

# Aspen Fire Protection District

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## Board of Directors Regular Meeting March 21, 2018

Meeting called to order at 5:06 pm by Karl

### Roll Call:

- Board of Directors: Karl Adam, Denis Murray, John Ward (arrived at 6:33pm), Stoney Davis, Dave Walbert
- Absent:
- Staff/Volunteers: Rick Balentine, Jan Schubert, Nikki Lapin, Parker Lathrop, Josh Burnaman
- Public/Others:

### Approval of Minutes:

**Motion from Denis to approve minutes from Regular Meeting on February 21, 2018. Dave Second. All Approved.**

### Good of District:

- Denis attended meeting in Basalt with several county caucuses in regards to wildfire preparedness. This season could shape up to be very dry.
- Woody Creek Caucus requested to use the Woody Creek station for meetings. They were informed the station is not set up for meetings.
- Parker attended the last Brush Creek HOA meeting. Karl A. commented that they spoke very highly of Parker. They are also looking at incorporating new street signage in the area based on the county's new program. The new signage would be better visible. This would help emergency responders find locations faster and easier.

### Board Member Comments & Action Items:

- Regular Meeting Change: Due to conflicts with other meetings for some board members, it was requested that Aspen Fire change this meeting. It was agreed to change it to the second Wednesday of the month at 5:00pm. This will be effective April. Nikki will post accordingly.
- Operations Meetings: Nikki handed out signup sheet. One board member will attend the monthly operations meeting. Nikki will send out calendar invite.
- May Election: Nikki reviewed candidates and election process. There are five candidates: Dave Walbert, Stoney Davis, Claude Salter, Travis Van Domelen, Denis Murray.

### Financials:

- Election/Mill Levy Budget Item: Stoney requested that this be categorized differently as the district is not allowed to spend money on campaigning.
- Property Tax Check: Check was received in February and may have included people prepaying property tax in December for 2018 due to new tax law.
- LOSAP: Three people met requirements in 2017 and will earn the \$1,000 contribution. Two people opted out of FPPA and received funds from prior years of service. The maximum contribution allowed will go from \$3,000 to \$6,000. Rick had analysis done on LOSAP and FPPA. It is approximately \$3,500 per year in LOSAP contribution to equal FPPA benefit.

- New Type I/III Apparatus: This new apparatus has been ordered. Expected delivery will be next spring. This apparatus did come in under budget for a better truck. There will be a savings if paid early.

### **CEO/Fire Chief**

- Starwood Substation IGA: Paul Taddune would like this signed before next month. The big change was making sure there will be (2) two bedroom units. Each unit will have covered carport and outdoor storage. Please comment to Rick by noon on Friday with any changes and/or concerns.
- Disabled Veterans: Veterans will be arriving around the 31<sup>st</sup>. Several volunteers will be helping load/unload at the airport. Honor Guard will be presenting colors at opening ceremony and retiring colors at closing ceremony.
- Wildfire Resident Program: Staff is working to team up with Mesa College to send some interns for the summer. Interns will work with City of Aspen and/or County on mitigation projects and will be available to go out on wildfire assignments. This would be a new pilot program. They will be Red Card and S-130/190 certified.
- Mutual Aid Regional Fire Agreement: Rick met with Mountain Fire Chief's Group in Breckenridge. They are working to put together mutual aid regional fire agreement. This will be an initial attack mutual aid agreement. This came up after the Breckenridge fire as they had hard time getting resources quickly.
- Data Review: Staff now has full year of data. Rick will be looking at different statistics and may look at making recommendations to the board in the near future based off findings.
- Alarm Company Meeting: There is a meeting with alarm companies tomorrow (March 22) to discuss what calls we are getting and what part alarm companies are responsible for.
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### **AVFD Inc - Josh Burnaman.**

- Thank you to Stoney for attending last business meeting.
- Good tabletop meeting on the mill levy and housing design. Two committees will be formed. One on housing and one for campaign committee.
- Community Outreach:
  - Reading at Cottage and Senior Services.
  - Blood Drive Battle: There is going to be a blood drive battle with Aspen Police in April.

### **Old Business:**

- Airport MOU: Glenwood Springs Fire Chief was approached by Aspen Airport about doing a mutual aid agreement. Rick emailed Pitkin County Manager and Airport Manager to let them know he was not happy and that an MOU with Aspen Fire needs to be taken care of. With the lack of a proper MOU there could be a large liability on Aspen Fire. Rick will forward email to Karl A.
- North 40 Housing: Rick has given one of the newer volunteers, Jacob Arywiz, approval to live at North 40 in bunk room. He is certified EMT.
- Aspen Village: Rick and Parker attended Aspen Village HOA meeting and they were in favor of putting housing unit in there.
- Starwood Substation: Rick requested that verbiage be put in agreement that if we are not able to fill with firefighter, we can place another emergency responder in there from other agency.
- Aspen Ambulance:
  - Follow up from last meeting: Rick received email from local political watchdog requesting to speak to him about Aspen Ambulance. Rick has not yet reached out. Rick spoke to Mike Lyons, they have an HOA meeting tomorrow (March 22<sup>nd</sup>) and may hire an attorney to block the starting of new ambulance barn.

- Rick met with Gabe Muething. It was a good meeting. He has similar concerns about district boundaries and response. There is talk of Basalt/Snowmass wanting to extend their district further into ours.
- Rick has attended several Chief meetings around the state. Consolidation is happening all around.

### **New Business**

- North 40 Housing Project:
  - There was some discussion of how to proceed with housing and who will handle the project. Discussed if there should be design/builder hired or owner's rep. Rick posed question if board would like to be part of the housing design committee. Rick expressed that he doesn't want to put together a committee if the higher ups aren't going to take the recommendation. We don't want to waste people's time.
  - Rick pointed out that 94% of current firefighters started in or currently lives in employee housing.
  - Karl A. thinks housing is something needed in future, but would like to see further conversation as to what is needed in the future for operations. The amount figured into mill levy does not include any potential paid firefighters in future. This number was for apparatus replacement and housing.
  - There was discussion of where funds will come from to campaign.
  - A couple board members expressed that it feels rushed and more time is needed to plan.
  - Rick expressed that the goal is to keep this primarily a volunteer department and believes that we can make it sustainable.
  - Josh, as volunteer, expressed the community is best served with volunteers and to keep volunteers we do need to think about housing.
  - Dave thinks housing is important issue, but need a lot of questions answered first.
  - Stoney suggested moving forward with plans and getting costs.
  - John is 100% housing and a volunteer fire department. John agrees with looking at levels of service we provide. John mentioned not thinking too much into the rental income.
- Extended Benefits for Retired Board Members: Stoney proposed that all departing board member with 20 years plus of service get free access to training room and one lifetime hanging parking pass. Denis Second. All Approved.