

# Aspen Fire Protection District

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## Board of Directors Regular Meeting November 28th, 2023

The Board of Directors of the Aspen Fire Protection District met for their regular meeting, rescheduled from 11/14/23 due to illness, travel and lack of quorum. The meeting was open to the public in person and virtually via Zoom.

**Meeting called to order by John Ward at 5:03pm**

### **Roll Call:**

- Board of Directors Present: John Ward, Dave “Wabs” Walbert, Emily Taylor (via zoom), Charles Cunniffe
- Board of Directors Absent: Parker Lathrop
- Staff/Volunteers Present: Jake Andersen, Ali Hammond, Nikki Lapin, Amanda Perusse, Ken Josselyn, Arnold Nimmo, Scott Arthur.
- Online: Rick Balentine, Jake Spaulding, Jan Schubert, Station 61, Jan Legersky,
- Public/Others: Richard Peterson

**Parker Lathrop arrived at 5:06pm**

**MOTION: Motion by Wabs to approve minutes from Regular Meeting on October 10<sup>th</sup>, 2023.**

**Second: Charles Cunniffe**

**Discussion: None**

**Vote: All approved.**

**Public Comment:** None

**AVFD Inc.:** None

### **Financials**

- Monthly Financial Review.
  - Packet was reviewed and discussed. Question about exceeding the budget. There were items that were moved around per the Boards request (Entire Capital Acquisition Fund was taken out, Housing fund was moved out of general fund)
    - Rick will review with Jan Schubert, once she is back in the office, to make sure everything has been allocated correctly YTD.
- Quarter 3 FPPA and Actuarial
  - Discussion based on recommendation from Mike Tracey, Volunteer Pension Fund representative, to raise from \$750 monthly to \$850 monthly with an option to increase ~ 3% annually based on COLA vs CPI.

**MOTION: Motion by John to increase the FPPA Volunteer Pension Plan funding, for 20 pensionable years of service, from \$750/month to \$850/month, effective January 1, 2024 with a goal of a future annual increases of 3% thereafter.**

**Second: Charles Cunniffe**

**Discussion: None**

**Vote: Emily, John and Charles approved, Parker and Wabs abstained due to being recipients.**

Recommendation that the whole pension board meet to accept update motion.

- 2024 Draft Budget Review
  - Discussion that we won't know final numbers from the legislation updates until January 3<sup>rd</sup>. Final approved budget is due by January 10<sup>th</sup>.
  - Discussion of the addition of 20% to the Capital Acquisition Fund per the BOD request last meeting, additional funds to overtime and returning money to taxpayers through statewide reductions.
  - Discussion that certain expenses are authorized but not yet budgeted for 2024, suggestion of conditional approval of the budget at the December BOD meeting, based on estimates from the assessor's office, and potential allocation of excess funds to pension, capital acquisition and general fund reserves.
  - Board asked staff to allocate all revenue from the general mill to into Capital Acquisitions, General Fund, and some into FPPA, so that it can be put to good use and we have access to it.
  - Discussion on Pano AI increase in cost, which will be offset by the income it produces.
  - Discussion around GO Bond

**Board member comments/action items:**

- Wabs would like more clarification on the Fire Place Housing accounting provided by the Romero Group, will meet with Rick Balentine and Jan Schubert in the next couple of weeks to discuss.
- John Ward – reminder that there is an upcoming Holiday Party on December 9<sup>th</sup> at the Mtn Chalet for all Aspen Fire Members.
- Pitkin County IGA included in packet. Dispatch will move out from under the Sheriff and under the County Manager for oversight. Physical location will not change.

**MOTION:**      **Motion made by John Ward to approve the Intergovernmental Agreement for the Operations, Administration and Financial Support Of The Pitkin County Regional Dispatch Center, subject to final tweaks approved by the District's Attorney.**

**Second:**      **Charles Cunniffe**

**Discussion:**      **None**

**Vote:**      **All approved.**

**Staff Report:**

- Fire Marshal – Jan Legersky
  - Staff report was included in the board packet.
  - Plan reviews from 2022 were 411, we are on track to hit this same number in 2023.
  - Construction has slowed down.
  - Jan will present more information on City's sprinkler rule at next board meeting.
  - Recognition from Chief Balentine to Jan and Ben for a job well done during a very busy October, especially for Fire Prevention Week.
- Operations Report – Deputy Chief Andersen highlighted:
  - Recent incidents.
    - They found a rock inside a hydrant they were trying to utilize. This is why it is so important to run flow tests and flush hydrants.
    - Fire pit was left on and caught the patio furniture on fire, however the house was unharmed, as it was a fire hardened house with concrete pad.
    - Tommy Clapper celebration of life at the Elks before his passing. Wonderful to have some of our new recruits and seasoned veterans at the event.
    - WW Cornell headstone placing, 120 years in the making. The Honor Guard did an amazing job. Thank you to LT Will Shoemith for pouring the slab. Thank you to A-shift for setting the marble headstone, which was donated by the marble quarry, possible that they will not be billing us for the slab.
  - Battalion Chief's brunch for all BC's from Aspen to Glenwood Springs took place a couple of week ago, with a goal of standardizing certain SOG's valley wide to make mutual aid calls work better. Also doing more trainings together with other departments, ride-alongs, shadowing and being more collaborative than in the past.

- Training Report and Recruitment– Scott Arthur
  - Reviewed training last month and upcoming training as listed in the staff report.
  - Reviewed trench training that took place October 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup>. Thanked Stutzman-Gerbaz for all their help digging and filling the trenches. Working on an MOU and looking for ways to include them in any trench rescues that arise.
  - December 6<sup>th</sup> operational meeting – badging ceremony for 2023 graduating recruit class.
  - Recruitment class of 2024 – we have 8 recruits accepted into the program, with an updated task book that will require more time in the station prior to January academy.

**Wildfire Community Action Fund:** Information in packet, Ali Hammond highlighted:

- WCAF received another grant that will help support the Chipping Program in 2024
- Moving forward with Aspen Wildfire Foundation 501c3, hoping certification will be finalized in early 2024.
- Discussion of hiring a WCAF Project Manager for the year 2024 to help organize the 25 project locations that have already been verified by Pitko CWPP. The position would be completely funded by incoming donations and grants. BOD is okay with the concept, but would like more discussion and clarification for next meeting.

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

- WUI board Senate Bill – information in packet. Next meeting is Friday in Colorado Springs. Will keep the Board posted on the outcome.
- Fire Place Proposed Rental Rates included in packet – presented by John Ward from the last Housing Committee meeting. These new rates will help us keep close to breaking even, which is the goal, with the option to increase rates annually if need be. Lease verbiage might need to be amended sooner than later, based on new rate structure and the possibility of units opening up in December, early 2024. District’s Attorney will review the verbiage. For the next housing committee meeting in December, they will finalize if APCA applications are a requirement for all tenants, either once or annually, and if there might need to be exceptions to this requirement.

**MOTION: Motion made by Charles to approve new Fire Place rental rates as proposed by the housing committee.**

**Second: Wabs**

**Discussion: None**

**Vote: All approved**

- Veteran’s Day was a great success. Dick Miller is stepping down. Foresee our involvement moving forward increasing.
- Discussion about We-Cycle proposal of spots for electric bikes out at North 40 nearby station/housing. This allows for e-bikes out that way without any cost of liability to the District. Further discussion is needed.

**Old Business:** none

- Aspen Village Project - Looking at doing some updates to this property in the upcoming year for some temporary uses for staffing.
- North 40 Property- still working on this. Charles Cunniffe will be the BOD representative along with Rick Balentine once these meetings are solidified.

**New Business:** none

**MOTION: Motion by John Ward to adjourn at 7:13pm**

**Second: Wabs**

**Discussion: None**

**Vote: All approved.**

**\*\*\* A full recording of this meeting can be requested by contacting the District Administrator at [nikki.lapin@aspenfire.com](mailto:nikki.lapin@aspenfire.com) or by calling 970-925-5532.**