Loveland Fire Rescue Authority Board Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, November 18, 2020
410 E. 5th Street, Loveland and Via Video and Audio Conference
12:30 p.m.

Members Present:
Chairman Jeff Swanty, Director of the Loveland Rural Fire Protection District ("Rural District")
Director Dave Legits, Rural District President
Director Steve Adams, Loveland City Manager
Vice Chairman John Fogle, City of Loveland Council Member
Director Richard Ball, City of Loveland Council Member

Members Absent:
None

Staff Present:
Mark Miller, Fire Chief
Emily Powell, Legal Counsel to the Authority
Greg Ward, Division Chief
Michael Cerovski, Division Chief
Kristen Cummings, Business Services Coordinator
Cheryl Cabaruvias, Administrative Analyst
Andrea Wright, Human Resources Manager
Craig Willard, Fire Lieutenant

Visitors:
Kammy Tinney, Pinnacle Consulting Group
Erik Hanson, U.S. Digital Designs

Call to Order:
Chairman Swanty called the Loveland Fire Rescue Authority ("LFRA") Board meeting to order on the above date at 12:42 p.m.

1. Executive Session Pursuant to C.R.S. § 24-6-402(4)(f) to Discuss Personnel Matters to Include the Quarterly Review, Evaluation and Discussion Regarding the Performance of the Fire Chief

Motion made by Chairman Swanty to go into executive session pursuant to C.R.S. § 24-6-402(4)(f) to discuss personnel matters to include the quarterly review, evaluation, and discussion regarding the performance of the Fire Chief. Seconded by Director Adams; motion
carried unanimously. Executive session began at 12:42 p.m.

Upon motion duly made and seconded, the Board came out of executive session at 1:29 pm.

**Approval or Amendment of Agenda:**

No amendments.

**Awards and Presentation:**

Division Chief Cerovski introduced Erik Hanson with U.S Digital Designs, the developer of a modern station alerting system. For several years, LFRA has worked toward implementing automatic dispatching, but fell short on funds. U.S. Digital Designs wanted to help the Loveland community and donated over $50,000 in equipment and numerous hours of service time to LFRA in order to procure and install the automatic dispatching system. Chief Miller read a proclamation of appreciation and recognition.

**Swearing In:**

None

**Public Comment:**

None

**Consent Agenda:**

2. Consider a Motion to Approve the Minutes from the Loveland Fire Rescue Authority September 28, 2020 Regular Board Meeting

Motion made by Director Adams to approve the consent agenda. Seconded by Vice Chairman Fogle; motion carried unanimously.

**Regular Agenda:**

3. Conduct a Public Hearing and Consider a Motion to Adopt Resolution R-122, Adopting a Supplemental Budget Regarding the Appropriation of Monies to and the Expenditure of Monies from the General Fund for the Loveland Fire Rescue Authority, State of Colorado, for the Calendar Year Beginning on the First Day of January 2020 and Ending on the Last Day of December 2020

Motion made by Vice Chairman Fogle to open the public hearing on the proposed Resolution R-122. Seconded by Director Legits; motion carried unanimously. Attorney Powell certified for the record that notice of the public hearing had been published in the newspaper as required by law. No public comment was received prior to the public hearing, and no members of the public present at the hearing desired to provide comment. Chief Miller stated that Resolution R-122 is to appropriate $43,750 for gear for new firefighters, and recognizing $7,370 in cash donations as revenue to the general fund.

Motion made by Vice Chairman Fogle to close the public hearing and adopt Resolution R-122. Seconded by Director Legits; motion carried unanimously.
4. Chief’s Report

Chief Miller stated that there is now a sign in Johnstown indicating the site of the future Station 10. Attorney Powell reminded the Board that LFRA’s purchase of the Station 10 property has not yet been closed. She reminded the Board of deadlines in the purchase contract and recommended that closing the property be a top priority. She stated that station financing will likely be difficult to obtain if LFRA does not own the property. Chief Miller stated that nothing is holding up the closing, and that the delay was to see if Propositions 6A and 6B passed first.

Chief Miller thanked the Board and City Council for approving the staff wage adjustments. He met with all employees, and feels that staff is now competitively paid.

Chief Miller stated that two reserve engines were sold for $50,000 each: One sale is pending with Laramie County Fire District #2 and one sale with Wellington Fire Protection District is complete. The sales receipts go into the fleet replacement fund.

Chief Miller stated that COVID numbers are increasing, and that LFRA has had an increased number of exposures. Fire stations have been closed to the public again, and the fire administration office is staffed at 50%. Chief Miller states that PPE inventory is adequate, but that more blue lights are needed for decontamination.

Chief Miller stated that on November 12, he, Division Chief Sparks, Kammy Tinney and Greg White met with the Pinewood Lake Homeowners Association. There are approximately 130 homes in this area who pay a combined $14,000 per year to the Rural District for fire protection services. However, there is interest among the property owners in having them include into the Rural District and pay the same mill levy as all of the Rural District residents. Kammy Tinney is working on arranging a 2021 Rural District inclusion election, and the vote will require a 50% plus 1 majority vote to pass and go into effect in 2022. Additionally, since the Cameron Peak Fire, several residents in the upper filings of Storm Mountain have also asked to include into the Rural District.

Artist Jonathan Beistline was commissioned to do a drawing of the Cameron Peak Fire, and prints were created for each Board member, firefighter and partner agency. Chief Miller stated that LFRA firefighters saved homes and lives during that fire. Chairman Swanty asked if there would be a Challenge Coin for the fire, and Division Chief Ward stated that the 2020 coin is already on order, but he would look into it.

Chief Miller discussed a need to address renovation concerns at Station 3 and, to a lesser extent, Station 5, especially considering that the recent tax initiatives intended to fund the renovations did not pass. Chief Miller stated that he believes there is a need to replace Station 3 sooner rather than later, due to a variety of health and safety concerns that have been identified over the years. He stated that if there is not a plan in place to replace or renovate the station within the next three years, he would recommend that the Board close the fire station. Problems that have been identified include: sanitary sewer back-up issues, asbestos concerns, diesel exhaust issues, COVID-19 issues from having an open dorm, and gender issues from having an open dorm. Discussions have been on-going for at least seven years as to various functionality, health, and safety-related concerns. Additionally, Chief Miller stated that Station 5 needs to be renovated, although not as high of a priority as Station 3. Station 4 has issues that need to be addressed if it gets busier and staffed full time, and Station 10 will have funding needs regarding upcoming staffing.

Chief Miller asked the Board to consider recommending to the City a stand-alone public safety or fire services tax to meet these needs. He mentioned that the Greeley, Poudre Fire and Longmont are all funded at least in part by a public safety tax. He suggested it could possibly be
a tax that sunsets in 10 years. The Board discussed options for engaging the public on this issue.

Chairman Ball stated he would like to explore LFRA becoming a fire district. Attorney Powell stated this could be done in one of two ways: 1.) By establishing a new fire protection district that covers the entire jurisdictional area encompassed by the City and Rural District, and then dissolving the Rural District, or 2.) Have the Rural District propose to include the City of Loveland area into its boundaries, which would go to a vote of all City residents and property owners. Chief Miller stated that fire departments frequently merge and it would be an option for LFRA to combine with Berthoud Fire Protection District and/or Front Range Fire Rescue, which Chief Miller stated was his preferred option.

Director Legits wondered whether voters would be willing to approve forming a fire protection district. Attorney Powell stated that, in order to make it tax neutral to the taxpayer, the City could consider lowering their property taxes to make up the difference.

Lieutenant Willard, President of the Local 3566, stated that a recent local survey showed support for a forming a fire protection district and a merger Chairman Swanty thanked Lieutenant Willard for the Local's participation in supporting Propositions 6A and 6B. Lieutenant Willard thanked the Board on behalf of the local for the competitive pay increases.

5. Other Business for Board Consideration

Chief Miller had his quarterly performance review in executive session. Chairman Swanty stated that the competitive market adjustment Chief Miller would be 6.13%. Chief Miller's last pay increase was April 2019 for 3%.

Motion made by Director Adams to increase Chief Miller's pay by 6.13%, effective December 19, 2020. Seconded by Director Legits; motion carried unanimously.

Director Ball stated that he wanted Chief Miller to consider pushing the fleet replacement cycle out to save money. Chief Miller stated that with the 2020 budget cuts, two or three engine replacements were already deferred. Division Chief Ward stated that it's not the motor or the vehicle that needs replacement, but the technology of the apparatus is typically the first to become obsolete. He stated that some of the apparatus has a 20 to 25 year replacement schedule, like the HazMat and Dive trucks that aren’t driven as much. Engines have been found to be most cost effective to be in service for ten years, and then used as reserve engines for an additional five to seven years. After that point, maintenance costs begin to outweigh the savings of deferring replacement.

6. Executive Session, if Needed

None

7. Possible Action on Any Matter Discussion in Executive Session

None

With no further business to come before the Board, Chairman Swanty adjourned the meeting at 3:10 p.m.
The foregoing minutes, having been approved by the LFRA Board of Directors, constitute the official minutes of the meeting held on the date stated above.

Jeffrey M. Swanty, Chairman
12/30/20

Kristen Cummings, Secretary