

# Aspen Fire Protection District

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## Board of Directors Regular Meeting September 12th, 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 Parker Lathrop at 5:05pm**

### **Roll Call:**

- Board of Directors Present: Parker Lathrop, Dave “Wabs” Walbert, Emily Taylor
- Board of Directors Absent: John Ward, Charles Cunniffe
- Staff/Volunteers Present: Rick, Balentine, Jake Andersen, Nikki Lapin, Jan Schubert, Amanda Perusse, Scott Arthur (zoom), Jan Legersky, Ken Josselyn (zoom) , Jake Spaulding (zoom), Station 62 (zoom), Ali Hammond, Michael Holmes, Arnold Nimmo
- Public/Others: Richard Peterson

### **Approval of Minutes:**

**As not all board members were present, it was recommended that we move approval of the regular meeting minutes from 8/8/23 and the special meeting minutes from 8/21/23 to next month’s meeting of 10/10/23.**

**Public Comment:** None

**AVFD Inc.:** None

### **Financials**

- Monthly Financial Review: Monthly financial reports were included in the board packet. No further discussion

**Board Comments & Action Items:** None

### **Staff Report:**

- Fire Marshal and Prevention: Fire Marshal - Jan Legersky - monthly report is in board packet.
  - Prevention week is coming up in October, there will be lots of prevention education happening at our schools.
  - Wildfire Risk Assessment requests are very busy, and the prevention team is working hard to fit everyone in. Quite a few are due to requests from the insurance companies.
    - Request from BOD to Fire Marshal to provide stats on wildfire risk assessments 2022 vs 2023. To be provided at next meeting.
  - Wildfire Risk Map/curbside assessments – We are still updating at 20% of properties per year, so that there is a full cycle completed every 5 years. Working on how to close the loop on what mitigation has been completed per property based on our assessment recommendations, like we currently do with Starwood.

- Operations Overview: Deputy Chief Andersen, reviewed information and photos in board packet.
  - Discussion and explanation on rag fire from 7/31/23 in The Little Nell basement area. Our team did a great job of just taking a minute to let things calm down so they could find the source, otherwise it would have turned into real problem. Great job to our team.
  - Congratulations to Lt. Lyall for recently graduating from Paramedic School. Will Hardenbergh has just started paramedic school.
  
- Training Update: Scott Arthur reviewed the training report and photos in the board packet.
  - Shared photos of recent trainings
  
  - SCBA updates: The SCBA units that we recently sent to the Ukraine are currently in Poland undergoing testing, processing, and certification. They are being used to clear the log jam that occurs with US equipment going to overseas countries. There are currently 200 other SCBA's sitting in Poland for the last month that will finally get released to the Ukraine for use as well. We are also going to work with Ukraine by sharing our current drone program information with them.
  
  - Recruitment – informational meeting will take place the first week of October and interview will be around the middle of October so that we can have our new recruit class starting in the stations in November and the academy in January of 2024.
  
- Recent Member Survey – Director of Human Resources, Nikki Lapin, reviewed the results of the recent member survey of June 30<sup>th</sup> – July 17<sup>th</sup>. In the future, we will be sending out the survey at the end of the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter annually, so that our members can count on this. Possible new HR software can help us with this survey.
  - We asked the same questions as last year so that we can start looking at trends moving forward.
  - Net promotor score: Normal range is between – 10 and + 30.
    - This year our score is +38 (last year was - 8.5 with a big spread between volunteer and career satisfaction. We did a lot of work with our mid-level leadership (volunteer representatives, Battalion Chiefs and Lieutenants) to help close this gap, which is nothing short of incredible and it is reflected in this year's scores.
      - Volunteers ENP +32 (last year was - 34.5)
      - Career staff +41 (last year +33.5)
    - Overall, very positive. Main points that were brought up were training, equipment, staffing and security benefits.
    - Increased staffing was a common thread throughout the entire survey on both the volunteer and career sides.
    - Increasing group activities/team building, planned in advance and annually so members can schedule them into their lives.
    - Some recommendations are already in process:
      - Member benefits received a lot of comments, which is great as we are already conducting a benefits study so that we can provide better options for our members.
      - More “committee” involvement – volunteer grassroots movement that is already underway to get everyone involved in something.
      - New recruit involvement on day one.
  - Request from Board to see how leadership numbers compare this year vs last year at next meeting.

**Wildfire Community Action Fund:** Ali Hammond reviewed information in board packet.

- Received an additional \$10,000 award from the BLM Community Fire Assistance Grant.
- All Things Wildfire event on August 30<sup>th</sup> – very successful and well attended, lots of positive feedback about it. Great press before and after.
- Chipper Program is going strong and communities are already looking for it for next year. Contractor for removal is wonderful.
- After the screening of “Elemental: Reimagining Wildfire”, a member of the community reached out about the Woody Creek Fire Station and how it doesn't have any defensible space around it. Our prevention team

is working on how to rectify this situation and use it as a teaching tool of sorts to show what defensible space does and does not look like around a home.

- Top 25 priority projects will cost around \$1M to complete.

#### **CEO/Fire Chief and Good of the District:**

- Aspen Times report by Josie Taris on Volunteers at AFPD was a really nicely written article, as well as his coverage of our 9/11 event.
- AFPD was nominated by InnoLead Impact Awards for our PANO AI system, they recognize companies that have achieved extraordinary outcomes related to innovative design, new business models and new offerings.
  - Other finalists were IBM, NASA, Microsoft, ChatGPT etc
- Housing Other – property that was being discussed with John McBride is off the table for now.
- FF Cornell headstone project – headstone is almost ready and ceremony date TBD soon, hopefully before the end of September.
- Theater Aspen Collaboration– 9/11 play was very well attended. “The guys” raised \$100,000 alone for ticket sales, half of their net profit will be donated to Axes & Arms.
- FPPA Pension information was included in packet for Board to review and then discuss at next meeting
- Mill levy – recommended that the Board schedule a work session before the next board meeting to discuss this in further detail and create a plan.
- Holiday party is scheduled for December 9<sup>th</sup> at Melville’s.
- Possibly attending a climate change panel in San Francisco as well as an advisory panel for low level satellite s for wildfire detection – stay tuned on more info on these.

#### **Old Business:** none

- Woody Creek Update

#### **New Business:**

- Reminder to our Board members to please read through the draft Standard of Cover study and submit any questions or changes to DC Andersen as soon as possible. The goal is to get the SOC completed ASAP so that we can have it available to everyone.
  - Request by Board for further discussion on the SOC before it is 100% complete and finalized.
- AFPD will be completing a revision of our Strategic Plan at the end of September. This will be a couple of focus days, 8 hours per day, all Board members and Fire members are welcome to attend. We will use the SOC report to help finalize our revisions of our current Strategic Plan.
- The Community Survey is open until September 22<sup>nd</sup> to allow for futher feedback

**MOTION:**      **Motion by Emily Taylor to adjourn at 7:01pm**  
**Second:**      **Wabs**  
**Discussion:**    **None**  
**Vote:**          **All approved.**

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