

Aspen Fire Protection District



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Board of Directors Regular Meeting January 12, 2021

The Board of Directors of the Aspen Fire Protection District met for their regular meeting. The meeting was available virtually via Zoom.

Meeting called to order by John at 5:10pm

Roll Call:

- Board of Directors Present: John Ward, Denis Murray, Dave (Wabs) Walbert, Michael Buglione, Stephen Wertheimer
- Board of Directors Absent: None
- Staff/Volunteers Present: Rick Balentine, Parker Lathrop, Nikki Lapin, Jan Schubert, Jacob Arywitz, Arnold Nimmo, Ryan Warrant, Ken Josselyn, Charlie Curtis
- Public/Others: Karl Hanlon, Paul Broome

Approval of Minutes:

MOTION: Motion by Steve to approve minutes from Regular Meeting held on December 8, 2020, Special Meeting held on December 16, 2020 and Special Meeting held on December 22, 2020. Wabs second.

Discussion: There was discussion on comment from December 8th meeting in regards to doubling allocation to FPPA from previous year. Jan Schubert confirmed the board can change the allocation after the 2020 audit in April. Any funds put in now would not be reflected in the actuarial study. There was a clarification in the minutes on December 16th in regards to the North 40 Project design in reference to Item #5 Hydraulic Elevator (125 FPM) ILO Traction (200 FPM). It was the board's understanding the change was in favor of traction, not hydraulic. Paul Broome will review.

All approved.

Public Comment: None

AVFD Inc – Ryan Warren, President:

- Introduction of new AVFD Inc. Board: Vice President Charlie Curtis, Treasurer Jan Schubert and Secretary Nic Milton.

- Ryan or another officer of AVFD Inc. will commit to being at the AFPD board meetings. The goals are to make this a more robust organization.
- AVFD Inc. Overview: Ryan gave an overview of the non-profit corporation. Members include current volunteer firefighters, career firefighters, administrative staff and retired firefighters that have applied.
- All the officers of AVFD Inc. have had numerous conversations with other firefighters since taking office. The loss of Parker Lathrop is hitting the firefighters. They see this as a significant loss to the organization.

North 40 Housing Project Update: Paul Broome

- Hydraulic vs. Traction: Paul revisited this item. The way it is written from FCI, stated Hydraulic (125 feet per minute) ILO Traction Elevator (200 feet per minute) with Hydraulic being slower. Paul will reconfirm this with FCI.
- Budget Update: Paul reviewed the budget. The costs were very minimal this month. The district is carrying a \$500,000 contingency and FCI is carrying 3% which is about \$435,000. Currently the project is still budgeted at approximately \$17 million. The numbers will go up and down as real numbers get verified.
- North 40 Project Schedule: Paul reviewed the project schedule. The design team is supposed give us the contract documents by Friday, January 15th. It will not be in CD documents yet. This will help to establish the GMP. FCI will be providing the GMP schedule of values on Thursday, January 28th. This will give the district time to review the numbers and work with FCI to finish the final contract. The goal is to have a final contract for the next regular board meeting. The permit was given to an outside source and should receive comments back on drawings in the next week with hopes to receive permit around February 8th.
- Paul proposed allowing FCI to start spending some money not to exceed \$205,000, unless board is comfortable with \$350,000.

MOTION: Motion by Denis to allocate \$350,000 to be expended by FCI prior to the signing of the contract in an effort to mobilize and be ready to start the fire place. Michael second. All approved.

Financials:

- FPPA for Career Firefighter: There was question if an actuarial study is done for the FPPA program designed for career firefighters. Jan clarified that the contributions are set by the State, but would look into it further.
- COVID-19 related reimbursements. Jan gave clarification of all the items included in this line item that will be reimbursable via a grant received for \$100,000 through the COVID Relief Fund. This was extended through 2021 to cover items such as the video conferencing at both stations for distance learning, work from home equipment and extra medical cleaning supplies. Jan is still going through receipts to finalize.
- New Apparatus: One check was sent in December the new engine in the amount of \$782,000 and another now in January for other apparatus. There is a discount by paying now.
- Honor Guard Expense: The expense of \$7,000 was for 911 Remembrance Day, patches, t-shirts and expenses associated with people attending some events outside of Aspen.
- Dispatch Expense: The bill for dispatch still needs to go in.
- New Recruits 2021: Any expenses for new recruits will be covered by FEMA grant.

Board Comments & Action Items:

- Virtual Meetings: Denis commented that we are top in the state for COVID-19 cases and suggested that meetings going forward be held virtual. He also suggested going back to shutting station

down and do what we can to respect the red level. Many board members agreed to virtual meetings and the continuation of keeping the stations closed to the public.

- Strategic Plan: Rick is looking to move the meeting from February to April 8th – 10th to get through COVID. The planned venue had to cancel because of red level. The board session would be April 8th and the member session would be 9th and 10th.
- John Ward: Mutual Aid with Aspen Ambulance discussion from operations meeting. Parker clarified the expectations. Delta calls add about 13 calls per month and Echo level calls are already called out. Rick spoke to the fact it will give our firefighters more hands-on experience and helps our neighboring agencies and community.

MOTION: Denis made a motion to adopt the following resolutions: Resolution 2020-12-01 To Adopt 2021 Budget, Resolution 2020-12-02 To Set Mill Levies, Resolution 2020-12-03 To Appropriate Funds, Resolution 2021-01-01 Posting of Meetings. Michael second. Discussion: None. All approved.

Fire Marshal Report:

- Parker gave an overview of upcoming events and projects. Projects for next summer are starting to ramp up. X-Games is coming up soon and will look a bit different than events in the past due to COVID-19.
- The board thanked Parker for all he has done and commented on how he will be missed.

Training Report:

- 2021 Training Schedule: The schedule has been posted. There is a lot of training happening this year. Aspen Fire has been awarded the LIVE FIRE trailer this year and a driving simulator. Career and Volunteer Captains are coming up with Captain level training.
- New Recruit Class: Nikki gave an overview of the upcoming recruiting process. Currently 19 applications have been received.

CEO/Fire Chief & Good of District

- 2021 Officer Team Introduction:
 - Battalion Chief – Bruce Bradshaw
 - Captain Craig Melville
 - Captain Mike Haisfield
 - Captain Jacob Arywitz
 - Pension committee: Mike Lyons and Mike Tracey
 - Going to be 6 truck teams which will be covered by both Volunteer and Career Captains with rotation during the year.
- Strategic Plan: There was good participation with the citizen survey. It was on the website, in newspaper and on the radio. The citizen meeting will be tomorrow, January 13th, via Zoom.
- Salary survey: This should be available sometime the middle of February.
- COVID-19 Serial testing is continuing. Approximately 100 tests per week.
- COVID-19 Vaccine roll out. AFD received request to help. There have been 2600 applications for age 70+ already.
- Parker Lathrop Resignation: Rick thanked him. Staff is working on hiring process for replacement. Rick asked for a board member to sit on the interview committee. The board would like to see Michael Buglione and Dave (Wabs) Walbert be part of the committee.
- Fire Marshal: Rick is in discussion with Jan Legersky.
- Posting of Jobs: Karl H. will be working with Staff to make sure postings are covered according to new laws passed in January.
- Starwood Stationkeeper: Fabrizio Brovelli has taken the position and already moved in.

- North 40 Tenant: Max Lyall is new tenant. There were no volunteers that applied for North 40 station housing.

Old Business: None

MOTION: **Motion by John to adjourn at 6:45pm. Wabs second. All approved.**