



# Enchanted Circle Regional Fire Protection Association

## Meeting Minutes October 4<sup>th</sup> 2021

### Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 1804 by Chairman Cordova.

In attendance were: Chairman Mike Cordova, Vice-Chair Clayton Coss, Secretary, James Hampton, Bonnie Driskell, Russ Driskell, jona olsson, Kevin Henson, Craig Sime, Jim DeCastro, Robert Molina, and Stephan Pace.

### Agenda Approved or Amended & Approved:

A motion to approve the agenda was made by Chief olsson and seconded by Chief Henson. All were in favor, the motion did pass.

### Minutes Approved or Amended & Approved:

A motion was made by James Hampton to approve the last two sets of meeting minutes, Chief Pace seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion did pass.

### Guests:

No guests were present for the meeting.

### Reports (Around the Screen):

Angel Fire FD: Busy month, in a 33 hour period they had 13 calls. This was a record for AFFD. The second out engine and tender will not pump, they will be relaying on mutual aid to assist with fires.

San Cristobal FD: Had one reported car fire, no fire upon arrival. Also assisted with a fatal MVC in the Hondo Seco Dist.

Latir FD: Fairly busy, mostly EMS calls with one rescue of a lost 3 y/o child. The child was located quickly.

Rio Fernando FD: Fairly busy, one bicycle wreck on the South Boundary trail. Due to lack of resources bystanders were utilized to assist with the removal of the Pt.

SBR FD: Slow, mutual assist to a structure fire that was canceled en route.

Taos Ski Valley FD: Not very busy, several ems calls, elevator rescue, and a back county rescue. They are also dealing with the Ski Valley and National Forest Service conducting pile burns. They are attempting to burn 1000 piles over the next week or two. They did have to respond to a small wildland fire (200 Sq feet) as a result of those pile burns.

Taos County FM: Not much to report, did assist with a origin and cause determination with Town of Taos FD.

Red River FD: Steady not very busy. Will receive the new class A pumper around the middle of the month.

Wheeler Peak FD: Not very busy, they are looking into purchasing land for a new main station in the upper valley.

Taos County Fire Admin: Not much to report, fairly busy month for the districts.

Questa FD: Steady with EMS calls.

### Old Business:

No old business to report.

## New Business:

### Item A: New Mexico Fire Chief's Association – Presented by Kevin Henson

The fire grant received around 51 million dollars in requites with only 21 million available for grants. There was a discussion about finding additional funding to help fund all of the projects but it was unclear if that would become a reality. They also discussed the state of the NM state fire academy. NM State Fire Marshal reported that all but one of the instructors had quit and they were in the process of revising the pay for adjunct instructors to help fill the spots open. A conversation was also had about moving trainings out into the rest of the State instead of just being in Socorro. There was a lot of interest and willingness to discuss classes outside of the main campus. It was also implied that there may be funding becoming available in the near future for fire depts. to improve their trainings. The IFSAC was also brought up and the lack of progress from the State Fire Academy to provide the trainings. Overall pressure was placed on the academy to begin to improve its performance. Kevin Henson was appointed to the board of directors for the NM Chief's Association.

It was also mentioned that there may be a fund returning to the EMS Bureau to reinstate the EMS Fund act. This would come from legislation in the upcoming year.

Following the presentation Mike Cordova brought up the point that the stipend amount for the Fire Grant was not a fair process for County Fire Dept.'s. Currently a county as a whole can only apply for a single \$ 25,000 grant, in comparison to municipality which can apply for the full \$ 25,000. He will discuss this so that individual dept.'s can apply for the grant instead of a county wide grant. For this year each Dept. that applied for the stipend will receive the funding.

John Kondratick did ask Mike if the County had land for a possible training facility to assist with getting trainings in northern NM. They are trying to see if the Mini- Academy can be accredited as the practical portion of the Firefighter I. If so then students will have the option to complete the online portion of the class and then test for their FF I. If that is not possible they will look at building a facility at the Cerro FD station to be able to teach classes.

### Item B: Taos Ski Valley Burn Piles-

The Taos Ski Valley INC and the Carson National Forest Service are partnering to burn around 1000 piles to reduce the fire fuels in and around the Williams lake trail. On Wednesday TSV FD did respond to a report of a spreading fire that was caused by the pile burn. The fire had a very low spread potential, however due to the visibility to the community the fire was extinguished.

## Training:

### Item A: Mini-Academy AAR-

Mike Cordova: Overall it was a very good year; we will continue to look for base course to improve the grounds over the year. Also we will continue to improve the grounds. Some adjustments will need to be made to accommodate the FF I class. We were able to hand out several awards at the conclusion of the academy and they were well received. He wanted to thank Gabe Romero for implementing the deacon after entry into the building.

Clayton Coss: The need for instructors is high, 2 instructors ended up teaching 4 of the 5 sessions. The new water system worked very well. Thanked everyone for all the help getting the ground cleaned up and ready. Alfred from Kit Carson Electric will get us some new power meters and shut off switches to replace the old broken ones at the training grounds.

Craig Sime: Overall went very well. Need to continue to improve and get better. Next year additional safeties will be needed to assist with lighting the burn prop. If we could add another burn prop for the second story that would be nice.

Russ/Bonnie Driskell: We have reached our goal of producing a functional firefighter, what is the next step/phase 2? How can we move towards teaching a class that will meet the requirements of FF I? 18 firefighters graduated from this year's academy. In total since 2001, 430 firefighters from 27 fire departments have been trained through the Mini-Academy.

James Hampton: The addition of utility control to VEIS worked very well. There is a need for some classroom based training required to graduate the academy such as two evenings prior to the academy to teach fire theory. The new burn prop worked very well after we played with it and figured it out.

Stephan Pace: Overall a good academy. The candidate from SCFD had a great time. It's nice to have this so close to home.

Jim DeCastro: Agreed that having a classroom portion would be beneficial.

Robert Molina: Did not get much feedback from the members that attended. He will try and get them to help out next year.

jona olsson: Apologies for not being able to assist. Agreed that classroom work would be a good addition.

Kevin Henson: Would be willing to help with next year's academy. His members that took the academy for feedback and they had all positive things to say.

### **Announcements:**

Item A: Mike will be in Santa Fe next week as a member of the Fire Grant Council.

Item B: On Oct 22<sup>nd</sup> there will be a slash burning class geared towards home owners. The training will be at the SBR fire station.

Item C: Curative COVID test site in Questa this coming Friday the 8th at the Alta Vista School from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm. This is open to the public and first responders.

Item D: The Taos County Rescue truck is nearing completion and Mike and James will be going out Oct 24<sup>th</sup> through the 26<sup>th</sup> to do the final inspection. The Truck should arrive in early November.

Item D: TSV FD was approved to hire 3 part time positons to assist the dept. during the busy seasons.

Item E: Wheeler Peak FD is looking to purchase a piece of land to build a new station in the upper valley.

Item F: Angel Fire FD used waterway for hose testing and the experience was great, there was a rumor about subpar work being done in the past but Chief Henson had no negative comments about the work done.

### **Action Items:**

Item A: Mike and James will begin to work on an outline for a classroom portion to add to the Mini-Academy. They will bring it back to the group once completed.

### **Meeting Review:**

All reported a good meeting.

### **Next Meeting:**

November 1<sup>st</sup> via Zoom at 1800

### **Adjournment:**

A motion was made to adjourn was made by Russ and seconded by James, all were in favor and the motion did pass. Meeting adjourned at 1852.