



Loveland Fire & Rescue Advisory Commission Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, January 14, 2015, 5:30 p.m.

Fire Administration Building (FAB)

Emergency Operations Center (EOC), 2nd Floor

410 E. 5th St., Loveland, CO 80537

Meeting called to order at 5:34 p.m.

FRAC Present: Co-Chair Bob Boggio, Fire Chief Mark Miller, Division Chief Ned Sparks, Leroy (Andy) Anderson, Mayor Cecil Guterrez, David (Dave) Adams, Paul Pfeiffer, William (Willy) Tillman, Elton Bingham, Division Chief Greg Ward, Administrative Director Renee Wheeler, Executive Economic Advisor Alan Krcmarik, Associate Janna Raley of BBC Research & Consulting and Bonnie Wright.

FRAC Absent: Chair Jonathan (Jon) Smela and Leo Wotan

Minutes approval: presented by Co-chair Boggio

Andy Anderson had one revision to the minutes under Rural Board that the mutual aid agreement recently signed with Berthoud was Loveland Fire Rescue Authority and not Big Thompson Volunteer Fire Department. Dave Adams motioned to approve the December 10, 2014 minutes; Paul Pfeiffer seconded the motion. Motion carried.

City Council updates: Presented by Mayor Cecil Guterrez

- ❖ The Mayor mentioned the Capital Expansion Fee study which was on this agenda for review.

Chief Updates: presented by Fire Chief Mark Miller

- ❖ The Insurance Services Office (ISO) will be here on January 20th to do an evaluation of the department.
- ❖ The Accreditation Process is kicking off and we will be very busy with that process for the next six months.

Rural District Board Updates: presented by Rural Board member Andy Anderson

- ❖ The Rural Board agreed to hiring or asking for an attorney to be on-call for the fire authority board.
- ❖ The Rural Board voted in favor of hiring an outside legal representative so there won't be a conflict of interest between City and Rural and the LFRA.

- ❖ The new aerial truck is getting equipment mounted on it.

Election of Officers: Co-chair Boggio

- ❖ Chair Smela wants to be re-elected as the Chair of FRAC. Paul Pfeiffer nominated him and the commission voted unanimously to re-elect Jon Smela.
- ❖ Paul Pfeiffer nominated Bob Boggio to be the Co-chair of FRAC and the commission unanimously approved.

Capital Expansion Fees: Alan Krcmarik and Janna Raley

- ❖ Janna went over the process laid out in the memo. CEFs cannot be calculated into the current fee structure and they have worked with the city to come up with an agreeable growth projection.
- ❖ They are capturing what the needs might be through 2038.
- ❖ Over 60% of the costs included in the 2038 capital plan are CEF eligible.
- ❖ The traditional period of time to do a major study on CEFs is five years. The growth projections only include the city and does not include growth outside of the city limits.
- ❖ The fees are only charged against new growth.
- ❖ The LFRA Strategic Plan and other city department strategic plans come up with a comprehensive list of expansion items.
- ❖ The Fire Administration Building is at 65% total amount because it is a shared facility – split between fire and general government.
- ❖ The new \$2.8 million fire training campus is shown as 95% fee eligible.
- ❖ \$14.3 million dollars in capital investments is eligible to be part of the fee.
- ❖ Renee is concerned that we would not be collecting the money as it is needed. Using future collections to pay down debt may take three or four years to achieve or accomplish the plan.
- ❖ Alan commented that the fire department has pricey equipment and buildings in the \$4 to \$5 million dollar range and when looking ahead 25 years, if it takes a certain number of years to get the funds generated, that projection could be missed.
- ❖ The Mayor mentioned the current methodology does not take into consideration plans timing; that we do not bill for things until we have collected – he used the Library as an example. He added that it would take a significant change in philosophy and he is not sure if city council will go there.
- ❖ Another city council member and a Loveland Police Department CAB member have similar concerns. It is a major departure from how the city has looked at CEFs in the past.
- ❖ Alan feels that the fire department did a good job strategically placing stations where most needed throughout the city and there has been an improved level of service over the past seven years.
- ❖ Chief Sparks commented that it was not always that way up until about seven years ago. It was the grant money the department received along the way that helped the department improve its level of service; not because of enough funding from city and rural.
- ❖ The Mayor added that this does not take into account that in 2038 you would have all the funding you need in the year 2038 but would need the funds beforehand and finding a way to adjust that.

- ❖ Alan commented that the fire department is where it should be at in comparison to where some of the other departments are at.
- ❖ Based on what Chief Sparks mentioned and looking at the fee structure, Paul wonders if the growth for the fire department over the years has been inadequate.
- ❖ Alan stated that looking at the capital that the fire department has today looks like it has made up a lot of ground in the last 10 years.
- ❖ Chief Miller commented that looking at it in real numbers, it is about \$500,000 less in CEFs for the department annually.
- ❖ The City of Loveland and the Rural District are partners in the fire authority and this has a direct impact in the rural district. The city and rural issue would be that we would have to do a mill levy to raise those funds for the rural district.
- ❖ The Strategic Plan is a good plan for 2017 but this change could throw a huge wrench in the plan for the future of the department.
- ❖ The Mayor commented that all the departments have strategic plans and it does not make sense to ask the departments make a plan and then not be able to implement it.
- ❖ Dave Adams commented that it is a lot like a savings account. This day in age, there are several cities out there that have gone bankrupt – Loveland does not have that problem.
- ❖ Renee commented that this is why the City of Loveland bounced back so well during the recession is because it didn't have the debt that other municipalities have.
- ❖ City Council members and departments around the city were hearing from the building community that the fees were too high a few years ago.
- ❖ Elton asked if there was any indication of growth who might have left because the fees were too high.
- ❖ Alan commented that it was large scale family developments that felt that the fees were too high and took their projects elsewhere.
- ❖ Paul commented that if 100 people in town were asked if growth is inadequate, he does not feel there would be a lot of positive responses. He added that Loveland is a desirable place to live and therefore more expensive to live here.
- ❖ Elton mentioned that when people are looking at living in Johnstown versus living in Loveland, cost is a factor.
- ❖ Co-chair Boggio asked if the commission should make a declaration about what they are feeling. After much input from the commission members this is what they came up with:

FRAC believes in LFRA's 2012 strategic plan, which was adopted by Council, but we are very concerned about the effect of delayed timing on completing the plan fast enough to meet increasing service demand. In addition, the impact to the fire authority's strategic relationship with the rural district is extremely negative. We therefore do not support the proposed change to the 'plan based' CEF method.

- ❖ Paul asked about replacing Fire Station 3 in the future. Chief Ward commented that it would be part of the next Strategic Plan in 2023 or 2025.

FRAC and the Governing Board Alignment: Co-Chair Boggio

- ❖ As the fire authority starts moving away from the city, the commission needs to be aware of what is going on. FRAC was initially established as an appeals board and that responsibility will be given to the LFRA Board. FRAC would be an advisory board to the fire authority.
- ❖ Chief Miller mentioned that this might be a good opportunity to restructure the number of commission members to seven – four city and three rural and drop from nine members. City Council would have to approve that change and dissolve the commission.

- ❖ The Boards and Commissions Summit is coming up on Thursday, February 19th. Chair Smela is attending and Dave voiced interest that he would also like to attend. Chair Smela will review and put together a list of accomplishments for 2014.

Motion to Adjourn: Meeting adjourned at 7:34 P.M.

The next FRAC meeting will be Wednesday, February 11th, 2015 at 5:30 p.m. in the EOC.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Bonnie Wright, Administrative Technician, LFRA.

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