

## **DIXON VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT MONTHLY TEAM MEETING 09/01/2021**

Meeting held at Station 1 and Zoom. Called to order 19:01

**Members Present:** Kathy Miller, Steve Jenison, Adam Mackie, Ron Monsour, Eloise Martinez, Liz Riedel, Mick Oram, Wayne Archuleta, Frances Griego, Alex Amend, Windy Berghofer, Aaron Greenwald, Maggie Hart, Amanda Sena, Micaela Martinez, Destini Pacheco, Gilbert (Gilly) Valdez.

**Public comment** – Randy Sanches, an EMT-Paramedic, who will be soon be announcing his run for Sheriff of Rio Arriba County, was present at the meeting. He would like to make some positive changes to the department and was asking what some of our concerns and ideas are so that we could integrate efforts and work better together. The gentlemen he has chosen to run as undersheriff is also a Paramedic who is well known by the community. His name is Siri Khalsa. Randy stated he would like to make the Sheriff's Office the Department of Public Safety. He would like to have all Sheriff Deputies have some fundamental EMS training. To work closely with social workers especially when incidents involve mental health, domestic violence, and overdose patients. The department will work closely with CIT programs which is training for law enforcement that that teaches them to deal with mental health patients and to learn to de-escalate mental health crisis. He offered our department scenario-based training with law enforcement officers such as active shooter scenario which all members were very interested.

- Adam Mackie/Asst. Chief/Chief Safety officer stated he would like more shared protocols and procedures for management of highway incidents specifically for vehicle positioning and traffic control.
- Steve Jenison/Chief stated he would like to have a clearer incident command structure on scenes where working together. To have clearer lines of communications and consistency and to have us all operating on compatible radio frequencies. Intercommunication should be more consistent and structured.
- Adam recommended that the 911 system be enhanced so that callers could also text message in case of an emergency. This is important because 90% of all 911 calls are made from cell phones. So if you are deaf, unable to speak, in a kidnap situation or domestic abuse scenario it would be very helpful to be able to text. He recently drove past an active fire in Velarde and was unable to call 911, therefore had to message Steve so that Steve could call 911 and relay the incident. This has been mandated by the FCC twenty years ago that all 911 centers have text messaging capability. Currently no counties in New Mexico have this capability.
- Steve stated better communication and coordination between Taos County and Rio Arriba County for incidents that are right on the borders.
- Alex Amend spoke of the many dangers in driving through the canyon. What can be done to prevent these serious accidents?
- Eloise Martinez recommended that SR 68 through the canyon be made a safety corridor. Randy stated this has to be done by State Legislature and is more of an enforcement issue. Studies have shown that in areas that have been posted as safety corridors it has greatly reduced the number of serious accidents.

Steve introduced our new Junior Cadets who will be sworn in tonight as members of the DVFD, Micaela Martinez, Destini Pacheco, and Gilly Valdez. All three Junior Cadets are enrolled in our EMT-First Responder class beginning later this month in Velarde.

Agenda approved. August 2021 meeting minutes approved.

### **Officer Reports**

#### **Rescue Chief – Amanda Sena**

13 EMS calls in August. Specific EMS calls were discussed by the Membership.

#### **Fire Marshal Report – Ron Monsour**

Two Fire calls this month. One fire was a false alarm. The call was a prescribed burn. The other fire near the apple warehouse in Velarde was called in by Adam Mackie (who is deaf) who had to text Steve Jenison so that Steve could call 911, since we do not have the capability to text message 911.

## **Deputy Chief/Safety Officer – Adam Mackie**

Adam conveyed the importance of confidentiality to our new cadets. Emergency calls and review of calls whether EMS, Fire or MVC's are not to be discussed with anyone out of the DVFD. If you have questions or inquiries, ask any of the officers or other member of the DVFD and we will get you an answer.

We have received 5 new oxygen cylinders (D cylinders) and they have been relocated.

In regard to safety, there was one MVC single motorcycle in which Adam went over safety protocols necessary to keep the scene safe.

### **Scheduled Training:**

- September 8 – 6:30 PM Maintenance of tools and equipment.
- September 12 - 1:00 PM Extrication
- September 15 – 6:30 Practical recruit training, ladders and forcible entries.

## **Chief Report – Steven Jenison**

We now have a pediatric pulse oximeter probe that plugs into the Zoll Monitor and adhesive tape sensors for pediatric patients.

Our department has agreed to pay the tuition for individuals taking the EMT -First Responder course and have not been able to get affiliated with a volunteer fire department. The county has approved payment for the tuition for Frances, Gilly, Micaela and Destini.

We welcomed our Junior Cadets, Micaela Martinez, Destini Pacheco and Gilly Valdez who were voted in unanimously and sworn in. They are allowed to participate in trainings and meetings. They are not allowed to participate on any EMS, MVC or fire calls.

Steve is going to try to work on getting the cadets permission to answer calls as EMR's once licensed.

Steve advised the cadets that they are required to get their photo IDs from the county. Steve provided them with a link to the Rio Arriba County Fire & Emergency Services Bylaws for their review.

Currently the EMT first responder course is fully enrolled with 24 students and 2 on the waiting list. Since the class is fully enrolled the tuition goes down from \$780.00 per person to \$390.00 per person. The class will be held on Monday and Thursday evenings, starting on Sept. 23 through December 13.

Steve invited anyone who is interested to assist and is qualified to be a proctor the help would be greatly appreciated.

Currently the status of the grant with the State Fire Marshall's office for new apparatus is moving forward. Steve reminded Vince Lawing we need the quote for the purchase of the Initial Attack apparatus which can also serve as a command vehicle. We are allowed to ask for \$300,000.00. Vince stated it would come in less than that. The grant is due on Sept. 15, 2021. Grant is written just waiting on specs, quote and signature so it can be submitted.

NM EMS bureau has issued an RFP for special projects grants for EMS. This can include county-wide or department specific projects. We can apply for more than one in different categories. The grants are due Nov. 12, 2021. One suggestion would be that we provide more readily and flexible EMS training and education in Rio Arriba County. Steve proposed as a county wide grant that we should have a mobile EMS education and training program which would include having equipment to teach EMS skills throughout the county.

The second proposal would be a department specific grant to apply for electrical extrication tools. Adam recommended we include the specs of these items be included on the initial attack apparatus so that Vince knows to allow storage for these tools.

Steve will write the grant for the mobile EMS education program. Alex Amend offered to write the grant for the electrical extrication tools.

Steve has been in contact with a woman who maintains the water resource maps for ISO. She sent an electronic document which shows ISO's perception of our water resources situation to date. ISO is an organization that rates fire departments for the purposes of insurance companies so that they can determine the cost for fire insurance.

In Dixon we have a total of 12 creditable fire hydrants throughout the community. There are a total of 8 hydrants located in Canoncito, on SR 580 but these hydrants are not currently creditable. Steve inquired if we could make these hydrants creditable. Windy stated the hydrant has to be able to supply at a minimum of 250 gallons of water per minute for 2 hours which is at total of

30,000 gallons. The problem is with the water tanks which do not hold enough water to support what is needed. If we were to use these hydrants, we would drain out their water supply possibly collapsing the system. The system in Canoncito is not at this time able to be creditable without community permission and water tank changes. Steve recommended we meet with the water board and the community to see if changes or recommendations could be made.

Mick Oram went over the various locks that could be used for the station. His recommendation is to purchase some he found at Lowes. The locks he is recommending are very similar to the locks we have now at Station 1 and Station 2 and are easy to install. The only difference is that when the doors close, they will automatically lock every time. He will notify Steve once he has looked at them and feels they will meet our needs.

Steve stated we need to construct something we can use to install the feather burn ban flags at Station 1, Station 2 and at the entrance to junction 75 and 580. Recommendation was made to fill a five-gallon bucket 2/3 full with cement set a pipe in the five gallon bucket. The flags could then be installed and mobile.

Adam stated it would be a good time to start reminding the public to clean their chimneys before the cold weather gets here to avoid fires. Steve stated that it is important for us to make progress in the areas of fire prevention and community education activities since these are important to our ISO rating. Steve advised we would benefit from the development of a strategic plan for these activities, and he invited members of the Department to participate in these activities. He recommended they could get together with the women in Velarde who is in charge of their Fire Wise Grant and Delilah Jaramillo who is the Fire Wise Coordinator for Rio Arriba County obtain information on how to get a Fire Wise grant in place. Kathy suggested and will set up a meeting among officers to come up with a plan.

Meeting adjourned 20:36