

## **FRIENDS OF TWIN LAKES-AUGUST 24, 2014 MEETING**

Board members in attendance: John Kester, President, Anita Mason, Vice-President/Treasurer, Kelly Sweeney, Secretary, Joan Weber and Ahmad Ghais, Members at Large.

The meeting was opened and John announced that we would restructure the agenda to allow Leadville Lake County Fire and Rescue Chief Daniel Dailey address our group and answer questions from the 35+ attendees.

As a preliminary matter, John corrected the July minutes to reflect July, not June. Kelly moved that the minutes be approved as amended, Dixie Pierce seconded and the amended minutes were approved unanimously.

### **Chief Dailey**

By way of background, fire protection has been a topic at the forefront of many meetings for the Friends of Twin Lakes ("FOTL") since its formation in 2011 and recently resulted in a concerted letter writing campaign urging the Fire Planning Board to focus on the real and immediate need for meaningful fire protection in southern Lake County. In response to over 40 letters from property owners in southern Lake County written to the Fire Management and Planning Boards in care of Commissioner Bruce Hix, with copies to Chief Daniel Dailey, the Chief volunteered to address area property owners on the subject.

Chief Dailey shared his vision with the thirty five meeting attendees for a fire district for Leadville/Lake County funded and able to serve the entire county meaningfully. His vision includes an additional fire station to be built on county land near County Road 10 and Highway 24, funded primarily from mineral impact grants with staffing dependent either upon SAFER grants or providing training to students obtaining their associates' degrees in fire science in exchange for work commitments at the station. Chief Dailey is leveraging relationships and collaboration with CMC for training and the regional players of Chaffee County Fire Protection District, Buena Vista fire Department, South Arkansas Fire Protection and Salida Fire Protection for coordination in fire and other emergency situations via the Headwaters Joint Training Officers Association for the Upper Arkansas Valley. He and his Wildland Firefighter Program Coordinator are working on better outreach regarding fire mitigation. Finally, of most immediate and great interest to those in southern Lake County, he is going to place a Type 6 engine in the Twin Lakes Search and Rescue building (Chief Dailey stressed that this engine placement requires compliance with strict guidelines and policies regarding its maintenance and utilization.)

There were many questions and discussion around topics of the need for protection via a fire district or otherwise, funding of capital improvement projects for Leadville Lake County Fire Rescue and, of course, timing. Area property owners were dismayed to hear that it is likely another four years before Chief Dailey's full vision could be a reality. Interestingly, there are currently no specific tax mills dedicated for Leadville Lake County Fire Rescue, however, Ahmad offered a suggestion for consideration that would have a tax mill structured such that it would not impact Leadville property owners, while allowing those in southern Lake County to have some of their increased property tax dollars dedicated toward the efforts of more equal fire southern fire protection for Beaver Lakes Estates, Mount Massive Lakes, Pan Ark, Twin Lakes and other remote housing in the area. Property owners acknowledged that a choice was made to build in this area, more distant from fire service that is intended to be provided to the entire county and is funded, in part, from southern Lake County property taxes; at the same time, it was recognized that there used to be a volunteer fire station in Twin Lakes and that the growth of southern Lake County does benefit all of Lake County in property taxes, sales taxes and other revenue.

While there were neither final solutions nor genuine progress made toward fulfilling southern Lake County fire protection needs, Chief Dailey showed passion, dedication and rallied volunteers to assist in educating others about the need for a fire district. He asked for local volunteers for training to write grants (Cory West volunteered) and for Wildland Fire Training to assist in the maintenance and driving of the Type 6 Engine. He and others urged that the lines of communication remain open, that there must continue to be momentum, focus and pressure on County Commissioners to keep this important matter on the front burner. He also wants us to continue to send him written requests. In the end, it was apparent that the potential tax implications and political posturing will make progress difficult, however, everyone agreed the protection of life and property through meaningful fire protection is paramount for all property owners and visitors in Lake County.

### **Garage sale**

Carl Bryan announced that Dunk DeCew is hosting a rummage sale August 31<sup>st</sup>, 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> in front of the Dance Hall at 30 Lang St., from 8:00 am to 1:00 pm. Everyone is welcome to participate and sell items.

Due to the length of the meeting, it was closed and we deferred the Treasurer's report, acknowledgements of recent contributions and other business until our next meeting which will be announced.