

The Rye Fire Protection District

**MINUTES OF THE RYE FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT BOARD
OF DIRECTORS MEETING**

Regular Meeting April 18, 2012

Present Directors – Mr. Ed Hurtado, Mr. Jeff Oswald, Mr. Gunny Pagnotta, Mr. Garry Melchi

Absent Directors – Mr. Bill Monck

Others – Co-Interim Chief Steve Bennett, Captain Jim Beach, Firefighter Larry Archuleta,
Firefighter Joe Valdez

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:03 p.m. by Mr. Gunny Pagnotta.

Mr. Pagnotta took roll call and introduced the Board Members that were present.

Motion to approve the agenda for the Regular Meeting for April 18, 2012.

Motion:	Mr. Pagnotta
Second:	Mr. Oswald
Aye:	Mr. Hurtado, Mr. Oswald, Mr. Pagnotta, Mr. Melchi
Nay:	None

Public Comments

Mr. Terry Kraus spoke on behalf of the Greenhorn Valley View. He noted that the paper misprinted the time for this Board and apologized for the misprint. Mr. Kraus also noted that Greenhorn Valley View will sponsor a debate on April 29th at the Greenhorn Valley Baptist Church and encouraged people to attend. This starts at 2:30 pm and will be for both upcoming elections in the valley, Colorado City Metro District Board and the Rye Fire Protection District Board.

Mr. Darrel Begnaud spoke to the group. He noted that he was one of the potential Interim Chief Candidates who was interviewed last week. He noted that he was ok that probably nothing else would go forward with him.

**Minutes of March 21, 2012 Regular Meeting
Minutes of April 12, 2012 Special Meeting**

The Rye Fire Protection District

Motion to approve meeting minutes of March 21, 2012 Regular Meeting and April 12, 2012 Special Meeting.

Motion: Mr. Pagnotta
Second: Mr. Oswald
Aye: Mr. Hurtado, Mr. Oswald, Mr. Pagnotta, Mr. Melchi
Nay: None

Treasurers Report

Accounts Receivable Discussion. Co-Interim Chief Bennett noted that the CSFS (Colorado State Forest Service) still owes about \$50,000, that he is still balancing some individuals, and that it appears that Rye Fire still owes about \$150,000 towards interagency wages.

Motion to approve accounts receivable for March 2012.

Motion: Mr. Pagnotta
Second: Mr. Melchi
Aye: Mr. Hurtado, Mr. Oswald, Mr. Pagnotta, Mr. Melchi
Nay: None

Accounts Payable Discussion. It was noted that expenses were up because of high call volume. It was also noted that there was a considerable expense for repairs to Chief's truck and will be on next month's bills. There was a problem with the engine which basically destroyed the engine. It was noted that that there will be probably no more expenses towards this vehicle.

Motion to approve accounts payable for March 2012.

Motion: Mr. Pagnotta
Second: Mr. Oswald
Aye: Mr. Hurtado, Mr. Oswald, Mr. Pagnotta, Mr. Melchi
Nay: None

Fire Chief's Report

Statistics. In the Month of March 2012, Rye Fire responded to 84 calls for service of which 67 were EMS related and 17 were fire related. In comparison with previous year this is a 48% increase from 2011 and a 34% increase from the five year average of 55.

Prevention. Rye Fire staff provided tours for local boy scouts at the fire station in Colorado City. These tours include inside the station along with the apparatus.

March 25, 2012 the fire danger was elevated to high throughout the District. Low RH, lack of significant moisture and increasing temperatures were some of the factor taken into consideration for the change.

The Rye Fire Protection District

Major Events. I25 Hazmat Incident. On April 14, 2012 Rye Fire responded to a motor vehicle accident involving a semi-truck hauling gasoline. The truck sustained significant damage. Colorado State Patrol hazardous materials unit was notified as this was their jurisdiction. Incident was mitigated without injuries or damage to property.

Co-Interim Chief Bennett note that there was no issues responding to high call volume with current staff.

Interim Chief Position

Mr. Gunny Pagnotta noted that after an exhaustive search and interview process, utilizing an external committee of current and former chiefs with over 100 years combined experience; this board had originally determined Mr. Darrel Begnaud to be the top selection for the position of interim chief. After closer evaluation of Mr. Begnaud's qualifications, this board has determined to forego installation of a chief at this time. It is obvious to this board that acting Interim Chief Steve Bennett is doing a fine job of leading the department. It is our hope that with the upcoming election, the five new board members to be seated in May will consider the process which has been undergone, look carefully at Mr. Begnaud as a candidate, consider all available options, and move ahead in the most positive direction for this community and its best interest.

Ed Hurtado noted that Mr. Begnaud was rated extremely high by the Interview Committee and we would be highly lucky to have this man. There was a second candidate, Steve Bennett, who was highly recommended. It was the Interview Committee's suggestion that Mr. Begnaud be the Chief and mentor Mr. Bennett. Ed concluded by saying that these were his opinions.

Garry Melchi noted to Mr. Begnaud that it was his opinion that the Chief that comes in now needs to be have the qualifications now and that he was not EMT Basic qualified. This would limit ability to respond on call. Garry noted that Mr. Bennett currently meets all of the requirements. Garry noted to the community that the reason he did not run for the Board was the potential for nepotism that started the problem several years ago. Mr. Melchi apologized to the community for not running. Mr. Melchi asked that the new Board closely consider Mr. Bennett for the Chief's position when they take seat and not bring in any individual agendas.

Mr. Shultz asked if any of the candidates went through a background check. Mr. Beach noted that all of the candidates were asked to provide basic information, at the request of the Board, prior to interviews. After the Board voted on Mr. Begnaud at the last meeting, the process was started on him and the other names were purged from the system. The entire process takes about a week. Now that the Board has decided not to pursue Mr. Begnaud any further, the process will be stopped. There will be a charge for Mr. Begnaud.

Mr. Bob Cook thanked the Board for their reconsideration in this matter.

Mr. Shaiberger noted that SARA, the former fire department dog, is currently on a Search and Rescue Team in Silt Colorado.

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New Business

None

Board Correspondence

None.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn was made at 7:38 p.m.

Motion:	Mr. Pagnotta
Second:	Mr. Melchi
Aye:	Mr. Hurtado, Mr. Oswald, Mr. Pagnotta, Mr. Melchi
Nay:	None

Dated this 18th day of April 2012.



Submitted by Jim Beach, Captain