

Aspen Fire Protection District

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Board of Directors Regular Meeting September 13th, 2022

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 at 5:01pm

Roll Call:

- Board of Directors Present: John Ward, Parker Lathrop (via Zoom), Dave “Wabs” Walbert, Emily Taylor, Steve Wertheimer
- Board of Directors Absent:
- Staff/Volunteers Present: Rick Balentine, Jake Andersen, Jan Schubert, Nikki Lapin, Jan Legersky, Ali Hager, Ken Jossely, Mike Haman, Mike Holmes, Will Shoemith, Andy Reid, Scott Arthur, Ben Smith, Chris Lougeay
- Public/Others: Richard Peterson, Sebastian Wanatowicz

Approval of Minutes:

MOTION: Motion by Steve to approve minutes from: Regular meeting held August 9th, 2022.
Wabs second.
Discussion: None
Vote: All approved.

Public Comment: None

AVFD Inc.:

- Mike Haman commented that AVFD Inc. is relatively inactive at this time.

North 40 Housing Project Update: Sebastian Wanatowicz

- Project Budget: Pay application #19 was received from FCI in the amount of \$504,879.27. This is in process for approval. Currently wrapping up the project in terms of billing. FCI has been asked to reconcile their budget and see what monies are left in their GMP contract. They will have another billing in October, pay application #20, to wrap up the project.
- Project Contingency and Reconciliation: Reconciliation has been cleaned up regarding contingency. In terms of soft costs, there is a delta of \$9,000. Allowance #22 is \$8,000 for credit to project. They still haven't reconciled all the allowances yet. Construction contingency is \$54,647. There are two change orders to be reconciled. Against the \$500,000, we are somewhere in the \$480,000 range of monies still within the soft cost contingency. There is still an outstanding balance that may be owed to City Water in the amount of \$160,000, called an in-lieu of water rights that they forgot to bill. This is in addition to the \$330,000 water tap fee. Rick will keep board up to date as it is worked out with the City.
- FCI has requested until the end of October to complete everything related to items they owe us to close out the project. Also, they are currently working on closeout documents, getting as-built and all the documentation for our records and files and reconciling their budget. Sebastian's role will be wrapping up.

- CORE will work with Ken Josselyn to get paperwork processed to get rebate.
- There was discussion about wish list and what to do with extra funds from the project.

Wildfire Community Action Fund Project – Ali Hager

- Ali reviewed the grants and projects as listed in the report included in the board packet. She noted that the BLM grant that was originally due in July, will need to be resubmitted. This was no fault on our end, everyone is having to resubmit.
- The FWRM grant is listed twice as we are applying as a department and assisting Darwood HOA with application as well.
- There was clarification on the AIM grant. They weren't sold on the two-year trial run. If it was made into a long-term project, they would possibly support it.
- As of the last board meeting, one out of the two chipper programs had been completed. The program has covered three HOAs, included 40 participants and cleared 238 cubic yards of chips. Ali is meeting with the City to talk about FRWRM to partner on a grant to possibly purchase a chipper.
- Roaring Fork Coll Collaborative. All the different entities are bringing MOU and budget to their individual boards in regard to long-term funding. Aspen Institute is also coming up with their MOU as they may be fiscal agent for the Roaring Fork Collaborative. Ali spoke to the position that will be hired for the Roaring Fork Wildfire Collaborative.
- Ali and Chief Balentine will attending conference in Jackson Hole with Aspen Institute to talk about what we are doing in our district and learn from other areas.
- Participated with ACES at the Climate Change and Megafires in our Backyard event.
- Ali reviewed a couple budgets for different grants.
- Looking at a possible Gala closer to winter.

Financials

- Monthly Financial Review: Monthly financial reports were included in the board packet.
- Fire Place Budget: Rick spoke to the income versus expenses. It is currently on target for what was originally presented. Romero Group will be doing all the accounting and will provide those numbers in the middle of month. The numbers will be presented the following month at the board meeting, so there will be a month lag.
- SCBA Purchase: SCBA replacement is budgeted for 2023, but if they are ordered in 2022 it will save the district approximately \$100,000. It can be paid in 2023. There are only two vendors to go through, it was recommended to go through ROI. They have served us well and come through the valley quite often. The new quote is \$376,000.

MOTION: Motion by John to move forward with this order of \$376,000 with ROI to replace the SCBA equipment. Emily second.

Discussion: None

Vote: All approved.

- 2023 Draft Budget Review: The General Fund and Debt Service budget was presented. There will be a work session held on October 18th at 3:00pm for further review. Parker spoke to the increase of Pitkin County Dispatch cost.
- The new actuarial for FPPA will be received in August of 2023.
- Jan discussed the ending balance of \$400,000 that is sitting in account. There has not been an allocation decided.

Board Comments & Action Items: None

- Parker had no comments
- Steve commented that all the work on wildfire with other institutions has been something needed, and we are leading the charge. Rick mentioned the good feedback being received on the program, the collaboration with Aspen Institute and on Ali's work.

- Wabs brought up discussion about False Alarms from last meeting as he was not present. There was discussion on doing a permit or fee system. Jan Legersky spoke to the challenges and needing an ordinance in place. Rick and Parker spoke to the history of trying this in the past. The board requested further information to know if this is a problem or not. Jake Andersen will look into it further.
- John would like to start thinking about further housing options in the future.
- Adoption of Resolution 2022-09-01 ADOPTING BY REFERENCE THE INTERNATIONAL FIRE CODE, 2021 EDITION, AMENDING CERTAIN SECTIONS OF SAID CODE, AND REPEALING THE PREVIOUS DISTRICT ADOPTION OF THE INTERNATIONAL FIRE CODE, 2015 EDITION: Jan Legersky discussed the main changes from the last adoption.

MOTION: Motion by John to adopt Resolution 2022-09-01 ADOPTING BY REFERENCE THE INTERNATIONAL FIRE CODE, 2021 EDITION, AMENDING CERTAIN SECTIONS OF SAID CODE, AND REPEALING THE PREVIOUS DISTRICT ADOPTION OF THE INTERNATIONAL FIRE CODE, 2015 EDITION. Steve second.

Discussion: None

Vote: All approved.

MOTION: Motion by John to elect Steve as new Secretary. Wabs second.

Discussion: None

Vote: All approved.

Staff Report:

- Fire Marshal and Prevention: Fire Prevention Week starts October 9th. There will be an open house on October 8th. Ben has been scheduling activities at the school. This is the 100th anniversary.
- Operations Overview:
 - Call totals for the year down about 6% from last year. Up 24% from pre-covid.
 - Wildfire - 57 Risk Assessments today. Curbsides 1415. The goal is 25% of district. We've had employee on light duty that has been doing. Jake noted that we have been able to cover shifts without much overtime.
 - Working on light vehicle replacement. Looking to go electric vs. status quo. Parker suggested looping Pitkin County Maintenance into those discussions.
 - Nikki is fully certified through SHRM.
 - An HR Course was completed that came out of the survey. There was one for supervisors and one for members.
 - Active Shooter Response training took place. Looking at doing a training in conjunction with law and school.
 - School moved forward with doing Stop the Bleed program.
 - Jake gave an overview how EMS calls are called out and how we respond. Currently Aspen Fire responds to Delta and Echo to support Aspen Ambulance. Other EMS is only if requested.
- Training Report: Report was included in the Staff Report. Scott provided a quick review. Jake Andersen added that all three Battalion Chiefs will be completing a leadership training program.
- Recruitment: The recruit class of 2022 are very close on completing task books and completing testing. This group completed the academy at 100%. Nikki gave an overview of the information presented in the staff report in regard to upcoming recruitment. The goal is to put at least 10 people through the CMC academy. It was suggesting possibly taking 12 people. Wendy Whitman donated some of her ad space to run our new recruitment video.

CEO/Fire Chief and Good of the District:

- Thank you to Honor Guard for the 9/11 Ceremony. It was very well attended.
- Dick Merritt received the Molly Cambell Award that was presented during the 9/11 Ceremony.
- AFD Family Picnic will be held October 1st.

- Thrift Store will be using one of the bays for art sale.
- Lanny Curtis (Retired Firefighter) passed away.
- PanoAI will be doing a presentation at Station 61 on September 21st. The county and surrounding agencies will be invited.

Old Business:

- Woody Creek Project Update: No further update

New Business: None

**MOTION: Motion by Wabs to adjourn at 7:20pm. Steve second.
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.**