



Grand Lake Fire Protection District Board Meeting Minutes from March 11th, 2020

Call meeting to order: Meeting called to order at 1835 hours.

Members present: David Craig, Mindy Nelson, Chris Ruske, Dick Romshek, Hecky Heckendorf.

Others present: Chief Ratzmann, Krystal Steward, Melissa Ratzmann, Kevin Piercy, Brad White, Mark Paulson, Robert Good, Todd Holzwarth, David DeSimone, Carlos Vasquez, Alina Bell, Mark Pappas, Sean Ratzmann

Members Absent: Dan Mayer (excused) Seth St. Germain (excused, arrived near the end of the meeting)

Board Chairman's Opening Remarks:

- The meeting began with an introduction of Board Members and other present.
- Chairman Craig remarked on COVID-19, Coronavirus, and its effects on the community. He urges for all to try and focus on the CDC for information and not the media and for all in the emergency services community to be aware of the messages we are sending.

Changes to the Agenda:

- In consideration of the time and schedules of others, Chairman Craig moved EMS Chief introduction from New Business to be the next item on the agenda.

Grand County EMS Chief Introduction (change to agenda)

- EMS Chief Good introduced himself to the Board. He began working for Grand County EMS in December 2019. Chief Good gave a brief history of his career and certifications. He is focused on moving forward, beginning a new chapter of open communication and partnership with Grand Lake Fire. Chairman Craig echoes his sentiment of cooperation and makes note that Grand Lake Fire represents their taxpayers and their best interests. Chairman Craig states that Chief Good and the others in attendance are always welcome to our meetings.

Public Input:

- Holzwarth and Pappas gave input on Chief White giving a presentation to their boards and sparking a movement for the different fire districts in the county to increase communication and cooperation on a Board level, and that they have been making an effort to attend and present at the different departments' board meetings. They state that there are 25 board members in the county, and all could benefit from hearing from the others and supporting each other. They presented the idea of hosting a networking event for Fire Boards this summer.
Dr. Paulson introduced himself and gave an update on the state of county health services amid COVID-19 concerns in Colorado. There are currently 60 COVID-19 test kits in the county. Middle Park Health is

working with Grand Lake Fire to determine use of their shared employee community paramedic for doing at home assessments and testing for COVID-19 in the Grand Lake area and possibly the county.

Approve minutes from previous months' meeting:

- The minutes from the February 12, 2020 were reviewed. A motion was made by Mindy Nelson to accept minutes as presented. Hecky Heckendorf seconded the motion, approved by all at **1854**.

Review/approve bills and financial statements:

- February financials were presented, and a motion was made by Mindy Nelson to accept financials as presented. Dick Romshek seconded the motion, approved by all at **1900**.

Chief's report:

- The Board and Chief discussed EMS Transport Licensing from the County. The final request from the county for a 3rd party review of the financial viability of EMS transport for Grand Lake Fire has been completed and the results show a favorable view on the matter. The conclusion forecasts an ending fund balance in 2029 of \$7.6 million. Vice-Chair Nelson discussed a recent communication from a Board of County Commissioners (BoCC) member. Mindy Nelson asks that the Grand Lake Fire Board go before the BoCC and ask for a vote on the matter. As Grand Lake Fire's Medical Director, Dr. Paulson was asked his opinion. Dr. Paulson spoke to the disagreement between Middle Park Health and Grand County EMS on what constitutes satisfactory service. Dr. Paulson views Grand County EMS as providing substandard service both on scene and in interfacility transports. He sees that Grand Lake Fire can provide top notch emergency medical service in the district, including the opportunity to minimize hand offs of patients. Dr. Paulson reminded all that the citizens have voted, and they want better service. Discussion then touched on data analysis and concerns of validity of county dispatch data on response times. At the end of the discussion the Board decides to send the 3rd party review, along with a cover letter and letter of support from Dr. Paulson, to the Board of County Commissioners and make a request to be added as an agenda item on the next board meeting agenda.
- See attached for full Chief's report

Fire Marshal Report:

- Full report included in Board packet. Mr. Mayer has completed 30+ fire and investigations trainings and meeting with local government and property management groups regarding short term rental fire inspections.

Old Business:

- Pierce Factory Visit Update: Covered in Chief's Report
- Elections Update – Board was presented with the outcome of the lot drawing from the previous week and the corresponding certification of the ballot language. UOCAVA ballots will be mailed before the deadline of March 20th. The board discussed a candidates' forum and noted that the Chamber of Commerce has already offered to assist.
- The position of Public Relations Specialist as the promotion for Melissa Ratzmann from part time staff to full time staff was discussed. Chief Ratzmann provided answers to questions the board had asked in previous meetings. The public relations specialist position focuses on public events and education as well as assisting the Fire Marshal in billing, data entry for fire inspections. The process for disciplinary actions was reviewed. Chief Ratzmann recuses himself from any disciplinary action regarding his family members. Probationary periods, salary, credentials, supervisors, and access limits were all discussed. Melissa Ratzmann left the room to provide space for open and honest discussion. Chairman Craig expressed his position that Melissa has proven herself within the agency and that Chief Ratzmann has demonstrated procedures are in place to remove any issues of favoritism. Chairman Craig did touch on the cautions of optics in our community and asks that the board either be 100% in favor and able to stand up for their decision, or not at all and that Mrs. Ratzmann be held to the highest standards reasonable in her position at the Department. The Board members' express opinions in favor of the promotion. Mr. Craig addresses Assistant Chief St. Germain and directs him to provide periodic updates

to the Board and on this topic to be comfortable directly communicating to the Board when needed. Melissa returns to the room and the Board addresses her, summarizing their previous conversation, giving her their expectations and welcoming her to the new position.

New Business:

- The board discussed the deadline set to have board packets ready and delivered to the board by the Wednesday before the board meeting. Krystal Steward provides information on the process to complete the financial documents and the waiting period for the official statements from the banks and credit card companies to be available in order to officially reconcile the accounts. The board discussed the options of either moving the board meeting to the third Wednesday of each month or acknowledging that the board packet received in advance of the meeting will include incomplete financials, but that financials will be complete by the time of the board meeting. After the discussion the board agreed that they would not change their meeting date and acknowledge that the financial documents they receive in advance should be as complete as available data will allow, but will be different from the ones they receive the day of the board meeting.

Executive Session:

- None

NEW Business after Executive Session:

- None

Adjournment:

- Mindy Nelson made the motion to adjourn the board meeting and Chris Ruske seconded. Approved by all. General meeting adjourned at **2009**.

The next Board of Directors regular meeting will be held on Wednesday April 8th, 2020.

Future Board meeting dates for 2020:

April 8th

May 13th

June 10th

July 8th

August 12th

September 9th (Pension Board Meeting)

October 14th (Budget Workshop)

November 11th (Budget Presentation)

December 9th (Budget Ratification)