

Aspen Fire Protection District

420 E Hopkins Avenue • Aspen, CO 81611 • 970-925-5532 • www.aspenfire.com



Board of Directors Regular Meeting January 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 Parker at 5:04pm

Roll Call:

- Board of Directors Present: Parker Lathrop, Dave “Wabs” Walbert, Emily Taylor (via Zoom), Steve Wertheimer
- Board of Directors Absent: John Ward
- Staff/Volunteers Present: Rick Balentine, Jake Andersen, Nikki Lapin, Jan Schubert, Jake Spaulding, Drew Barr, Will Shoosmith. Via Zoom: Charlie Curtis, Ryan Warren, Arnold Nimmo, Ali Hager, Ben Smith, Scott Arthur
- Public/Others: Richard Peterson, Sebastian Wanatowicz (via Zoom)

Approval of Minutes:

MOTION: Motion by Wabs to approve minutes from regular meeting held on December 13th, 2022. Steve second.
Discussion: None
Vote: All approved.

AVFD Inc.: None

North 40 Housing Project Update: Sebastian Wanatowicz

- Project Budget: Payout Application #22 has been paid and approved for \$362,325.65. This was partial payment of the retainage held on FCI. There is an outstanding balance of \$350,292 to be approved, which will be Payout Application #23 and final payout for the job. This will take the total construction cost to \$14,252,352.82. There is \$4,903 remaining in the contingency reconciliation from the deduct on lighting package. This will help pay for snow fencing. There will be \$4,900 left in allowance after that will go back into contingency with remaining balance of \$504,985.58.
- The C.O.R.E. grant was received for the full amount of \$50,000.
- The engineer has looked at installing heating in the bathroom by fitness room. There might be a couple thousand dollars of invoicing from consultants that will come out of contingency. The outstanding repairs to guardrails are covered under the original contract. There was discussion about grills and whether to put up a canopy. Repairs on the overflow roof drains is continuing.
- In regard to the window warranty, FCI will write a letter standing behind how the warranty is going to operate to meet the specifications of the level of energy compliance that this project is to achieve the energy compliance and the standpoint of Pella.
- FCI is confident they have completed punch list and final walk through will happen by end of the week. Final documents and electronic documents will be turned over. There was discussion of final payment of retainage. Sebastian will meet with Cody to review and see what funds can be released.

Wildfire Community Action Fund Project – Ali Hager

- Fundraiser at St. Regis is currently on hold. The hope is to reschedule for the summer.
- Roaring Fork Collaborative. Chief Balentine gave an update on the status of MOU. Also working on the MOU with Aspen Institute. They will be hiring someone for Roaring Fork Collaborative that will work on Aspen Institute. This position will be going out soon.
- Grants: Currently waiting on paperwork from the BLM in regards to grant for the 33 acre fire break project on Willoughby Way. Expecting to hear about the FRWRM grant in March and looking to put in for a partnership grant with Open Space through the Laura Jane Musser Foundation that will open in February.
- Received \$100,000 last week through a GMQS application.

Financials

- Monthly financials were included in the board packet. As of now, 2022 will come in approximately \$275,000 in the positive.
- Last year's average monthly rate at ColoTrust was 0.4%, now it is 4.2%

Board Comments & Action Items: None

- MOTION: Motion by Steve to Adopt Resolution 2023-01-01: Posting of Meetings. Wabs second.
Discussion: None
Vote: All approved**
- MOTION: Motion by Steve to Adopt Resolution 2023-01-02 Mail Ballot Election with the change to second whereas paragraph to make it consistent the word "three" to be changed to "four". Wabs second.
Discussion: None
Vote: All approved**
- MOTION: Motion by Steve to Adopt Resolution 2023-01-03 Appointing of Designated Election Official and Authorizing Designated Election Official to Cancel Election. Wabs second.
Discussion: None
Vote: All approved**
- MOTION: Motion by Steve to accept Chief's contract and move forward with President, John Ward signing it. Wabs second.
Discussion: Board would like to see that the review is not forgotten.
Vote: All approved**

Staff Report:

- Fire Marshal and Prevention: 2022 was busy. There were more tent permits this past year compared to previous years during COVID. No significant issues during the holidays to report. Ben Smith thanked Aspen Police and the Pitkin County Sheriff's department for their help with overpacked restaurants on New Year's Eve. The Fire Prevention team will be out during X-Games.
- Operations Overview:
 - SCBA's are in-service and staff is currently working on donating the old ones. Most members have received training.
 - A working group has been formed to address false alarms.
 - Several members will be participating on the IMT for X-Games.
 - Letter from citizen received recognizing exceptional service Aspen Fire provided alongside folks from law enforcement and ambulance on a response to fire incident. It was mentioned in the newspaper. Another citizen gave a donation of \$2,400 in honor of a friend that passed away in December.

- Training Update:
 - A list of trainings in December and upcoming training January was presented in the staff report as part of the board packet. SCBA Confidence training started this week. All hot zone firefighters will be required to complete. Medical training this upcoming month will be high performance CPR and cardiology. There were three different cardiac saves in 2022.
 - New recruits have started working in station prior to starting academy January 17th. Two recruits will not be able to commit to spring class but will stay active in-house until they go to training in the fall.
 - Working with City Parks Department to practice ice rescue at the golf course.
 - Large number of members working through outside trainings around medical and officer/leadership.
 - There are a number of opportunities to work with neighboring agencies this year. Intent is to have something on a quarterly basis.

Public Comment: The newly elected Pitkin County Sheriff, Michael Buglione, stopped in. He looks forward to working with everyone at Aspen Fire.

CEO/Fire Chief and Good of the District:

- Members will be receiving City Market gift cards on behalf of the board for holiday gift.
- Dick Merritt will be recognized for the Molly Cambell award at the ACRA Winterskol Luncheon.
- Discussion of getting a working group together over the next month to review housing fund balance and what options it may be used for.
- There will be a French Intern from Bordeaux, France coming to work with Aspen Fire in April.
- The Executive Administrative Assistant position has been posted internally and will go out externally in the next day or two.
- Roaring Fork Valley Chiefs are starting to meet once a month.
- The Western Slopes Fire Marshal group is being revived.

Old Business:

- Woody Creek Project Update: No movement since last update.

New Business:

- February Meeting: After discussion, it was decided to move it back from February 9th to February 14th and start the meeting at 3:00pm.

**MOTION: Motion by Parker to adjourn at 6:20pm. Wabs 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.**