



Loveland Rural  
Fire Protection  
District

## **Fire & Rescue Authority Board Meeting Minutes Thursday, September 11, 2014**

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### **Members Present:**

Board Chair Jeff Swanty  
Mayor Cecil Gutierrez  
City Manager Bill Cahill  
Councilor John Fogle  
Division Chief Ned Sparks  
Public Safety Admin. Dir. Renee Wheeler

Rural Board Secretary Greg White  
Fire Chief Randy Mirowski  
Division Chief Greg Ward  
Assistant City Attorney Tree Ablao  
Rural Board President Dave Legits  
BSC Roylene Sterkel

### **Members Absent:**

None

### **Visitors:**

TVEMS Chief Randy Leshner  
Human Resource Director Julia Holland  
BC Michael Cerovski  
BC Tim Smith

### **Call to Order:**

Chairman Swanty called the Fire & Rescue Authority Board meeting to order on the above date at 2:05 p.m.

### **Awards and Presentations:**

None

### **Public Comment:**

None

### **Consent Agenda:**

1. Consider the minutes from the Loveland Fire Rescue Authority Board for the July 10,

2014 regular Board meeting, the July 30, 2014 special Board meeting and the August 28, 2014 special Board meeting.

2. Presentation of the 2014 Second Quarter Budget Biz.
3. Approve the Mutual Aid Agreement with Larimer County agencies for Disaster Emergency Management and Funding.

City Manager Cahill moved to approve the Consent Agenda. Mayor Gutierrez seconded the motion and it carried.

### **Regular Agenda:**

Chairman Swanty asked that we move item 9 on the agenda to the next item for discussion.

### **9. Report on the Progress of the Fire Chief Selection Process.**

Chairman Swanty moved that the LFRA Board, acting as the search committee appointed by the City manager to evaluate candidates for and select individual to fill the executive position of Fire Chief to be employed by the City of Loveland and assigned to the Authority pursuant to Section 6.3 of the Intergovernmental Agreement creating the Authority, go into executive session, as authorized in CRS §§24-6-402(4) (e), (4)(f), and 4(g).

This executive session will concern the following matters as authorized by the following sections of the Colorado Open Meetings Law:

- Personnel matters pursuant to CRS § 24-6-402(4) (f), to include deliberation as to the finalist candidates for Fire Chief; and
- Determining strategy and instructing negotiators relative to the personnel matter pursuant to CRS § 24-6-402(4) (e); and
- As needed, to receive legal advice from the City Attorney's Office as authorized in CRS §24-6-402(4)(b).

City Manager Cahill seconded the motion and it carried.

The Board went into Executive Session at 2:12 p.m.

The Board returned from Executive Session at 3:42 p.m.

Chairman Swanty announced the selection of Mark Miller as the new Fire Chief for Loveland Fire Rescue Authority. Rural Board President Legits moved to accept the selection and City Councilor Fogle seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

Chairman Swanty thanked City staff for their support of the process.

Mayor Gutierrez said we had a deep pool of candidates and he commended fellow

board members for their diligence and hard work through the process.

**4. Presentation of the Special Operations Team Program.**

The Board asked if Chief Smith could come back next month with his presentation of the Special Operations Team Program due to time constraints. Chief Smith agreed.

**5. Conduct a Public Hearing and Consider Approval of the 2015 Schedule of Fees, Rates and Charges.**

Public Safety Admin. Director Wheeler indicated that the only rate change would be the Special Event rate which would go from \$40/hr. to \$42/hr. Mayor Gutierrez asked if there were any fees added to the schedule for oil/gas charges. His concern is if we had an incident at the current transfer station, how we would re-coop our expenses. Councilor Fogle agreed that we need to make sure that personnel costs are passed on to the oil/gas companies. Chief Sparks said that if there was a large incident we would treat it like any other hazmat situation where we bill our costs to the businesses insurance carriers and are able to re-coop much of the costs that way.

Councilor Fogle moved to approve the 2015 Schedule of Fees, Rates and Charges. Rural Board President Legits seconded the motion and it carried.

**6. Conduct a Public Hearing and consider adoption of the 2015 Budget.**

Chief Mirowski asked if the Board wanted to delay item 6 on the agenda until the October meeting for the sake of time. Chairman Swanty said that everyone has seen the proposed budget and most have already heard the presentation, either at the Rural Board meeting or the FRAC meeting. Mayor Gutierrez asked if there was representation from this board at those meetings. Chairman Swanty said he was that representative. Mayor Gutierrez and Councilor Fogle said they are comfortable with not seeing the presentation, but asked that next year they be invited to the Rural Board meeting so only one presentation is needed.

Chief Mirowski said that he made the presentation to FRAC and they endorsed the budget proposal. He indicated that the only major additions to the budget are the Training Engineer and the Administrative position. The administrative position will not start until mid-year 2015.

Mayor Gutierrez moved to approve the 2015 Budget. Councilor Fogle seconded the motion and it carried.

**7. Consider Pension Options for New Reserves.**

Chief Mirowski said there has been extensive research and evaluation done regarding the pension options and the future direction for reserve firefighters as described in the Executive Summary included in the Board packet. He said we are left with three options:

1. Status Quo
2. New Reserve Pension Program
3. Move to a Two-Tiered Staffing Model

He explained that there is a significant amount of time and resources that goes into the recruitment, testing and training of Reservists. Currently we are spending approximately \$40,000/year to keep the program going, with only three reservists assigned to shifts and five going through Academy. If it's decided to go to a two-tiered program it wouldn't affect our current reservists but would mean that we don't add any new ones. He indicated that it would be our hope to utilize the Big Thompson Canyon Volunteers since their system is working and has proven to be a viable and reliable system. They need help with training, admin. support and logistical assistance. Our staff believes that efforts being utilized for the current reserve program could be better spent to assist the Canyon Volunteer Program.

Chief Ward said that the Canyon folks are struggling with FFI training and we are very good at that training and could be of assistance.

Rural Board President Legits feels this type of a situation fits well with what the Canyon Volunteers are trying to achieve.

Councilor Fogle moved to approve option 3 and to move to the Two-Tiered model. Rural Board President Legits seconded the motion and it carried.

## **8. Review Briefing Paper and Correspondence.**

No new items other than what was included in the Board packet.

## **10. Board Member New Business/Feedback.**

- Chairman Swanty suggested that we talk to other fire authorities about what they do for outside legal counsel. He feels we need to have an independent attorney for advice to the Fire Authority.

Rural Board Secretary White said there are numerous attorneys that work with other fire jurisdictions around the area.

- Mayor Gutierrez said now that we have a new chief he would like to see us move forward with the necessary process to move to an independent Fire Authority. Chief Mirowski said we need to target a time frame and plan. PS Admin Director Wheeler said she doesn't believe this is possible to complete before the end of the year. Rural Board Secretary White said he has a draft of the chief reporting relationship to the city vs. the rural and will bring it to the next Board meeting for review. This process needs to have a plan in place. Chairman Swanty said that the transfer needs to happen with or without the mill levy being passed.

With no further items to discuss Chairman Swanty adjourned the meeting at 4:25.

*Minutes submitted by Secretary Sterkel*