



Loveland Fire Rescue Advisory Commission Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, May 11, 2016, 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 5:32 p.m.

FRAC Present: Chair Jonathan (Jon) Smela, Co-Chair Bob Boggio, Fire Chief Mark Miller, Division Chief Ned Sparks, Division Chief Greg Ward, Paul Pfeiffer, Leo Wotan, Leroy (Andy) Anderson, Elton Bingham, David (Dave) Adams and Bonnie Wright.

FRAC Absent: City Council Representative John Fogle

1. **Minutes approval:** presented by Chair Smela
Chair Smela motioned to approve the April 6, 2016 minutes; Dave Adams and Bob Boggio seconded the motion. Motion carried.
2. **City Council updates:** presented by Chief Mark Miller
 - ❖ There was none.
3. **Chief Updates:** presented by Chief Mark Miller
 - ❖ Tower installed and the digital trunk piece will be installed next. The current tower will come down after the ARES stuff goes up.
 - ❖ Kill the Flashover West is going to be from June 7-9.
 - ❖ Chief Ward commented that KTF is a program that is out of North Carolina and it is being brought out West this year.
 - ❖ There will be an instructor from Germany.
 - ❖ 100 students will be participating in Burns and Learns from nine states and three countries.
 - ❖ Jason Caughey with Laramie County Fire has been part of this group since 2000.
 - ❖ Chief Starck went with this group to North Carolina last year and he encouraged Chief Ward to do this here.
4. **Rural District Board Updates:** presented by Rural Board Member Andy Anderson
 - ❖ July 4th is the annual fireworks show.
 - ❖ Scheel's has broken ground at the 2534.
 - ❖ The City of Loveland and Loveland Fire Rescue Authority participated in Kid's Day in April.

- ❖ Shawn Neal is the new Fire Chief of Big Thompson Canyon Volunteer Fire Department.

5. **Staffing Presentation Continued Discussion** – Chief Miller gave a follow up presentation about the staffing problems that the department has.

- ❖ Chief Miller went over the 2015 Annual Report.
- ❖ The Chief also talked about the Moving Forwards Tour and he is covering it in a series of meetings via Zoom Software on May 9th, 12th and 26th. Some of the topics he is covering is station alerting, construction of the new engine, annexation of the new training area property, the training center burn building and master plan, accreditation, rural apparatus replacement plan, the radio tower, Fire Station 7, mill levies and contract negotiation for city services.
- ❖ At the June LFRA Board Meeting, FRAC members are encouraged to be in attendance at this meeting and it would be a great opportunity for FRAC to interact with the board.
- ❖ A prospective property location is being considered for Fire Station 7.
- ❖ The Loveland/Fort Collins Airport is now called the Northern Colorado Regional Airport.
- ❖ Chief Miller went over additional slides about staffing, definitions, history, problems and analysis.
- ❖ There has been less turnover since the recession ended.
- ❖ Firefighters would like to see the part time firefighter positions go away.
- ❖ The reserve firefighter program is no longer utilized.
- ❖ The department has an on staff psychologist and a wellness program.
- ❖ Firefighter suicide is on the rise and the rate has increased over the past few years.
- ❖ The part time firefighter position has significant limitations. Trained firefighters from other departments who would like to work for LFRA can't because there is not a full time opening that they can apply for.
- ❖ Overtime savings is around \$14,000 going from a part time firefighter to full time.
- ❖ Poudre Fire Authority does not have the same restrictions.
- ❖ The three options FRAC was given is to:
 - ❖ 1. Convert all part time firefighters to full time by January of 2017.
 - ❖ 2. Convert all part time firefighters to full time in January of 2018.
 - ❖ 3. Accelerate three rovers planned for 2019 to be hired in January 2017.
- ❖ Recruiting cost savings are not included in Renee's numbers.
- ❖ Chair Smela asked what is the return on investment with a part time firefighter and if money is being invested, what is the most bang for the buck.
- ❖ Chair Smela added that if they want to move from the minor leagues to the big leagues and if they want to be a world class organization, how does a big league team operate? By having the best trained firefighters, best service level, blue card, etc.
- ❖ Co-chair Boggio pointed out on the matrix to show Poudre Valley Fire Authority who has no part time firefighters and do a cost analysis of what it is costing the department to have part time versus full time – could buy some capital that way.
- ❖ Elton Bingham asked if the department was all full time staffed, would they prefer to hire experienced firefighters versus new firefighters who are green and inexperienced. The Chief commented that when hiring experienced firefighters, there is a huge cost savings there.
- ❖ Paul Pfeiffer suggested about the presentation to clean up the turnover slide or

simplify it to keep the audience's attention.

- ❖ Chair Smela asked if he helps to promote this and the economy gets bad, what is Plan B for staffing to deal with that. Chief Miller commented that they still have three on an engine crew and could cutback the full time inspector position to part time.
- ❖ Chair Smela added that if four-person engine companies are part of a world class organization to start talking about that on the Vision Tour and in the Strategic Plan.
- ❖ Chief Miller will send an invitation to the members for the June 29th LFRA Board Meeting.

6. **Public Comment (If applicable) citizens:** There was no public comment.

Motion to Adjourn: Meeting adjourned at 7:46 P.M.

The June FRAC meeting will be canceled and we will reconvene in July.

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

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