of 2 phones at 70 cents per month times twelve months the amount is \$109,200 that we collect in the Jefferson County part of the Evergreen Fire Protection District for that tax. Because of the JCECA board we have gotten millions over the years. Having the JCECA pull away from us is a big hit. If we had to fund dispatch ourselves we would need to put another \$300,000 into the budget per year let alone come up with more money to get the CAD replaced at \$110,000 per year that we would have to add to strategic savings to be able to pay for the CAD in 10 years. There are dollars involved. You say go to the public and get more money but that is not guaranteed either. The one thing he is looking out for is that if we do this our dispatchers have a guaranteed job where they probably will make more money and have an opportunity to grow and move up if they want it. Here they are a dispatcher forever.

Director Kling – It strikes him a little odd when Jeff says the dispatchers can go down the hill and make more money. The reality is we are woefully inefficient here. The 4000 calls we are doing we pay an exorbitant per call fee. There is potential for our qualified dispatchers to go down the hill and increase their personal income and efficiency is where some of those per call savings will come from.

Director Gregory – Volunteer for 11 years and on the board for 2 years. He has been doubtful over the success of a consolidation. He has talked to a lot of people on the department, retirees, community leaders and citizens. He has read and viewed as much information as he could get his hands on. He found most of his reasons to oppose consolidation are from weighing the pros and cons. He prays his decision and vote are the right one for all involved.

Director Anderson – The nice lady was asking what our website is: www.evergreenfirerescue.com

Director deDisse: To put this in perspective dollar wise, if it was only Evergreen and we decide to stay here and we only take the money that we pay into the JCECA through the 911 tax adding it to our budget over the years and covering the rest of the expenses ourselves then the cost of our 2100 calls per year is \$600 per 911 call. If we were to keep dispatching for the mountain agencies we are currently serving then the cost per call drops to \$300. If we join Jeffcom the cost will be approximately \$50 per call.

Director Kling: We will wrap up the public comment period and proceed with the agenda for this meeting.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

- March 8, 2016 Regular Meeting Minutes: accepted as presented.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

For the purposes of this meeting the District Board has chosen to alter their normal agenda and move unfinished business to this earlier position.

- Chief Weege presented the Intergovernmental Agreement for 911 Regional Consolidation. Since December 2012 when the first study was completed for feasibility of consolidation in Jefferson County the service level has been the primary driver for all of the chiefs. It has been at the top of the list for the police chiefs, sheriff, and fire chiefs that have been working on this project. With the developments that included a separate mountain dispatch pod which will be using our equipment; which will use the CAD system that was built out with 4 other agencies in and outside the county that has an upgraded mapping system that includes parts of Clear Creek County and Douglas County and has greatly expanded our abilities with law enforcement and fire being on the same system; and realization early on that the transfer of calls from the primary answering point which is the Sheriff's office to the secondary answering point that is Evergreen Fire that alone is a big benefit to the community. The work Connell O'Brien did as the volunteer president, coming before the mountain chiefs and their board representatives to add some assurances that the mountain dispatch pod will continue the work that they are doing right here in Evergreen, Chief applauds him for his efforts, he put a lot in that, worked within the system and got unanimous approval from the mountain chiefs and their representatives to support that effort. Chief has come to the determination that this is the best decision for the community of Evergreen and for Evergreen Fire Rescue so he asks that the Board of Directors vote to sign the IGA as written so Evergreen Fire can continue to lead on this effort. Director Anderson made a motion to sign the IGA as it is

written; Director Christensen seconded the motion; discussion: *Director Christensen* commented that he feels this is the best way to get better service since we will be tapping into a bigger pool of resources with roughly the same people and a year to put it all together. And if we stay by ourselves with the generosity that might come via a mill levy to put some more money in we would not be able to match the breadth of resources that we can get at Jeffcom. He thinks this is the best way to get better service and to save us money. We are contemplating asking for a mill levy increase because of the property tax drop off in revenue and this is the best way to go. *Director Kling* directed his comments directly to Dr. Mosby (his replacement on the board) He sent Mike down the hill to go to war for us and we didn't always get our way and that is ok. The motion on the table is to accept the IGA as written and we had a couple of options on that to go in fully as a participant or go in as a service user. He believes that right now as this program stands up the best thing to do is to make that investment as a community. It's not a small investment but it is an investment to address Kevin, Mason, Jeff and Nate's concerns. It's a huge investment to go in as a partner as opposed to a service level or to stay out. But he thinks that is the right thing to do right now, and he challenges Dr. Mosby as he works forward to look at the funding model and exit strategies if it doesn't work out. *Director Christensen* said that it has been bothering him that the people who suggest we delay the decision, is there some kind of information that you think will develop or argument or category of potential critical flaw. A woman in attendance replied that she would like to see the issues on funding and recourses addressed so that it is less one sided or feeling like being held hostage to the decision. *Director Kling* responded that he understands her concern but doesn't feel held hostage to this decision. He does feel that they have worked hard to get what they have got. Chief Weege was sent to the meetings with his marching orders, we're Evergreen and we need this for our citizens. But the reality is we are 4.9% of the budget to the 8 agencies involved. The other boards are voting 11-0 in favor, 6-0 in favor, 5-1 in favor because of a governance concern not a safety aspect. The Sheriff and a few others still have to go for approval so that piece of the question of why is it not good enough for Evergreen but is for the rest of the county. The woman commented that the others are not as small as we are. *Director Kling* replied that many of them are smaller and we represent them and have met with them regularly. *Chief Weege* replied that West Metro and JeffCo are currently dispatching for small agencies such as Golden Gate or Fairmount Fire. Director Kling reiterated that he does not feel hostage, it is not utopic, it is a viable reality of technology breaching dispatching functions moving forward. He started as a volunteer in 1983 and the product that the firefighters are concerned about losing now is grossly different than it was then because of technological advances and that isn't going to change. If we elect to not participate the door substantially closes and the way the model is set up and our being a minor player the entity doesn't need us so do lose that opportunity if you believe in it, yes. To the firefighters concern about holding this board accountable we took an oath. There isn't anyone on this board that is not fully accountable for everything to include publicly made statements that if the firefighters need to let the neighborhood burn down for their safety we expect them to let the neighborhood burn down and we don't say that lightly regarding your property. The woman asked what about accountability on the Jeffcom side? *Director Kling* replied that Sheriff Shrader's response that this whole thing is conceived nationwide to be a better product. Have all of them succeeded, no. Can they make us any guarantees, no. Can he encumber Dr. Mosby to a decision he doesn't like, no. If he wants to come on the board and put a motion on the table 6 weeks from now and unravel he can because he can't be made to guarantee anything in the future and Jeffcom can't do that either. We sign a note to move forward but no we can't hold them hostage to get our way, absolutely no. *Director Christensen* replied that to add a little more comfort there will be a mountain pod that will use our training materials and we will be involved in refining and making the product better. He can't emphasize what an opportunity this is because will have more resources we can factor in as we evolve ourselves. If we don't do a good job we can only criticize ourselves. *Director Kling* noted that when you have a meeting like this 6 years from now Kevin Gilbert can come back and say I told you this is not better, but being intimate with our budget, even though you can throw that stone in 6 years our dispatch won't be what it is. In 6 years because of what he perceives as dollar signs attacking safety more so than what Dave thinks will be enhancements. *Director Anderson* commented that he thinks it has been suggested Chief will only have 1/8 of a vote on the governance board of Jeffcom and what happens if the effort

unravels or becomes unsafe. If that happens there are remedies. The first would be for Chief to find out why and what influence we can have on changing course in collaboration with the other members of the governance board. And then it would fall to this board and the chiefs peers that all ultimately report to politicians. We are all elected by you. The Sheriff is elected by you. My pledge to you is that when we get the sniff that things are unraveling if they ever do then that's the process that I hope we would agree to undertake to put pressure on the governance board to stop obstructionist behavior and enhance collaboration.

Call for Vote: Director deDisse – yes; Director Christensen – yes; Director Kling – yes; Director Gregory – yes; Director Anderson – yes. Motion carried. Those in attendance left the meeting and the managers stayed to complete the agenda items with the board.

PRESENTATIONS:

- Energy Efficiency status update: Director Christensen has the proposals back and they are a mix of efficiencies to be evaluated. PVA options for finance and need to determine if we can contractually do that with marginal returns. He will bring this back to the board after further consideration. He was encouraged to spend time with Dr. Mosby to bring him up to speed on this topic.
- February 2016 Financial Report: Chief Weege stated that the auditors were on site for 2 days and will finish out the audit in their offices and deliver it to the board in June for the audit committee to review. Apologies for the lack of graphs in the report due to software issues. Audit committee needs to be appointed in May, confirm that the treasurer has to be part of this committee. Director deDisse made a motion to accept and place on file the February 2016 Financial Report; Director Christensen seconded; motion carried.

DIVISION REPORTS:

Administration / HR / IT:

- May Board Election cancelled. Dave Christensen and Dr. James Mosby deemed elected.
- Dan Hrouda recently retired from Wheat Ridge Fire after 19 years with them. He was recognized at the state capital on April 8th for 32 years as a first responder. Congratulations Dan.
- The Chiefs annual review is due in May and Dr. Mosby has been invited to attend the executive session for this process that will be held before he takes office on May 10th. The last week of April will likely be the date scheduled.

Communications:

- Thank you Director Kling for you service on the board. And welcome Dr. Mosby.
- Kyle Mickelson completed training. Nelson Parrish will complete his training by the end of May.
- Web based camera system for CDOT has been installed in dispatch and being beta tested. Director deDisse explained that the CDOT cameras have converted to live view which is cell based and costs are split as the information is sent by jpeg. Great technology. Dispatcher Shane Palmer commented that he has used this and feels it is a great product and tool and should be a budgeted expense moving forward.
- The mountain agencies were awarded \$409,000 to finish the radio project by North Central Region (NCR) and the Urban Area Strategic Initiative (UASI).

Fire Operations:

- Academy Hazmat written exam April 26th. Graduation May 7th
- Nine applications received so far for next academy class.

Fire Prevention:

- Annual Wildland Fire Forum April 28th at 6:30 pm – Mitigation
- Welcome Dr. Mosby and thank you Mr. Kling for your support of the EFR family and prevention
- Minor adjustment for moving the cistern to Stanley Park has prelim approval. Final should be by April 15th.

Emergency Medical Services:

- Welcome Dr. Mosby and thank you George Kling
- March 25th we had another cardiac arrest save for March 6th walk out of the hospital completely neurologically intact. EFR's out of hospital cardiac arrest save (%) is nearly twice the national average since 2012. WHY?? - (E.P.A.D., AED's, FREE CPR, neighborhood response and ALS services)

- The scoring for the State Grants for cots is April 13th
- Medicaid transportation committee has indicated they'll be recommending to the State a 1% reimbursement increase for the years 2017 – 2022.
- Attending a conference in Washington 3rd week of April about Healthcare Economics for EMS, Payment reform, explaining how they'll measure "Value" and "Quality of Care" and what the next 5 years will look like for EMS
- May 19th EMS WEEK Health and Wellness Day (Children's Hospital Blood Drive 9:30 – 1:30)

Maintenance Division:

- Station 1 property analysis and Bear Mountain cistern projects still in review phase
- A contract has been awarded to Pine Grove Excavating for the removal of the two cabins located on Troutdale Scenic Dr. Demolition may begin after April 1, 2016 to enable training.
- The trophy case crafted by Dave Schissler has been relocated to the admin lobby

Safety / Community Education:

- Active Shooter training at King Murphy April 27th
- Every 15 minutes mock crash at Evergreen High School April 26th

Strategic Planning Implementation:

- EMS will present in May on strategic initiatives

Regionalization Update:

- No report.

Presentation: A special plaque and words of appreciation were made to George Kling for his service as a volunteer firefighter, officer, and district board director from 2004-2016. Director Kling thanked those assembled. Genesee Chief Bill Easterling thanked George for his service in that district as well.

APRIL BOARD MEETING TOPICS:

Topic	Initiated	Scheduled/ Completed	Recommendations / Actions
Energy Audit	April-14	May-16	Update on-going project
Budget Committee	Feb-16	Apr-16	Update quarterly with Financial report from Pinnacle
Audit Committee	Apr-16	Jul-16	To be appointed in May
Financial Health	Jan-16	Nov-16	
Officers for the EFPD Board	May-16		Every two years

April Committee Updates:

Budget Committee: Director DeDisse and Director Christensen

Personnel Committee: Director Kling and Director Anderson

401a Pension Board: Director Gregory and Director Christensen

Construction Committee: Director Gregory and Director deDisse

911 Regionalization IGA Committee Review: Director Kling and Director Anderson

Audit Committee – Director deDisse and Director to be determined

NEW BUSINESS:

- Public Relations Support – Pete Webb. Chief Weege requested that the board approve spending not to exceed \$20,000 for PR support. They had proposed an additional expense of \$12,000 in conducting a community survey. Director Anderson noted that as evidenced by tonight it would be beneficial to put that \$12,000 toward either a survey or community information effort. Director Kling clarified that the survey was at an additional cost above the \$20,000 package. Director deDisse noted there is a disconnect on how you get information out to this community. Director deDisse made a motion not to exceed \$25,000 and to include the survey in that expense; Director Anderson seconded; motion carried.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- Update on Annual Report – Pete Anderson has been working on updating the data for response and process times for dispatch so that we can look at the trends and then we will release the report. Thank you Pete Anderson and Shane Palmer for working on this data analysis.
- Solar Energy – add topic and energy efficiency to the May agenda

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS:

Director Anderson: Thank you Bill Cronk for replacing the chair with the broken wheel. Thank you George for your friendship, for being a great leader, and wonderful mentor over the last two years.

Director Gregory: Recognize the work on both sides of the consolidation issue with special thanks to Chief Weege for all of his hard work, time and thought. Welcome Dr. Mosby. Thank you George, you'll be missed.

Director Christensen: Welcome Dr. Mosby, confident that you will have a lot to contribute in the new world of medical changes. Chief the effort that was put into the consolidation and in particular the mountain pod put him over the top and would like to continue developing as it gave him the reassurance he sought about the quality of service. George, you will be missed.

Director deDisse: This is one of the hardest decisions he has had to make on this board. Almost as hard as signing up for the first recall. He appreciates everyone's work and hopes we did the right thing. Dr. Mosby, known you a long time and this will be a great time and addition to the community. George, we will miss this.

Director Kling: Final comment. A little bit marginally less fun over the years as outside influence drives many of our big decisions now like the FCC and health care. Less control. This has been the easiest job a guy could ask for on so many fronts. A beautiful community full of great people that like the product we deliver and many of our decisions are quite easy. If we can afford to deliver this product whether it's an AED product in the dispatch center to changing our defibrillators and it makes sense and it's something we can do or if it doesn't make sense for today we work for a few years down the road to add it in the budget, that part has been a true pleasure. He can't say enough between the community being great and the volunteers being great and the staff being great it's been an easy fabulous job and something to be proud of. Handing over the reins of a great organization and challenge the board to do its best to maintain that.

Director Christensen: Biggest anguish going into tonight was not uncertainty about the quality of service but that the volunteers were not uniform in their support. One count there were a handful that were not happy, I hope we made the right decision and that we can maintain the enthusiasm and dedication the volunteers have. He thinks this is going to work out.

MEETING ADJOURNED: Director deDisse made a motion to adjourn the meeting; seconded by Director Christensen; motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 8:28 pm.

NEXT MEETING DATES:

Regular District Board Meeting Tuesday, May 10, 2016 at 5:30 pm in Training Rooms A & B

Respectively Submitted,
Carol Hucker
Recording Secretary