

Aspen Fire Protection District

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Board of Directors Regular Meeting October 10th, 2023

The Board of Directors of the Aspen Fire Protection District met for their regular meeting. The meeting was open to the public in person and virtually via Zoom.

Meeting called to order by John Ward at 5:04pm

Roll Call:

- Board of Directors Present: John Ward, Parker Lathrop, Dave “Wabs” Walbert, Emily Taylor, Charles Cunniffe
- Staff/Volunteers Present: Rick, Balentine, Jake Andersen, Jan Legerksy, Jan Schubert, Ali Hammond, Nikki Lapin, Will Shoemith, Adam Cohen, Kevin Smiddy, Hutch Foster, Mike Haisfield, Charlie Curtis, Anthony Lewis, Seamus O’Malley, Mike Holmes, Scott Arthur.
- Online: Jake Spaulding, Max Lyall.
- Public/Others: Richard Peterson

MOTION: **Motion by Parker Lathrop to approve minutes from 4 previous meetings. Regular Meeting on August 8th, Special Meeting on August 21st, Regular Meeting on September 12th, Work Session on October 2nd.**

Second: **Emily Taylor**

Discussion: **None**

Vote: **All approved.**

Public Comment: None

AVFD Inc.: None

Financials

- Monthly Financial Review.
 - Fire Place funds have been spent and paid out. There are a few punch items left.
 - Rick included some options for FPPA funding. There is \$50,000 in the draft budget for 2024 if the board wishes to raise contribution. Rick will reconvene the pension board and bring it back at next meeting. It was suggested having an annual CPI increase so that it does not get behind. Tabled to next month.
 - A separate P&L was not available as Romero Group was behind on getting information to Finance Manager.
- Deputy Chief Jake Andersen gave an AFD Board Presentation.
 - The presentation included some of the staff member survey, community survey, overview of the community risk assessment/standard of coverage, and proposal for additional Lieutenant and one firefighter per shift.
 - Trying to realign with the Center for Public Safety Excellence.
 - This will lay the groundwork for a continued robust volunteer organization, as we remain majority volunteer and we can still meet all the required benchmarks. The board expressed concern of this being a tipping point and possible decline of volunteers.

- Board listened to Volunteer Rep., newer volunteer, two 25-year veteran volunteer, career firefighter and Div. Chief.
- 2024 Draft Budget Review
 - Discussion of the Cap Plan budget not increased.
 - Discussion of goal to give back \$1 million as long as we do not need to use money from other areas to fund the staffing increase.
 - Discussion of mill levy reduction or credits.

MOTION: Motion from Wabs to move to accept proposal to hire (1) Lieutenant position = equivalent to 3 people and (1) Firefighter position = equivalent to 3 people, as well as Life Safety Inspector.

Discussion of seasonal wildfire firefighters.

Charles second.

Further discussion: Parker would like further discussion on the reason to hire more staffing but is okay keeping this draft budget as is and working forward.

Vote: 3 to 2. Motion carries. (Charles, Emily, Wabs YES and Parker, John NO)

MOTION: Motion by Charles to receive the preliminary budget by October 15th. John second.

Discussion:

- **Bolster Cap Fund by 20%**
- **Look at overtime to see if it is enough**
- **Based on current mill levies, there is an extra \$948,000 that is being added into the housing fund. This leaves \$1.2 million left in the general fund.**
- **Goal would be to send back \$1 million, pending on HH legislation passing or not. Further discussion.**

Vote: All approved.

- Board member comments/action items:
 - Wabs discussed the proposed 10% salary increase. This will be continued conversation as the salary study continues and is completed.

Staff Report:

- Fire Marshal – Jan Legersky
 - Staff report was included in board packet.
 - It was noted that this week is Fire Prevention Week. Currently out at the schools. Fire Extinguisher training at Clarks Market October 11, 2023 from 1p-3p.
- Operations Report – Deputy Chief Andersen highlighted:
 - Recent incidents.
 - Good turnout at the 9/11 Annual Remembrance.
 - Working with Aspen Ski Co and other agencies to expand the Peer Support program. Received great response from people wanting to be involved.
 - Two full days of strategic plan were held. Will be continuing to work on updating. There were over 25 people in attendance.
- Training Report – Scott Arthur
 - Reviewed training last month and upcoming training as listed in the staff report.
 - Highlighted the upcoming trench training that has been in the works to bring to the valley for some time. October 21st and 22nd.

Wildfire Community Action Fund: Ali Hammond

- Wildfire: info in packet. Next month Ali will go more in depth about 501(c) 3 she is working on.

CEO/Fire Chief and Good of the District:

- Attended the Woody Creek Caucus meeting. They are looking at reviving discussion of putting up community center with housing. Someone from Aspen Village HOA was there and would like to invite us to their meeting to discuss additional housing at Aspen Village Center.
- Wildfire Resiliency Board: asked to join as a board member. The first meeting is next week.
 - One goal is to define a wildfire urban interface and define areas within it, which is most of the state of Colorado
- Asked to speak at the Climate Tech conference in San Jose
- WW Cornell: headstone placement to mark his grave on October 16th at 2pm
- FPPA: Rick provided some possible options for FPPA funding. There is \$50,000 more budgeted in 2024 to potentially increase the contribution.

Old Business: none

- Woody Creek Update

New Business:

MOTION: Motion by Park Lathrop to adjourn at 7:39pm
Second: John Ward
Discussion: None
Vote: All approved.

***** A full recording of this meeting can be requested by contacting the District Administrator at nikki.lapin@aspensfire.com or by calling 970-925-5532.**