

**The Rye Fire Protection District**

**MINUTES OF THE RYE FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT BOARD  
OF DIRECTORS MEETING**  
Regular Meeting March 21, 2012

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

Absent Directors – None

Others – Co-Interim Chief Zane Owens, Co-Interim Chief Steve Bennett, Captain Jim Beach, Firefighter Sid Swartwood

**Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Mr. Gunny Pagnotta.

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

Mr. Pagnotta read the Rye Fire Protection District Statement of Conduct for Attendees at Board Meetings.

Motion to approve the agenda for the Regular Meeting for March 21, 2012.

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

**Public Comments**

Mr. Schultz noted that on Friday evening, there was an emergency where a horse had thrown its riders. Rye Fire Ambulance showed up promptly, treated and transported two (2) individuals. Mr. Schultz thanked Zane Owens for his actions along with the other persons in the crew. The other individuals were identified as Ross Marsh and Joe Valdez. The board also recognized the crew for their efforts.

**Minutes of February 15, 2012 Regular Meeting**  
**Minutes of February 22, 2012 Special Meeting**  
**Minutes of March 5, 2012 Special Meeting**

## The Rye Fire Protection District

Motion to approve meeting minutes of February 15 2012 Regular Meeting, February 22 2012 Special Meeting, and March 5 2012 Special Meeting.

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

### Treasurers Report

Accounts Receivable Discussion. Mr. Monck noted that about \$257,000 was received from the CSFS (Colorado State Forest Service and asked about the balance that is still due Rye Fire. Co-Interim Chief Bennett noted that there is some still due and that he is still balancing the account. He noted that he will have a good idea regarding the balance by the April meeting.

Motion to approve accounts receivable for February 2012.

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

Accounts Payable Discussion. None.

Motion to approve accounts payable for February 2012.

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

### Fire Chief's Report

Statistics. In the month of February 2012, Rye Fire responded to 45 calls for service of which 34 were EMS related and 11 were fire related. In comparison with previous year this is a 27% increase from 2011 and a 17% increase from the five year average of 38.

Employee Changes. Mid February 2012 Rye Fire Protection District encountered significant personnel changes.

Through this process Rye Fire has been able to adequately respond to emergencies throughout the District as well as provide Mutual Aid to Pueblo County Emergency Services.

## **The Rye Fire Protection District**

We have hired additional part-time employees. We currently have 6 Paramedics, 3 Intermediates for a total of 9 ALS responders and the remaining 7 are EMT's providing a total active roster of 16 employees.

Prevention. Rye Fire personnel participated with fire drills at Rye Elementary School and Craver Middle School.

Major Events. Waco Mish Fire. On March 3, 2012 Rye Fire responded to a structure fire on Waco Mish. A male party was rescued from the burning home as he was trapped and unconscious; he was taken to a Pueblo hospital and flown to Denver. The fire was extinguished.

Burnt Mill Road Fire. March 3, 2012 Pueblo County requested mutual aid assistance for a structure fire on Burnt Mill Road. Rye Fire responded with Water Tender 12.

## **Old Business**

### **East / West Hatchet Inclusion Update**

Ms. Eiland noted the Board had delegated the handling of the election to the Pueblo County Clerk and Recorder. Due to a number of reasons, Pueblo County has declined to conduct the election. Mr. Steve Bennett will work with Ms. Eiland to conduct the election.

### **Election Update**

Motion to designate Mr. Steve Bennett as the Designated Election Official for the East and West Hatchet Ranch Inclusion election.

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

## **New Business**

### **Sterling InfoSystems**

Mr. Jim Beach noted at the request of the Board, Rye Fire contacted our insurance carrier who works closely with Sterling InfoSystems for background checks. All new and existing employees will undergo a criminal background check, driver's license check, social security check, workman's compensation check, and drug screening. The board needs to approve this company in order to initiate this program. This company was recommended by our insurance carrier, VFIS. This company will handle the necessary paperwork to stay in compliance. The estimated cost per person is \$60-70 per person plus drug screening. Sterling is worldwide and currently does all checks for Denver Fire, Denver Police and Denver County Sheriff.

## The Rye Fire Protection District

### Transitional Employee Bonus

Motion to provide bonuses for those employees's who worked during the transition as a thank you during this period. Fire fighter bonus will be \$250 per person for five (5) and Command Staff will be \$500 per person for three (3). Total bonus amount is \$2,750 will be on the next pay cycle.

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

### Station Flag Poles

Mr. Ed Hurtado noted that he received a price of about \$1,000 per station per flag pole. This was tabled until more bids are received.

### Interim Chief / Employee Update

Discussion to adjust the current interim chief's salaries retroactive to February 15, 2012.

Motion to adjust the current interim chief's salaries based upon the difference between the former chief's salary and the current salary and adjusts the difference to the mid-point. The hourly employee adjustment will be based upon the former chief's salary broken down to the hourly rate.

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

Interim Chief Search. It was noted that there are seven (7) applications for consideration. One option was for a three (3) person review committee do the interviews and make recommendations to the Board. This committee would consist of regional Fire Department Officers. The other option would be for the board to conduct the interview.

Motion to form a three (3) person review committee to conduct interviews, rank the applicants and then make a recommendation to the Board.

Motion: Mr. Pagnotta  
Second: Mr. Hurtado  
Aye: Mr. Hurtado, Mr. Monck, Mr. Oswald, Mr. Pagnotta  
Nay: Mr. Melchi

### Sterling InfoSystems

## The Rye Fire Protection District

It was noted that no motion was made earlier regarding this item. Therefore the board moved back to this item. The cost was noted to be around \$75 including drug screening. All employees will undergo the same screening process.

Motion to use Sterling InfoSystems to conduct background checks and drug screening for current and existing employees.

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

### Board Correspondence

None.

### Adjournment

Motion to adjourn was made at 7:59 p.m.

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

Dated this 21<sup>st</sup> day of March 2012.



Submitted by Jim Beach, Captain