

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Meeting Minutes of the Estes Valley Fire Protection District

April 29, 2023 3:00 p.m.

Dannels Fire Station, 901 N. St. Vrain Ave., Estes Park, CO 80517

Board: Jon Hodde, Larry Leaming, Dave Hamrick, Brian Tseng, Ryan Bross

Staff: Board Recording Secretary Goetz, Chief Wolf

Also Attending: Patti Brown, Dave Coleson (ZOOM), iPad (ZOOM); After executive session for action based on discussion in executive session -Patti Brown, and the follow viz ZOOM: Kelly Brenner, Lt. Ron Bruchwalski, Marybeth Bruchwalski, Dave Coleson, iPad, Cady Barrett

Absent: none

The following minutes reflect the order of the agenda and not necessarily the chronological sequence of the meeting.

President Jonathan Hodde called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.

Chief Wolf led the Pledge of Allegiance

Secretary Goetz performed roll call –all present

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

None

PUBLIC COMMENT / BOARD COMMENT

Public comment – Brian Tseng read in comments sent by Mark Igel via email: Board members et al,

I would prefer to share these comments in person, but it's the weekend and I will be behind the counter downtown during your meeting time today.

Yesterday I was surprised to read an article in the newspaper that made the headlines about how the volunteers are inadequately responding to calls, a few days before election day, and that article prompted me to reach out to you today and cast some light on the shadows. I have copies of the reports that are discussed in this article and in context there's no emergency, there's a reason for each response, each of the calls were handled appropriately, but because of a standard that was created recently to give the appearance of low turnout, this becomes a news item a few days before an election. So yet another case of the fire district fudging the numbers has caused me to write to you this morning.

A couple of weeks ago I read a post in a local social media discussion group that said our fire chief was at risk at the Marys Lake Lodge fire because the volunteers didn't have his back, because the volunteers were "collecting their shoes and keys" before they responded and it gave the community the impression that this agency is struggling to get the job done. So I have that report and investigation which shows that the response was appropriate even though the call felt emotional for the writer. That post turned political at the end when it said "Vote Yes" and "show our firefighters your support" and was posted the day that ballots began to arrive in the mail. As I have told the Chief directly, it felt pretty discouraging that his wife would publicly share those feelings about us, then use it to promote a YES vote on the tax increase.

A couple of weeks ago I sat in the fire station with 20+ other members and was addressed by the fire chief who told us that he used to enjoy being in the fire service but he didn't anymore because of members in this District. I can tell you that's not just his feeling, that discomfort is something that has been building for a couple of years and is not improving and it continues today. That feeling is as we call it raising children, 'consequences for your actions' and everyone in this district is trying to deal with the consequences of decisions that have been made along this path to an election.

I have a sense that whatever your words are in agenda item 7.b. today, are going to have a significant impact on this organization and our community. Each one of you has told me how valuable the volunteers are to this community, you even signed a resolution supporting the volunteer model and the people who joyfully choose to give their time to this district in order to serve their community. I hope that moving forward in your decision making today, and this month, and this year, that you demonstrate the actions, and not just say the words behind this commitment.

I appreciate your emotional and time commitment to this organization, and thank you for your service to the community.

Respectfully,

Mark Igel

as a Taxpayer, Business owner, EVFD member since 1990, Past EVFPD Board Member

No board comment

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Moved by Ryan Bross, seconded by Dave Hamrick to approve the agenda as written. Motion carried unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

Executive Session 24-6-402(4)(f) for Purposes of Discussing a Personnel Matter Regarding Chief Wolf

Motion by Dave Hamrick, seconded by Larry Leaming to move into executive session pursuant to section 24-6-402(4)(f) C.R.S. for purposes to discussing a personnel matter regarding Chief Wolf. Motion carried unanimously.

5 min break

Exit Executive Session 4:57pm
Resume regular session 5:00pm

Action Based on Discussion within Executive Session

Motion by Jon Hodde, seconded by Ryan Bross to accept a mutual at will separation agreement at the 4/29/2023 board meeting. In favor: Hodde, Leaming, Hamrick, Bross; against: Tseng. Motion carried by majority.

The next regularly scheduled board meeting will be on Wednesday, May 24th at 4:30 pm.

Motion by Larry Leaming to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Dave Hamrick. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 5:02 pm.



David Hamrick, Secretary

The Mission of the Estes Valley Fire Protection District is to provide the citizens of and visitors to the Estes Valley with superior fire prevention, fire protection and emergency services in a safe and efficient manner."

"The Mission of the Board of Directors of the Estes Valley Fire Protection District is to establish policy, goals, strategies and financial leadership that are the foundation for the long-term sustainability of the District."