

Aspen Fire Protection District

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



Board of Directors Regular Meeting August 29, 2108

Meeting called to order at 5:05 by Karl Adam

Roll Call:

- Board of Directors: Karl Adam, Stoney Davis, Denis Murray, Stoney Davis, Dave (Wabs) Walbert, John Ward (Arrived 5:20pm)
- Absent:
- Staff/Volunteers: Rick Balentine, Parker Lathrop, Nikki Lapin, Jan Schubert, Thom Baar, Ryan Warren, Josh Burnaman, Ken Josselyn, Bruce Bradshaw
- Public/Others: Don Diones, Karl Hanlon

Approval of Minutes:

Motion from Denis to approve minutes from Regular Meeting on July 11, 2018. Wabs Second. All Approved.

Public Comment:

- Friends of Aspen Fire will be the name of the campaign committee formed by several volunteers, staff and members of the public. Mike Haman is President, John Ward is Treasurer and Ryan Warren will be Secretary. There will be a fundraiser held on October 6th at the ChaCha Gallery.

Good of District:

- Big thank you to Boogie Weinglass for the donation of funds to purchase the new Brush truck.

Financials:

- FPPA Quarterly Report was presented in the board packet.
- Wildfire Income: The state has been billed \$163,000 so far this year. This is a profit of \$85,000. The biggest advantage of this program has been the valuable training firefighters have received. After the new Brush truck was received, another crew was sent out, bringing in another \$12,000.

Board of Directors:

- Mill Levy Ballot Issue: Don Diones and Karl Hanlon helped prepare several options that were presented to the board. The original proposal was 1.25 mill levy increase (Appendix A in board packet). Two other options were presented based on the effects of Gallagher Amendment and potential loss of income to the district.
 - Paid Staff: There was discussion of future paid staff. The original operational plan figured into the proposal was two paid 24-hour positions and a training officer position.
 - Emergency Disaster Reserve: This is emergency fund set aside in case of wildfire or other large natural disaster. There was discussion of the significant costs associated with large scale wildfires and what it could cost a district.

- Housing: Looking at cost of \$16 million. If this mill levy passes, it was suggested a survey going out to staff/volunteers to find out needs. There will be rents associated. It will not be like the stationkeeper program.
- There was much discussion between board members of going with 1.25 or 1.4 mill levy increase. Stoney expressed that whether it is 1.25 or 1.4, it is still up to the board to manage the funds. It does not mean it all needs to be spent. Rick pointed out that the past years we have been at least \$100,000 under budget.
- Karl Hanlon explained the requirements of having a set dollar amount along with the mill levy on the ballot issue.
- The board was split on 1.25 or 1.4. Stoney suggested 1.325.
- **Motion from Stoney for 1.325 mill levy increase. John Second. Discussion: There was more discussion on the effect of Gallagher Amendment and the unknown. The board does not want to have to go back to voters at a later time if this is not enough to fulfill the mission of the district. Rick mentioned that other districts are going for a De-Gallagherize. Many believe this will be challenged. Other agencies are going to a mill levy increase to help offset. All Approved.**
- Karl Hanlon will correct the Resolution to reflect 1.325.
- North 40 Housing: Rick clarified that the \$700/square foot is for hard and soft costs. Rick is going to North 40 HOA board meeting October 2nd to show them the ideas.
- Budget: Staff is working on draft. It will be presented at next board meeting on September 12th.

CEO/Fire Chief

- Starwood Update: Rick has been attending several HOA meetings. They were half million over budget. After it was approved some HOA members were not happy. Rick has been told by many of the homeowners they believe it will go through, however he is continuing to filter questions.
- Grand Junction: Still under contract.
- Wildfire Community Outreach: There will be a talk in Aspen, Basalt and Glenwood Springs sponsored by the Aspen Community Foundation. Gary Ferguson, author of "Land on Fire" will be presenting. The one in Aspen will be held on September 27th at 5:30pm at the Hotel Jerome. Honor Guard will be posting colors.
- Rick accepted a check from Roaring Fork Conservatory in the amount of \$18,250. These were funds split between several agencies in the valley. The stipulation is that it be used toward wildfire equipment or something else pertaining to it.
- Airport MOU: Rick has call John Peacock. He is out of town until next week. Rick has some safety concerns about the new proposal of 737's flying into airport. Karl Hanlon gave an overview of the district's juridical responsibility on the runway. Everyone agreed an MOU is needed. Board directed Karl Hanlon to finish drafting letter.
- Aspen Sojourner will be doing photo spread on Lake Christine Fire.
- Aspen Village: Staff turned in preliminary drawings to the county. Will still need a letter from Aspen Village HOA stating they are okay with someone living there. The person looking at living there receive housing through the City, but will put information out to staff/volunteers to see if someone is interested.

AVFD Inc.

- AVFD took a bit of loss on the July 4th event, however look forward to doing again next year. This year there was several events that happened

New Business:

- Woody Creek Utilities: They have decided not to charge us for water. Letter was in board packet.

Motion from Karl to adjourn meeting at 6:43. Wabs Second. All Approved.