



MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE EVERGREEN FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT OCTOBER 8, 2019

The regular meeting of the Board of Directors of the Evergreen Fire Protection District was held on October 8, 2019 at the Administration/Training Building, 1802 Bergen Parkway, Evergreen, Colorado.

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER: Director Anderson called the meeting to order at 5:30 pm.

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

ATTENDANCE

DIRECTORS IN ATTENDANCE: John Anderson, Dave Christensen, Mike Gregory, and Jeff deDisse,

EXCUSED ABSENCE: Jim Mosby

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: Cindy Latham, Dale Schlinecy, Chuck Ridings, Paul Amundson, Wayne Hazeldine, Stacey Martin, Jim King, Dave Montesi, Mason Duncan, Doug Matheny, Mike Weege, and Carol Hucker.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Director deDisse made a motion for approval of the agenda; seconded by Director Gregory; motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Cindy Latham spoke to the board as a resident of Evergreen since 2018. She didn't realize until moving here how high the fire danger risk is and has been learning more about fire preparedness and the parallels with Paradise, California. So many similarities and crossovers. One of her biggest concerns is the escape routes. Evergreen has half the number of escape routes that Paradise had. They are overgrown with trees right along the road. It's a tremendous risk for the community and she feels very strongly that we need to be putting more time and attention into mitigating our escape routes. First and foremost we need to be able to get people out safely to save lives. She has had the opportunity to work with Paul and his team on the CWPIP and has learned of his modules being developed. She understands there is discussion among the fire board about going to community to raise funds to support a team to remove fuel and she questions why the fire district would go to the community for this when there is a substantial amount in savings that could support the work. She wants to understand the priorities. The original CWPP in 2007 talked about escape routes being a high priority and would like to understand why we would seek additional community funds when this should be a top priority.

Chuck Ridings spoke to the board as a local State Farm Insurance Agent with an agency that was started here in 1982. He has about 2900 homes insured, not all in Evergreen, but State Farm has an \$8.4 trillion dollar exposure between Hwy 285 and I-70 and from C470 west to the tunnels. He and Cindy have been comparing notes and he held a symposium on wildfire in May 2018 for the HOA's, the fire departments about the tools available. He personally donated just under \$80,000 this year to support the HOA's in their fire mitigation efforts and community education programs. Working with the 4 Rotary organization in the mountains to create an education program that we can take out to the community and grow it. Cindy Latham didn't tell you but she turned the Timbers community this year into a fire wise community in about 4 months. She mentioned the 2007 CWPP that was put in force on the district and compared to the Paradise Fire we have a very similar geographic area as they did but we have half of the escape routes. For egress and shelter in place we have very little that has been done since 2007. He was offended when the district hired Paul Amundson to come in and represent EFPD as a fire mitigation specialist with a budget that would match up to \$360,000 from the community. You have a lot of reserves and a lot of priorities. I don't agree with your priorities. But I can't say that if there is a fire as big as Paradise we can get away with that many deaths. I want the fire department to do their job and do that well. And you can only do that with professionals like Paul and the crew he wants to hire. Thank you for hiring Paul. So my question is what is in reserves in the district's finances? Director Anderson noted we will go through the financial statement during this meeting. Mr. Ridings asked what is more important than creating escape routes, egress, RealFire apps, and education.

Dale Schlinecy – didn't come to speak but in support of Mr. Ridings.

Director Anderson agreed with Mr. Ridings that hiring Paul is a wonderful step. Paul has submitted through his chain of command a significant budget for 2020 to help address CWPIPs, Fire Wise, and others. We have some difficult decisions to make and we are forward looking, doing the best we can with the budget. We have competing priorities, we have several million dollars in reserve but have a recently disclosed notification from Jefferson County that Hwy 73 widening will begin in 2021. This will force us to move Station 1 sooner than we had planned or anticipated. This is a roughly \$8 million dollar endeavor and we are working with the county to try to get more time. Director Christensen noted that with the addition of Paul and Scott with the hope that we will be able to find more funding and staff to build the program. Exit routes are not something we can build. Director Anderson clarified that we are trying to gain permission from the county commissioners to clear the county road right of way but we don't have this in place yet. Chief Weege noted we are working with the county to get them to adopt Wildland Codes, develop a wildland task force and other things to share the burden of this need. Our goal is to find grant and federal funding not to raise the funds in the community. Elk Creek used grants to build their wildland module. Director deDisse noted we have to have safety zones to evacuate people in to and that requires working with land owners and the division of wildlife to open escape routes. There are escape routes but if you make them widely known then people start wanting to check them and trespass on private land as a result. We can't cut trees on private land. Shelter in place needs to be possible. Director Gregory noted they are working as a committee on the 2020 budget and we will look at prioritizing these issues. Director Anderson noted that the sheriff's office has not been able to put money toward wildfire preparedness and it has been steadily decreasing in funding. Under their current budget crisis programs will continue to wait to be funded. Until the county allows us to work on their land in the right of ways and until the county stops allowing community growth to put pressure on roads that are old and narrow. It is a priority to us but our hands are tied to a degree. We are asking the questions about zoning and building in the forest. Thank you for being here and he hopes the concerns of Ms. Latham and Mr. Ridings will be taken to the sheriff's office and the county commissioners as well. Director Anderson requested that Mr. Ridings meet with Paul, Chiefs King and Weege as well as himself and Director Mosby to clarify some misinformation about funding that he may have regarding the module concept before the budget hearing on November 12th.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

- September 20, 2019 EFPD Regular Meeting Minutes: Director Christensen made a motion to approve the minutes as presented; seconded by Director Gregory; motion carried.

PRESENTATIONS:

- August 2019 Financial Report: Chief Weege reported the report is as expected, with some large payments that will move into next year in strategic capital. Maintenance revenue is down this year. Prevention revenue is 4 times what was projected. Director deDisse made a motion to approve the minutes as presented; seconded by Director Christensen; motion carried.

DIVISION REPORTS:

Administration / HR / IT:

- Annual Banquet October 12th RSVP by Oct. 3rd to Rae Cronk
- Phone system from Jive/LogMeIn/GoToConnect has been selected and installation planning is underway.
- Oct. 7 meeting with Denver Mtn. Parks and Jefferson County Open Space on property acquisition. Things are being elevated to higher levels as we try to push the process in an effort to get action on the last piece of property before the end of the year.

Fire Operations:

- Academy moving along well, have had 3 drop off.
- Company training last month was Live Fire, had great turn, out got lots of good training.
- Academy live fire training this month.
- Kudos from Foothills Fire for the Bald Mountain and from Inter Canyon for Deer Creek Canyon. Working to get on these more quickly and have a better chance to get ahead of them with multiple agencies jumping on before they get to big.
- Kudos Adam Hojnowski for coming up to change a flat tire on the Bald Mountain and work on a Genesee truck, and for bringing food to the Deer Creek Fire.

Fire Prevention:

Wildland:

- Federation Grant opportunity - multiple agencies have pooled their funds and are working on a 10 year plan. They have asked the Upper South Platte Partnership to put together a proposal for 10 years for a grant for significant funding. Realistically the proposal will be over \$100 million. The application is due October 24th. They will make their selection by mid-November of a few contenders with requests for more documentation to follow and grants awarded in the spring.
- There will be CWPP forums in November and February to update the community on progress.
- Four new CWPIPs are almost ready to finalize.

Fire and Life Safety Educators, Risk Reduction

- 14 of 17 schools participating in Fire Prevention month with 5 schools / 510 students completed and 9 schools / 417 students schedule in October. Amy and Rachel doing a great job.
- 90% of district inspections have been completed to date
- 51 plan reviews so far in 2019 and \$18,000 in revenue.
- JPR Monday night with Hammer Enterprises and 2 fire inspectors from the marijuana division on how processing is done and what safety concerns are.

EMS:

- CPR 462 on Sept 23 +6, in Oct 50 – 75 expected.
- Ambulance Inspections – all are completed and in service
- 4th Ambulance is in service with a few IT issues to work out.
- DEA Update – We have received our controlled substance registration today.
- Immunizations Update – Shawn and Jessica diligently working on the logs and will soon send out to everyone what immunizations are needed.
- Flu vaccinations are available from the paramedics to department members and their families.
- Christmas with the firefighters will be held on December 14th at Walmart from 10-noon.
- Services will be held on Sunday for Jake Evens. Please keep the Evens family in your thoughts.

Maintenance Division:

Fleet

- First Dodge Durango has been ordered and should be delivered in October for graphics and audio equipment installations. Second Durango spending authorization submitted.
- The new ambulance is being fitted with electronics that enable the license process. Upon receipt of the initial license the new unit will be placed in service as a first responding. The mobile radio will not arrive until December so portables will be used in the interim.

Facilities

- As-built drawings of the admin building were completed and sent to ProCraft for the HVAC plans to be completed. Contract is with legal.
- Transition to the new security system has begun with programming and updated lists of users.
- Station 3 due to electrical control system in the well necessitated delivery of 300 gallons of water to keep working. The issue is now repaired.
- Solar panels are producing but still don't know if this is at the level it should be. Working on getting a monitor system. Doug does not feel ready to sign off on the work yet. He wants to see what the output is in relation to what was anticipated.

Strategic Planning Implementation: (Quarterly) No report and meetings cancelled for September.

- Strategic Plan revision has been put on hold while we work through the 2020 budget.

Jeffcom Update:

- Planning two academies through the end of the year.
- After-Action-Reviews were held for both the Deer Creek Canyon Fire (Inter Canyon Fire) and the Bald Mountain Fire (Foothills Fire). Jeffcom attended both.
- Foothills Fire has transitioned to Jeffcom and is live now and handled the Bald Mountain Fire.

OCTOBER BOARD MEETING TOPICS:

Topic	Initiated	Scheduled/ Completed	Recommendations / Actions
Audit & Budget Committee	Feb-16	TBD	Update quarterly with report by Pinnacle
Overtime Report	May-16	TBD	Update quarterly
Bylaw / SOG Review	June-19	TBD	Update as needed

BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Audit and Budget Committee: Director deDisse and Director Gregory

Personnel Committee: Director Anderson and Director Mosby

401a Pension Board: Director deDisse

Property Committee: Director Gregory and Director deDisse

Wildland Committee: Director Anderson and Director Mosby

Strategic Planning Committee: Director Christensen and Director Mosby

Unfinished Business

- None

New Business

- Wildland Specialist – Chief Weege requested that this position become a full time permanent position in 2020 focusing on creating additional CWPIPs and supporting the completed one to help them coordinate work and grants, and continuing education. Director deDisse made a motion to make the Wildland Specialist position full time; seconded by Director Christensen; motion carried.
- Accounting Clerk/Administrative Assistant – Chief Weege requested that the Accounting Clerk/Administrative Assistant position become a full time permanent position. Director Christensen made a motion to make the Accounting Clerk/Administrative Assistant position full time; seconded by Director Gregory; motion carried.
- IGA Vehicle Maintenance Agreement with Foothills Fire Protection District – Director deDisse made a motion to approve the IGA for Vehicle Maintenance; seconded by Director Christensen; motion carried.
- IGA Vehicle Maintenance Agreement with Highland Rescue– Director deDisse made a motion to approve the IGA for Vehicle Maintenance; seconded by Director Christensen; motion carried.
- Spending Authorization 2019-014: Dodge Durango \$38,000 – Director Christensen made a motion to approve Spending Authorization 2019-014; seconded by Director deDisse; motion carried.
- Spending Authorization 2019-016: Vehicle Stabilization Struts for Rescue \$11,555.00 – Director Gregory made a motion to approve Spending Authorization 2019-016; seconded by Director Christensen; motion carried.
- Resolution 2019-0006: Advocating Voter Approval of Jefferson County Ballot Issue 1A – Director Christensen made a motion to adopt Resolution 2019-0006; seconded by Director deDisse; motion carried.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS:

Director deDisse: Keep Kevin Evens in your prayers and thoughts during this rough time with all the support we can give. Also Adam Hojnowski and Connell O'Brien for the loss of their sisters.

Director Christensen: Echo Jeff.

Director Gregory: Echo Jeff also. Makes you think about what is really important. It sounds like Paul is doing a really good job working in the community. Keep up the good work.

Director Anderson: Greatly appreciates Ms. Latham and Mr. Ridings for representing the public. It pains him to not have public present at these meetings. He promises that if someday he is not an elected member of this board he will attend the meetings to hold the board to task and offering his advice. There is a lot to learn and we can't do everything but we are trying. Benefactors of our service are always welcome here. Your attendance here tonight is not lost on him.

Executive Session:

- Director Christensen made a motion to enter executive session under Colorado Stature CRS 24-6-402(4)(f) for the purpose of discussion of personnel matters involving the Fire Chief. Seconded by Director deDisse, motion carried. The Board entered executive session at 6:59 pm. Following a motion from Director Christensen and a second from Director Gregory the board returned to public session at 7:57 pm.

NEXT MEETING DATES:

Regular District Board Meeting on Tuesday, November 12, 2019 at 5:30 pm in Classroom A & B

MEETING ADJOURNED: Director deDisse made a motion to adjourn the meeting; Director Gregory seconded; motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 7:58 pm.

Respectively Submitted,
Carol Hucker
Recording Secretary