

# Aspen Fire Protection District

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## Board of Directors Regular Meeting April 12, 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 5:05pm

#### Roll Call:

- Board of Directors Present: John Ward, Denis Murray, Steve Wertheimer, Michael Buglione,
- Board of Directors Absent: Dave "Wabs" Walbert
- Staff/Volunteers Present: Rick Balentine, Jake Andersen, Jan Schubert, Nikki Lapin, Ali Hager, Ken Josselyn, Arnold Nimmo, Ryan Warren
- Public/Others: Richard Peterson, Sebastian Wanatowicz, Emily Taylor

#### Approval of Minutes:

**MOTION:** Motion by Michael to approve minutes from: Regular meeting held March 8, 2022 and Special meeting held on March 24, 2022. Steve second.

**Discussion:** There was discussion around a motion that was made at the March 8<sup>th</sup> meeting in regards some initial planning on housing at Aspen Village. It was not captured on audio to an interference. There is a proposal to take the plan set and amend it a little bit for a conversion of the office to a dwelling unit and we have a proposal from Chris Bendon to take that through the county process. The amendment to the minutes should reflect the motion by Denis.

**MOTION:** Motion by John to amend the minutes from March 8<sup>th</sup> meeting in regards to Denis's motion on housing options, to pursue land and shelter, to provide different housing options and what it would take through permit for the various menu of potential housing options. Denis second.

**Vote:** All approved.

**MOTION**

**CONTINUED:** To approve minutes as amended for March 8<sup>th</sup>.

**Vote:** All approved.

#### Public Comment: None

#### AVFD Inc., Ryan Warren:

- Denis discussed an award usually given out by Rotary Club to the top 11 students in multiple categories in a leadership role, nominated by teachers at the High School. There is \$200 given out to 11 students at Aspen High School and 11 at Basalt High School. AVFD Inc. has agreed to pick up the Aspen High School and the Elk's will contribute to the Basalt High School.

- AVFD Inc. usually has elections in January. This will be held on April 21<sup>st</sup>. There will be a new president.

### **North 40 Housing Project Update: Sebastian Wanatowicz**

- Project Budget Update: Standard billing from architect. Did see request for change order on closets in building four. Pay application #14 from FCI was in the amount of \$1,143,405.75. This was finishing out rough ins, sheet rock, insulation and framings on all buildings. No further change orders, good on budget.
- Project Allowances and Contingency Reconciliation: They asked for \$1300 for update to building 4 upstairs closets. We did receive a large amount of money back in terms of allowances for winter conditions, concrete heat and few other items. This was allowance 22. There was \$130,782 was total given back. The project is still sitting at \$496,166 of the \$500,000 of soft costs contingency on the project.
- Project updates and schedule:
  - Fencing: There will not be a shared cost. Rick verified that it will be a cost to the project.
  - BDA: This is a radio access in the garage we have to install per code. It was not originally included.
  - Sebastian gave an explanation of commissioning. That a third-party engineer will come in to quality control the startup and maintain initial maintenance of the mechanical equipment throughout project.
  - Outdoor grill: There was discussion of public area with outdoor grill as grills will not be allowed on patios for safety reasons.
  - Batteries: Sebastian gave an update. Met with Holy Cross about a hybrid system. Working with them to see about helping buy the transformer. Trying to do something ecologically minded and environmentally sound.

### **Wildfire Community Action Fund Project – Ali Hager**

- Project and Funding Update:
  - Fundraising currently is a \$306,300. Increase of \$83,000 from last meeting.
  - Applying for a chipper grant. This will give public ability to reduce fuels reduction and we can chip it for them. The maximum award is \$20,000. Matching funds are encouraged, but not necessary. Work needs to be done by August, so may only apply for \$10,000.
  - Mitigation: Prescribed fires in Hunter Creek and Collins Creek is still scheduled. The snowpack is holding, so it may not happen until end of April or in May.
  - Continuing conversations for Sunnyside burn in 2024. There is a lot of leg work.
  - Received estimate from Aspen Tree service to do evacuation routes across Red Mountain. This was a cost analysis and method plan. There is a BLM grant that could help with this. There is still discussion with Pitkin County.
  - Outreach: There was meeting held last week on April 5th. It was hybrid community meeting including in person, online, both in English and Spanish. Approximately 30 people present. The website has been updated with a lot of information and ads are scheduled to get word out about upcoming prescribed burns. Have been meeting with several HOA's on keeping the ball moving forward.
  - Month of May is Wildfire Awareness month. Coordinating with other agencies to have coordinated messaging. May 18th there will be community event at headquarters from 5:30 pm to 7:30 pm in regards to wildfire preparedness and Ready Set Go program.
  - Roaring Fork Wildfire Collaborative meeting was held to discuss purpose, vision and mission. Ali gave an overview of who all is involved in this program.
  - Rick and Pano AI met with BOCC. They will be approving another year. We have \$60,000 budgeted. There are some more meetings with insurance companies so we can help taxpayers and their insurance. Jake will be collaborating with RFFR to get them access as well.

- Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities FEMA Grant: This has been discussed with Pano AI to do a joint application. This will help make it a long-term project.
- Denis would like to facilitate conversation with parks department about tree removal and waiving mitigation costs if we recommend a tree come down for safety of the structure.

### **Financials**

- Monthly Financial Review: Monthly financial reports were included in the board packet.

### **Board Comments & Action Items:**

- John commented on the success of the project and keeping costs together.
- Denis is hoping to see Jan's code changes coming up. He would also like to see a lunch taken care for FCI as discussed in past meeting.
- Steve commented that financially the organization as a whole is solid, including the housing project.

### **MOTION: Motion by John to adopt Resolution 2022-04-01 Proclaiming May as Wildfire Preparedness Month. Denis second.**

**Discussion: Rick noted that other fire departments are doing this as well and feels it appropriate for us to do and make it global awareness throughout valley. There will be a lot of messaging and events happening as explained earlier in Ali's overview. It was suggested a banner be put up in front of the building.**

**Vote: All approved.**

### **Staff Report:**

- Fire Marshal and Prevention: The investigation into explosion incident has been completed. There will be a release coming out.
- Operations Overview:
  - Had a serious of some explosions across from Wheeler. One was faulty equipment and was boiler. Most significant to report, there was a cardiac save at local restaurant and another one at hockey game. Relatively young person. There was an off-duty law enforcement officer and nurse there. Aspen Fire and Aspen Ambulance responded.
  - Strategic Overview was included in the board packet. There will be a full comprehensive report when we do mid-year review.
  - Community Risk Assessment/Standard of Cover: There is an RFP included. Jake gave an overview of the difference between last organizational review. This will give very in-depth view of what we are doing and what we're not doing well. It is also one of the requirements if we ever want to move toward the Center for Public Safety Excellence Accreditation process. This was included in strategic plan.
  - Incident/Call Response: Last year was busiest year as was for other agencies in the valley. We are up 15% overall and 30% in all-calls.
- Fleet and Facilities:
  - Two new apparatus arrived. One of the old engines will be sold at Gov Auction and one will be kept as reserve. Jake, Scott and Arnold gave an overview of the specs and features of the new apparatus. They are top of the line, industry standard and safe for our members and public.
- Training Report:
  - Scott Arthur reviewed training included in the staff report. All 6 recruits passed the written FFI. They will be preparing for the practical and scheduled to graduate May 7<sup>th</sup>. They will then follow up with EMR. The new career firefighters are working on getting signed off on apparatus. Scott is also currently working on the training program for new apparatus.

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

- BOCC meeting was successful in regards to Pano AI.
- Fire Place Housing Updates: Everyone that wanted a unit is getting one. There will be three open units initially. Once leases are completed, the committee will review next steps for open units. The Woody Creek unit will become open. The direction given to housing selection committee was more firefighter heads in beds.
- Senator Terry Donovan sent a thank you letter for the donation of fire equipment to Ukraine.
- North 40 Fire Station Roofing: Mid-May looks like start date on roofing.

### **Old Business:**

- Aspen Village Housing: No further discussion. Denis will bring a proposal to the next meeting.
- Training Center Update: Wabs was able to go down and take a look at Carbondale. Scott had a presentation for the board and went over highlights. Scott will send the power point to board with pictures. Denis spoke to his meeting with RFFR and training facility they are looking at doing. Denis brought up potential land space at landfill. It was suggested talking with county and law enforcement partners to see what needs they may have in a building, and other potential spaces. Rick posed question about apartment at Aspen Village and moving forward with that piece.
- Community Risk Assessment/Standard of Cover: Jake covered earlier in conversation. RFP has been reviewed by attorney.

### **New Business:**

- Rick proposed some signage ideas for Aspen Fire Place.
- Headstone for WW Cornell: Jake suggested getting back on it as we have the marble that was donated. Looking to get final verbiage. Denis and Jake will work on and bring proposal to next meeting.

**MOTION: Motion by John to adjourn at 7:18pm. Michael second.  
Vote: All approved. (Steve had to leave, was not present)**

**\*\*\* 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.**