



Loveland Rural
Fire Protection
District

Fire & Rescue Authority Board Meeting Minutes Thursday, January 10, 2013

Members Present:

Board Chair Jeff Swanty
Mayor Cecil Gutierrez
Councilor John Fogle
Fire Chief Randy Mirowski
Public Safety Admin. Dir. Renee Wheeler
Rural Board President Dave Legits

Rural Board Secretary Greg White
City Manager Bill Cahill
Division Chief Ned Sparks
Asst. City Attorney Teresa Ablao
BSC Roylene Sterkel

Visitors:

LFRA Battalion Chief Greg Ward
Rural Board member Mike McKenna

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:

Mayor Gutierrez moved to approve the Consent Agenda. Rural Board President

Legits seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Regular Agenda:

3. Consider the Supplemental Appropriation for a Command Vehicle.

Chief Mirowski talked about the need for a new replacement Command Vehicle to add to the fleet. We currently have two Command Vehicles. The 2002 Chevy Tahoe was retained in the fleet because there were no reserve Battalion Chief vehicles available. The high cost of maintenance for that vehicle has become prohibitive. The Rural Fire District was approached at their December meeting about funding to replace that vehicle. They voted to contribute 100% of the \$75,000 to replace the vehicle and the related equipment. The new vehicle will be a ¾ ton-4 door pickup truck with better clearance and a “pull-out” drawer in the bed to carry necessary gear. It will be better suited for Rural District calls. Mayor Gutierrez moved to approve the Supplemental Appropriation. Councilor Fogle seconded the motion and it carried.

Mayor Gutierrez suggested that we write a letter of appreciation to the Rural Fire Protection District for their generosity. Public Safety Administrative Director Wheeler said the Supplemental Appropriation request will go before City Council at an upcoming meeting for their approval.

4. Presentation of 2013 Goals.

Chief Mirowski provided a Power Point presentation relative to Loveland Fire Rescue Authority’s goals for the upcoming year (copy attached). He wants the Board and Staff to have a clear understanding of where we’re going and our objectives. Many of the goals come out of our Strategic Plan but some were developed based on specific or immediate needs.

Councilor Fogle commented on the 95% approval rating for public safety in the recent Community Survey. Chief Mirowski said he feels it’s a testament to all City of Loveland Public Safety departments and also to the political leaders who have supported our efforts. Those include, but are not limited to, the City Council, Rural Board, LFRA Board, the executive staff, etc.

Chief Mirowski reviewed each goal with the Board and talked about the National Institute of Standards & Technology (NIST) relative to their direction in fighting fires. They are supportive of what they call “resetting the fire” by attacking it from the exterior to the interior. Their stance is that in recent years building materials are used that cause “flashover” to occur quicker than in past years. Chief Mirowski said that Loveland has been doing this type of fire fighting for years and Blue Card training is very compatible.

Chief Mirowski talked about the need to move forward with a long-term plan for adoption of the IFC Residential Sprinkler Code with a phased in process for

education, incentivizing and then full adoption. Another goal that we will be working toward is a Safety Inspection Program at the fire company level. We need to create partnerships with business and reiterate with them that our inspections are not code enforcement driven, but are based on helping the business identify safety issues that can be changed so they are not at risk for an fire incident to occur.

The Chief talked about investigating the opportunities and impact of LFRA moving forward in the accreditation process. Not all fire departments are accredited. Credentialing and accreditation is a growing part of fire service evaluation and something that ISO is looking more to as part of their evaluation.. The Police Department and Dispatch have both gone through the process and are accredited. He has assigned Division Chief Sparks to research the process. Chairman Swanty asked him who funds the process. Chief Mirowski said that we do.

Chief Mirowski talked about how we as a department have been running at a fast pace over the past few years and are now at a place that we need to slow down. He calls it “Pioneers to Settlers” and explained that it simply means we need to focus on establishing future workload goals and objectives. We will be holding several department meetings in the next few weeks to talk about this goal.

He asked if there were any questions or concerns from the Board. Mayor Gutierrez asked about planning for future emergencies whether they be natural or manmade disasters. We need to plan for incidents like the recent shootings and other unforeseen emergencies. City Manager Cahill said that things such as table-top trainings are good, but we also need to do some hands-on trainings and that preemptive training is a must. Chief Mirowski said that the department is working toward those goals, but we probably won’t have a full-blown plan exercise in place in 2013. However, training between emergency services is likely.

Rural Secretary White said that the Rural Board reviewed the goals set forth and supports them as LFRA goals, but sees the responsibility for approval resting with the fire authority board.. Mayor Gutierrez said that we have set some lofty goals and it may be difficult to achieve all of them while we’re going about our daily business. Chief Mirowski said that we will be getting feedback from our personnel this month in face to face meetings and that Public Safety Administrator Wheeler is working on a survey to go out to the fire staff to get their feedback and thoughts. Rural Board President Legits said he would like to see the feedback from the survey when it is completed.

5. Review Briefing Papers and Correspondence.

Chief Mirowski said that we had a very busy December with 5 structure fires and other challenging rescues. He talked about a fire on **Mummy Range Drive** which is really in PFA’s jurisdiction but Windsor got on scene first and then LFR and then Poudre. One of our Battalion Chiefs ended up being in command for the incident and he was very impressed with how well the whole operation went. The

communication was excellent between all departments because we all use the same Incident Command System and overall operations were in essence “seamless” - which is what we have been working for in our efforts to improve regionally.

Chief Mirowski thanked Division Chief Green for his hard work in getting the sale of land for **Station 2** finalized. The closing was on December 28th.

Mayor Gutierrez said he was very pleased with a **thank you letter** that we received regarding a fire alarm incident that we responded to. The daughter of the gentleman who lives at the residence was very appreciative of our response and the kind way we treated her elderly father.

Rural Board Secretary White handed out a copy of the upcoming legislative issue regarding Collective Bargaining for Local Governments. City Manager Cahill said that the City Council has an adopted policy statement for legislative positions. This particular bill would remove local control for bargaining for firefighters. There is no local organized for this bill. The bill covers only firefighters, but a similar bill is expected in the future for police. The group discussed the negative aspects of this bill and agreed that it is not supported by many of the local fire departments. City Manager Cahill suggested that we talk to our legislators and perhaps use the media to educate the public on the consequences of this type of legislation.

With no further business at hand, Chairman Swanty moved to adjourn the meeting. Meeting was adjourned at 2:25 pm.

Minutes submitted by Secretary Sterkel