

# Crystal Lakes Fire Protection District

(970)881-3521

## Board of Directors

Minutes For June 16, 2011  
Wapiti Center– 7:00 P.M.

**Meeting was called to order at 7:02pm**

**In Attendance:** Sherry Alexander, Dan Defibaugh, Shirla Race, Ray Williams and Fire Chief Marian Kelly

**Absent: (excused) None**

**District Members in attendance:** Ten (10)

**Agenda:** Shirla moved to accept the agenda. Dan seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

**Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting(s):** The revised January, February, March and April minutes were provided to Board members for review. Shirla Race asked that the reported monies in the January 21, 2011 minutes be verified. All Board members were asked to be prepared at the July meeting to approve the revised minutes.

**President's Report:** Ray accepted Herb Cooper's resignation with regret and expressed appreciation to Herb for all his work as Secretary of the CLFPD Board. Ray reported that Don Hass, a property owner in Pearl Creek Estates Beaver Meadows, has been working with Larimer County to obtain an exemption from the county regulation to install fire sprinklers in his new home. Larimer County indicated that they would need approval for an exemption from the CLFPD. Mr. Hass has requested approval from the CLFPD Board of his written request for dispensation of the sprinkler requirement to Larimer County. Dan Defibaugh moved to grant a waiver for the Larimer County requirement to install sprinklers. Ray seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Dan Hass has indicated an interest in being a member of the CLFPD Board.

The Board discussed waiver issues and the Board's position to encourage property owners to have sprinklers to protect the safety of individual homes and the surrounding forest. The Board will discuss a CLFPD policy to follow county requirements unless property owner obtains a waiver.

Ray asked the Board to finalize the discussion about changing the district attorney. After much discussion, the Board decided to retain their current attorney.

Bob Nauroth expressed his regret for the need to resign from the CLVFD and is willing to offer his help.

**Secretary's Report:** No formal report.

**Treasurer's Report:** Shirla Race passed out copies of May and June treasurer reports including income and expenses. She also provided a copy of the checks issued. John

Lang's memorial donations currently equal \$ 1,125. Shirla reported that she has received the Larimer County interest correction and that is reflected in the treasurer report. Sherry moved to accept May and June treasurer reports. Dan seconded and motion passed unanimously.

Shirla advised all Board members to begin reviewing the CLVFD Budget. The Board will need to begin preparing the draft for 2012 Annual Budget in September.

Ray reported as part of the Service Improvement Committee, Patty Watkins suggested the cost for a structural analysis by an engineer would be about \$500. Shirla advised because it could be covered by a current line item Building Upgrade and Repair and that cost could be expensed without a motion.

**Fire Department Report:** Marian Kelly provided copies of the Fire Department Report to all Board members. Her report is attached to these minutes.

The CLVFD has voted to approve the use of their new frequency to the Crystal Association staff and request approval of the CLFPD for this action. Dan moved to approve allowing the Crystal Lake Association staff to share the new frequency. Sherry seconded and motion passed unanimously.

Marian shared her concerns about recent fire disasters, weather conditions and the conditions of the forest in and around Crystal Lakes causing so much slash. She requested the CLFPD Board reconsider its policy about permitting slash burning anywhere in the district. She will make sure the department gets direction from Larimer County about current regulations and will obtain "No Slash Burning" signs. Sherry moved that burning of slash piles on any lot within the CLFPD will be prohibited. Shirla seconded and motion passed unanimously.

Doug Race, CLVFD Training Officer will be working with Boyd Lebeda of the Colorado State Forest Service to design a class schedule.

**Firewise:** Jody Sandquist, the CLVFD Safety Officer reported on the June CWPP meeting. CLVFD members who attended the meeting were herself, Doug Race, and Jeanette Williams. Don Watkins, Tony Simon, Diana Selby along with department members reviewed the current CWPP plan and possible future efforts. Crystal Lakes was first in Colorado to establish a Firewise/CWPP program.

She reported a lightning strike on the north side of Black Mountain. All department members need to be aware and vigilant tomorrow if a fire develops. Larimer County, Eric Nuson warned of the flood danger building again on the Poudre. Jody advised everyone to be aware of the danger near Crystal Lakes streams because of the high water levels.

**Grants:** No report

### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**Discussion regarding Attorney selection:** Resolved as part of the President's Report.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

**As the Board Desires:** Doug Race reported that the SIC's goal is to improve emergency response and develop programs to that goal. The Service Improvement Committee, SIC, requests that the CLFPD recognize their new committee name.

**Comments by Attending Public:** Helen Bowlin presented to Michelle Lang the CLVFD shirt signed by department and district members. Michelle and John's family were very touched and appreciative. Helen reported she has had requests for about \$100 worth of shirts from Michelle and John's family and friends.

Jeanette Williams reported that CL FIRES is continuing its efforts to complete the CL FIRES Bylaws and the IRS 1023 Application for tax exemption. The volunteer committee has met to finalize the 4<sup>th</sup> of July Family Fun Day activities and will continue to sign up volunteers.

**Set or confirm next Board meeting date:** July 21, 2011

**Adjournment:** Dan Defibaugh moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:25 pm. Shirla Race seconded, the motion passed unanimously.

Submitted by  
Jeanette Williams  
Temporary Recording Secretary

# Crystal Lakes Volunteer Fire Department

237 Blackfoot Rd, Red Feather Lakes, CO 80545  
(970) 881-3521

June 15, 2011  
Fire Department Report

1. Department Activity since April 21st board meeting:
  - 2 business meetings
  - 7 department trainings (includes 2 EMS trainings with Red Feather, and 1 joint fire training with Red Feather)
  - 3 medical calls
  - 1 motor vehicle accident with injuries
  - 1 smoke report (turned out to be slash kiln burn)
  - 1 false alarm (smoke/fire alarm in house triggered by thunderstorm)
  
2. Report on Engine 3 – Alan Sagert has now signed and picked up the Bill of Sale.
  
3. Report on FEMA Grant –
  - Repeater Tower & Private Frequency
    - CLFPD has received Crystal Lakes Road & Recreation Board approval of the addition of a repeater tower to the fire station.
    - Dave Rowe of Larimer County is arranging to get us the radio frequency.
    - Request for Proposals/Bids have gone out to five companies and a pre-proposal meeting held to which three of the companies sent representatives. There are currently two RFPs out – one for the repeater tower and one to install radios with pump-panel headsets in four of our apparatus. The deadline for response for both RFPs is end of business June 22<sup>nd</sup>. Dave Rowe has offered to look at the proposals we receive to advise us on the best one to accept, which recommendation I will forward, along with all proposals, to the board. In the interests of getting work started as soon as possible, I am requesting that a phone or email poll of board members be considered, to accept a proposal before the next board meeting.
    - Training – Doug Race is working with Boyd Lebeda of the Colorado State Forest Service to design a class schedule.
  
4. Private Frequency – The members of the fire department have voted to offer daily use of the new frequency to the Crystal Lakes Associations staff. This will allow for easy, unbroken communication between the department and the Association staff during emergencies. The department requests board approval for this action.
  
5. Personnel – As you know, John Lang passed away in early May. His energy and enthusiasm will be greatly missed by all department members.

Mike Schrodtt has been appointed to fill out the remainder of John's term as Assistant Chief. Our thanks to him for taking on this new responsibility.
  
6. Slash burns – Historically, the Crystal Lakes Road & Recreation Association has prohibited slash burns on private lots. As this is a Road & Recreation Association regulation, it applies only to lots within the Association. Crystal Lakes Fire Protection District covers a larger area, and the burning of slash has been permitted in Elk Ridge, Pearl Creek, Poudre Meadows, and Beaver Meadows according to Larimer County burn regulations.

Recently, pressure has been placed on the R&R Association to allow burning on individual lots. When asked to weigh in as fire chief, I have strongly advocated against this, as I believe it is a dangerous practice that may result in an uncontrolled wildfire. Although I have approved burn permits in the previously mentioned outlying properties (eight over the past two winters), I am not comfortable that our district can confirm that property owners are meeting the level of caution and safety required to reasonably reduce or eliminate the likelihood of a wildfire occurring. To my knowledge, there have been at least two incidents within the past six years – one where the property owner used their slash pile to burn trash, including furniture; and one where the slash burn escaped, but was stopped by CLVFD & the Larimer County Hotshots before it did much damage.

Under the circumstances, I believe that it is now time for the fire district to review its options and determine whether the burning of slash should be permitted anywhere in the district.

Respectfully submitted,

Marian Kelly  
Fire Chief  
Crystal Lakes Volunteer Fire Department