

Los Pinos Fire Protection District Regular Board Meeting

February 10, 2025

Regular Board meeting called to order at 6:00 p.m.

Roll call: Preston Rea, Chelsea Hamilton, James Brown, Tom Arthur, Don Woodmansee, Jim Owens, Josh Lorenzen, Scot Davis, and Laura Rodriquez.

A motion was made to approve the minutes for January 13, 2025, board meeting, seconded and approved.

A motion was made to pay the bills, seconded, and approved.

Public comment: None.

The engagement letter with MBE for the audit was signed by the President and Fire Chief.

Oxford Grange: Tom will get an address for the attorney to send the proposed lease amendment to.

Chief Lorenzen for Chief Owens:

Equipment: We are setting up to get the box removed off the ambulance.

Dispatch: We are moving forward with transferring over to central dispatch, which will be in April. We met with their director, operational manager, IT and GIS. We have another meeting with central dispatch on Thursday morning. We did give official notice to the tribe that we were transferring services.

Chief Davis:

Development Program: We officially changed the name of the volunteer program to the Development Team. We have two that are signed off as NEMT's. We have 10 members and are capping it at 10. We just do not have a lot of extra gear. Captain Fischer is working on a grant for turnout gear to submit this year. The members have put in 142 shift hours in January, and 75 hours of training. We had three drone flights at fires on an uncontrollable control burn and miscellaneous starts.

Fire Chiefs Report:

We are at 304 responses, which is a little above last year's.

P&L: A couple of things to point out under the property tax revenue we received payments from La Plata and Archuleta which was around the amount we were short and the majority of the amount in grant revenue is the payment from the DOLA gaming impact grant. We do not have reimbursement for the ambulance yet. We are waiting for a document from one of the vendors and then we will submit the reimbursement. The salaries are a little higher than normal. We sent a wildland crew to California in January.

We typically have been reimbursed for all wildland fires by this time, but we have over \$530,000 of wildland revenue from last year that we have been paid for.

Wildland: The two engine bosses will be starting at the end of the month. The Four Corners Wildland Academy is coming up in March.

We are not the only agency that has not been reimbursed, and we are all questioning what is going on at the state. A couple of weeks ago Congressman Hurd was here and we wanted the representatives to hear our concerns because there are a lot of smaller Districts that are relying on that revenue to be reimbursed.

Legislative Updates: The State Chiefs are monitoring a bunch of bills. The ground ambulance bill is the one that we have been trying to get passed that will help with getting insurance carriers to increase reimbursements for ambulance services. The other one is on the federal side. We are currently getting 50% reimbursement for Medicaid, and they want to reduce this to 41%. We are currently fighting this at the state level. A couple of years ago there was a bill passed to provide community paramedicine but there is a sunset clause built into that, and that funding is supposed to go away in September. In the future, it will probably be something we will pick up to help fund the ambulance service for the organization.

A motion was made to go into executive session to discuss a negotiation matter as authorized per (e)24-6-402(4)(e), C.R.S., Determining positions relative to matters that may be subject to negotiations developing strategy for negotiations; and instructing negotiators regarding the Southern Ute Tribe, seconded and approved

6:43 Executive Session

7:34 Regular Session

The meeting was adjourned at 7:38

Minutes approved by _____, President.

Preston Rea

March 10, 2025, Regular board meeting at 6:00 p.m. Station#1, 275 Browning Avenue, Ignacio, CO