Members Present:

Board Chair Jeff Swanty       Rural Board Secretary Greg White
Mayor Cecil Gutierrez         Asst. City Attorney Teresa Ablao
Councilor John Fogle           City Manager Bill Cahill
Fire Chief Randy Mirowski     Rural Board President Dave Legits
Public Safety Admin. Dir. Renee Wheeler BSC Roylene Sterkel

Absent:

Division Chief Ned Sparks

Call to Order:

Chairman Swanty called the Fire & Rescue Authority Board meeting to order on the above date at 1:05 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance:

The Board participated in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call:

Secretary Sterkel conducted roll call.

Awards and Presentations:  None

Public Comment:        None

Consent Agenda:

Rural Board President Legits moved to approve the Consent Agenda. Chairman Swanty seconded the motion. Motion carried.
Regular Agenda:


PSA Director Wheeler explained that this annual report is our first attempt at a report for LFRA and we need the Boards input for any changes for next year’s annual report. She gave an overview of the report which included a history of calls, the difference between Alpha vs. Charlie/Delta calls, response information related to performance measures and funding for the Fire Authority.

Rural Board President Legits asked if the number of firefighters per 1,000 population which shows as .79 in the report, is after the hiring of the six new firefighters? PSA Director Wheeler said that it is.

Chief Mirowski explained that with the addition of six more firefighters for Station 2 our numbers should look better. Our numbers won’t look that much better when comparing ourselves to surrounding departments if those departments are also hiring staff. PFA appears to be the only department with plans for a new station and staffing.

City Manager Cahill talked about the citizen ratings of the Fire Authority which are listed on page 27 of the annual report. The ratings are excellent and we are meeting our response time goal as well. Even though our staffing levels look low in comparison to other departments, our service level is very good. The one service we are lacking right now is the capability to do the Business Safety Inspections.

Chief Mirowski said that he would like to see us find a way to get feedback from the actual citizens that we respond to.

Chairman Swanty asked who will get a copy of the annual report. PSA Director Wheeler said the report will be posted on our website and copies will be given to governing boards, partner boards, advisory commissions, LFRA staff, citizens that request a copy and other surrounding fire departments. Chief Mirowski thanked everyone for their input for the report and especially PSA Director Wheeler for putting the document together. Chairman Swanty said he feels it’s important that a copy be provided to each fire station and Rural Secretary White asked that it also be posted on the Rural District website.

3. Consider Approval of a Resolution Approving a Supplemental Budget to the 2013 Loveland Fire Rescue Authority Budget for Additional Funding from the City of Loveland and the Loveland Rural Fire protection District from Remaining Funds for Projects Approved but not Completed in 2012 and New Projects.

BSA Director Wheeler said this Resolution would approve an increase to the 2013 LFRA operations budget of $316,830. The request includes $195,370 to reinvest savings from the 2012 operations budget primarily for equipment related items and $121,460 for a Lieutenant position in the Community Safety Division. The Board reviewed pages 55-57 of the report which shows the funding sources, savings from Station 6 expansion, savings from Station 2 land purchase, savings from the City
capital replacement fund and the FEMA Assistance to Firefighters Grant savings. If the Board approves the Resolution, it will go before the City Council and the Loveland Rural Fire Protection District for approval in April. If both partner boards approve the Resolution it will come back to this Board at the May 9th meeting.

The Board then talked about the options for adding a fourth bay for the new Station 2. The original conceptual station submittal was for a three bay station. After further review to meet the fifty year life span of the facility, the request is to add a 4th bay which increases the sq. ft. by approximately 1500 square feet; it is unknown what the exact costs for the 4th bay would be, but an initial estimated cost of $573,000 was discussed- (an actual cost of $285,00 for the 4th bay was more likely). The options are to either go ahead and add the 4th bay now or build the station so that a 4th bay can be added at a later date. City Manager Cahill said he advocates designing the station to have the 4th bay added later after we see what monies are available.

Chief Mirowski talked about the current Station 2 storage issues with the three bays that they currently have. With our system being one that gets drained when we have a large event, we need stations that can house apparatus and equipment for re-calls. City Councilor Fogle asked if we have bids for the addition of the 4th bay. Chief Green said that those official bids are about two weeks out. PSA Director Wheeler said that the number she used of $573,000 may be high since the bay shouldn’t cost as much as other parts of the station. She indicated that the CEF’s still look positive for 2014. City Manager Cahill said that since we are talking about that much money we need to make sure we know where that money will come from.

Councilor Fogle said that with interest rates being as low as they are now, it might be a good time to include the 4th bay. We may want to get a projection of costs three years out to see what the increase may be if we wait. Chairman Swanty asked how adding a 4th bay matches up with our Strategic Plan and Chief Mirowski said we won’t know until we get the official bids back. Rural Secretary White asked what affect it might have down the road for money if we appropriate for it now. PSA Director Wheeler said that the CEF’s projected through 2019 look good.

Rural Board President Legits said that having the necessary space in a bay to do maintenance and projects makes a huge difference in efficiency and effectiveness. Chief Mirowski said his hope for future stations is that we never build one with less than 3 bays. The current Station 2 has three bays and it’s still very crowded.

Rural Secretary White said his Board will want to know why they are being asked to turn over 2012 savings. PSA Director said that the money will be spent to finish projects that were not finished in 2012. Chief Mirowski said that we’re finishing projects that are needed, not using the money for new or unnecessary things.

City Manager Cahill moved to approve the Resolution. Councilor Fogle seconded the motion and it carried.
4. **Consider Approval of the Amendments to the 2012 International Fire Code.**

Chief Green said that he and Deputy Fire Marshal Dann have met with the Building Department and the Construction Advisory Board to review the 2012 Codes and make necessary Amendments appropriate for our community and jurisdiction. One of the Amendments for us is that we will not require fire sprinklers in new one- or two-family dwellings as long as they are within 600 feet of a fire hydrant and located within 400 feet from the entrance on a dead-end roadway. The Amendments will be presented to the Rural Board, City Council and County Commissioners for their approval.

The Board discussed the pro’s and con’s of the fire sprinkler issue and the fact that most basements are now living quarters and more apt to be a place where fires might start. If they don’t have sprinklers or a 30 minute rated ceiling in the basement, they are a high hazard for firefighters because the floor can collapse within minutes of a fire.

Chairman Swanty said he feels we need to take a leadership role in getting sprinklers required in homes because it’s such a life and property saving situation. He indicated that he will not vote for the Amendments because of that.

Councilor Fogle said he agrees, but we need to find a way to get the cost of residential fire sprinklers down. City Manager Cahill said he feels it will eventually happen but it’s a challenge for us as a City to find a strategy for determining who can do the work to prevent monopolies from happening. We currently are on par with other cities. Mayor Gutierrez said we must move forward with studies and that Loveland can take a lead role and be effective in making this a requirement.

Councilor Fogle moved that the Amendments be approved as written. Rural Board President seconded the motion and it carried.

5. **Review Briefing Papers and Correspondence.**

- Chief Mirowski shared pictures of the new Battalion Chiefs vehicle and said it should be ready to be in-service in the next 4-6 weeks.

- Chief Mirowski said that the Conferences for Blue Card and Emergency Managers in Loveland were very successful. Approximately 350 emergency managers and other personnel attended the first conference while another 250 fire officers and firefighters attended the Blue Card Conference. He has had very positive feedback with the same question being asked, “are we doing it again next year”? At this point, we’re not sure. Chairman Swanty said he enjoyed the presentation by Gordon Graham and Mayor Gutierrez gave compliments to Lt. Pat Mialy for her work on the Emergency Managers conference.

- Chief Mirowski attended a meeting for the State Fire Chiefs Association where ISO field officers discussed the future and changes for ISO. LFRA was due to have another evaluation done in 2013, but it’s clear that won’t happen now. The
direction that ISO is taking is that they will do less evaluations unless there are significant changes in a department or a department contacts them for an evaluation to improve their classification number. We would still like to get our City rating to a 3 and keep the Rural at a 5.

- Chief Mirowski said that FRAC will be attending an upcoming Public Safety Summit for leaders, boards, etc.. Included will be Police, Fire and Emergency Medical. The goal is to determine what the community wants to see from their public safety providers. Chairman Swanty and Rural Secretary White will be among the speakers for the summit.


- City Manager Cahill indicated that the City Council will be looking at an ordinance to allow the City Manager to make emergency decisions when it comes to burn bans in our jurisdiction. That information will come before this Board in April and go before City Council in May. That Ordinance will not address fireworks. Last year was a good example of what not to do because the process took weeks to get an Emergency Ordinance through Council and the County and State were changing their guidelines on a regular basis due to the changing weather conditions. We need to be able to stay in line with the state and county when burn bans are set.

- Councilor Fogle talked about notifying firework vendors early this year if it looks like we may have a ban on sales like we did last year. We need to give vendors as much lead-way as possible for moving their fireworks somewhere else or not buying as much if they know they can’t sale it here. He advocates that the City look at the weather situation relative to moisture in April and make a decision then. Rural Board President Legits said that you can look at the Ft. Collins website and it shows trends compared to last year. City Manager Cahill said there will be meetings set up with Larimer County regarding the wildland fire situation and probability. Rural President Legits said those meetings should take place on a monthly basis. The Board asked Chief Mirowski to draft a letter to the firework vendors with guidelines. Rural Board Secretary White asked if the Rural District needs to be involved and Chief Green said no.

- Chairman Swanty asked if there was any new information relative to the Fire Museum finding a place to display their items. City Manager Cahill said he met with Jack Sullivan and Ev Roberts a couple of weeks ago. They are still looking for a place, but it needs to be an occupancy where volunteers have access. The City is helping them try to locate a building that is either under the City’s control or an owner that is willing to let them use their building for little or no cost.

With no further business at hand, Chairman Swanty moved to adjourn the meeting. Meeting was adjourned at 2:30 pm.

*Minutes submitted by Secretary Sterkel*