

Aspen Fire Protection District

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



Board of Directors Special Meeting February 7, 2022

The Board of Directors of the Aspen Fire Protection District met for a special meeting. The meeting was open to the public virtually via Zoom.

Meeting called to order by John at 11:08am

Roll Call:

- Board of Directors Present: John Ward, Denis Murray, Steve Wertheimer (via Zoom), Michael Buglione, Dave "Wabs" Walbert
- Board of Directors Absent:
- Staff/Volunteers Present: Rick Balentine, Jake Andersen, Nikki Lapin, Ken Josselyn, Bruce Bradshaw, Mike Haisfield, Ben Smith, Chris Lougeay, Will Hardenbergh, Elijah Olmert
- Public/Others: Richard Peterson

Aspen Fire Place Housing Guidelines and Rates:

Bruce Bradshaw and Ben Smith gave a presentation on behalf of the housing committee formed to discuss guidelines and rates. A letter to the board, along with other materials were presented in the board packet.

- The housing committee sent out a survey to gauge interest in housing. There were 46 interested in housing with studio and one-bedroom units being the most popular.
- Rates are a big concern. Staff spoke to the concern of APCHA rates still being too high and not affordable for volunteers.
- There was much conversation around APCHA rates and whether rent would be considered taxable if it is discounted. Attorney will look further into.
- There was some discussion of extra shifts in exchange for discounted rates.
- Discussion of property management and tenants being able to help to lower costs. Board mentioned that it should be a management company that can handle daily issues and flipping of rental units.
- Denis and Michael spoke to there being a discount to the APCHA rates. It was discussed at a previous work session. Denis expressed that he wants to reward for the commitment and participation. There was discussion of 10%. After much discussion, the board agreed to;
 - \$500 rent per bedroom for volunteers
 - \$600 rent per bedroom for career
 - You have to register and have a qualifying bid packet with APCHA each year to get in to housing lottery program to purchase. This should be verified when renewing lease.
 - Committee discussed mix of the first round of volunteer vs. career. It was suggested by the committee to be 65% volunteer and 35% career.
 - There needs to be further discussion of longevity.
 - Career will be based on lottery.
 - Volunteer must be a member in good standing and do 1 extra shift per month.
 - Discussion about extra balls in lottery based on length of service and separating lottery based on units (studio, 1 bedroom, 2 bedroom, etc.)

- Goal is firefighters in bedrooms.
- Discussion of other units throughout the District (i.e. Starwood, North 40, Woody Creek) to include in total. It was decided to focus on North 40 first.
- Committee will go back to group and survey again with new rates.

Aspen Village Option:

Denis discussed another option for Aspen Village housing. He received proposal on a shipping container housing option. More information will be emailed out to the board. Option 2 looks at expanding the sanitation system. With this option, you could get (4) one-bedroom units for \$1.8 million. Units are 8x40.

**MOTION: Motion by John to adjourn at 12:55pm. Michael 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.**