

# Aspen Fire Protection District

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## Board of Directors Regular Meeting February 8, 2022

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

### Meeting called to order by John at 5:08pm

#### Roll Call:

- Board of Directors Present: John Ward, Denis Murray, Steve Wertheimer (via Zoom), Michael Buglione (via Zoom), Dave "Wabs" Walbert
- Board of Directors Absent:
- Staff/Volunteers Present: Rick Balentine, Jake Andersen, Jan Legersky, Jan Schubert, Nikki Lapin, Ali Hager, Scott Arthur, Ken Josselyn, Jake Spaulding, Bruce Bradshaw, Jack Orsi, Charlie Curtis
- Public/Others: Richard Peterson, Sebastian Wanatowicz

#### Approval of Minutes:

**MOTION: Motion by Wabs to approve minutes from: Regular meeting held on January 11, 2022. Denis second.**

**Discussion: None**

**Vote: All approved**

#### Public Comment:

- Bruce Bradshaw thanked the board for the meeting held February 7<sup>th</sup> and the results that came out of it.

#### AVFD Inc., Ryan Warren: Not Present

#### North 40 Housing Project Update: Sebastian Wanatowicz

- Project Budget Update:
  - In the 12<sup>th</sup> billing cycle from FCI in the amount of \$921,101.95. Most of it was rough ins, some mechanical, electrical and plumbing, insulation and sheet rock.
- Project Schedule
  - Lost a couple days on the float of the schedule, but doing fine on the master schedule.
  - Currently working through the infrastructure for phone, cable and internet.
  - Currently on budget and on schedule.
- Project Allowances
  - Snow removal and earthwork for winter conditions is still the big one. FCI believes we should see approximately \$100,000 back on it dependent on winter storms.
  - Doing good on the wood material cost increase. Will see a decent amount of the \$119,000 come back. Could be upwards of \$200,000 come back to us as a credit from the allowances.
  - Still need to work through other allowances as they finish scopes of work for the plaza, terrace and pavers. They photovoltaic is the other big one still out there that we have not pulled monies from.

- Allowance 22 has \$38,000 and is a credit back to the project for any miscellaneous items that come up.
- Project Contingency Reconciliation:
  - The contingency is sitting at roughly \$404,000. Allowance 22 will help buy down any monies for change orders. There have been two change orders so far that have gone against the budget. Approximately \$95,000 has been used against the \$500,000 in terms of contingency.
  - Sebastian reviewed the rest of the breakdown provided by FCI and how the allowances have been used.
  - The general contractor contingency is at \$208,899. The project manager feels confident that the majority of that money will come back as a credit at the end of the project.
  - Rick spoke to the neighbors about fence behind housing project and upgrading. They may be willing to pay for it or partially fund it.
- PV Option Package:
  - Sebastian included some final information on the photovoltaic system and the back up battery in the board packet. There was a discussion of single phase versus three-phase. This option was not available when discussed at the last meeting. The three-phase option gets roughly 12 hours of heat and garage and use of the elevator in the event of a power outage. It is recommended to go with Alt #2 – 52kW system with three phase battery. This will be a \$25,000 change order because it goes above and beyond the allowance. Sebastian explained at the last meeting the board agreed on the base bid with a single-phase battery and exploring the alternate of adding more panels than needed to meet the ramp on the project on the set of Fire Place roofs.

**MOTION: Motion by Denis to approve Alt #2 – 52kW system and the three-phase battery with total cost estimate of \$265,175.00 superseding the motion made at the meeting on January 11th approving the GES ballasted with Alt 1 with the idea to maximize the output while maintaining easy maintenance paths. John second.**

**Discussion: It was discussed adding language to the motion explaining that this motion supersedes previous motion on January 11<sup>th</sup>. This has been reflected accordingly.**

**Vote: All approved**

**MOTION: Motion by John to wrap elevator shaft in thin brick from plaza to upper level. Wabs second.**

**Discussion: None**

**Vote: All approved**

**Aspen Village Housing Option:**

- Denis gave a brief overview of the proposal put together by Sebastian and Cody. The current septic system would need to be expanded and have talked to Romero group about increasing water supply if we go with more units. Denis reviewed the original architect design to convert the office into a one-bedroom apartment. Chris Bendon did have a preliminary discussion with Pitkin County and confirmed it would be a Location and Extent through Planning and Zoning.
- Denis presented another option involving container homes. A manufacturer was found in Grand Junction that can build them similar to pictures and videos sent to board. Renovation of building, three units and storage unit would have approximate cost of \$1.5 million. This would create 4 units. They are very efficient. It was suggested to add question to survey if anyone would be interested in this type of unit. There was a very lengthy discussion.

**MOTION:** Motion by John to authorize to authorize the soft cost portion of the project. Denis second.

**Discussion:** Tabled to next meeting and wait for survey results to understand the demand. Rick asked about looking into the Woody Creek option as well. He noted there is a potential of \$325,000 through GQMS funds that could go toward housing at Aspen Village or Woody Creek.

**Vote:** Tabled to next meeting.

### **Wildfire Community Action Fund Project – Ali Hager**

- Current fundraising total is \$181,500.
- Ali provided an overview of opportunities for grants. The goal is to get approximately \$2,000,000 combined by end of year. This is total goal with grants and fundraising.
- Outreach: Ali has developed a strategic outreach program for the district. Included in the board packet was a draft of an outreach document.
- Implementation: Ali covered multiple projects coming up; Bark Beetle Project, Hunter Smuggler Prescribed Burn, Community fuel break opportunity on Lower Red Mountain and Fuels/hazard trees opportunity on Hunter Creek Trail with AVLT and Pitkin County OST.
- Ali reviewed current collaborations and meeting involvements.

### **Financials**

- Monthly financial reports were included in the board packet. Jan Schubert clarified that radios charges are based on the number of radios and there is a separate billing for service provided by dispatch.
- S&P Global Ratings have given us an upgrade. This is a big deal and does not happen often. This will make our bonds and COP's more attractive. Jan Schubert received a huge shout out for her help and diligence with this process.

### **Board Comments & Action Items:**

- Michael Buglione: No comment
- Steve Wertheimer: Steve reiterated praise to Jan Schubert for keeping the books in shape and working to get the S&P Global Rating upgrade.
- Dave "Wabs" Walbert: There was discussion of the new engines being purchased. There was a big discount to purchase them together. They were paid in two different budget years. Current plan is to keep one engine as a reserve to use when other engines go into the shop or Engine 65 needs to be sent out to wildfire. Jake Andersen confirmed that all trucks and apparatus that need to be sold will go to auction through GovDeals.
- Denis Murray: Denis brought up discussion about bonuses and that it was not included in the salary study and noted that the Chief bonus was not in the budget. John commented that the 6% is a fair bonus for where the Fire Chief has taken us in the last year. Looking back on 2021, we certainly had some issues that John believes the chief has responded to and improved. John noted he is a strong believer in rewarding someone for work over and above what they get. There was further discussion of bonuses. Steve noted that we got a lot of good work out of a lot of good people this year and there's nothing wrong with giving them a small bonus as an incentive. Michael agreed. Denis mentioned that one of the superintendent's on the Aspen Fire Place Housing project passed away of COVID. There was much discussion about the amount.

**MOTION:** Motion by Denis to give a cash donation of \$2,500 to Merlin's family. Wabs second.

**Discussion: No further**

**Vote: All approved**

- Rick made a comment that he is here everyday watching staff work their tails off and work a lot more than they bill us.

**MOTION: Motion by John to approve Resolution 2022-05 authorizing bonus to Fire Chief. Wabs second.**

**Discussion: John commented on where we are as a district, improvements made in our standing within the community, where we are with the housing and the solid footing financially as proof with the S&P Rating and supports this.**

**Vote: All approved.**

**Staff Report:**

- Fire Marshal and Prevention
  - In January there were 33 inspections, 26 plan reviews and 15 site visits.
  - X Games went well. From our standpoint there were no issues.
  - There was an incident at 173 Slalom Lake. Still under investigation.
  - Working with Denis on code amendments.
- Operations Overview:
  - DC Andersen gave a brief overview of the Slalom Lake incident.
  - Completed a successful hiring process. Job offers have been made. This information was included in the board packet.
  - New recruits have started the CMC Academy.
  - Officers have decided to change the structure of officer group. Realign with Battalion Chiefs. This will happen on the career side as well. There is no change in salaries and/or job duties. It will be a title change.
- Training Report:
  - Postponed SCBA due to COVID. This will occur in February.
  - New RQI system has started.
- Fleet and Facilities:
  - Ken gave an overview of the new apparatus. There is a completion date of February 21<sup>st</sup>. Three members will be going to Wisconsin for final inspections. They will ship to Front Range Fire in Denver to be outfitted. Expected delivery is the first week of April.
- Interagency Cooperation:
  - Staff is meeting with dispatch and several other agencies and meeting on implementing major incident response (i.e. Aircraft accident, structure fire, active shooter, wildland fire) where we will automatically get dispatches from neighboring agencies to start moving that direction to help. A good example was the explosion incident.
  - Also working on getting operating SOG's in alignment with other agencies in the valley.
- Employee Handbook
  - Staff is working on updates that will be brought back to the board. In the process of forming a working group to work on it and would like a representative or two from the board.
- Recruitment, Retention and Participation
  - There is a group working on this.

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

- Rick discussed how agencies worked together on recent call. There will be an After Action review coming up.
- GSQ application was included in the board packet. This was mentioned earlier during the housing discussion. There is a potential of \$325,000 in funding to help with further housing.
- Rick commended all those involved in the hiring process. There were multiple comments from board members on how well it was organized and it was very inclusive with cross selection of our department members and some outside agencies.

**Old Business:**

- Aspen Village: Discussed under housing discussion.
- Aspen North 40 Housing Guidelines: No further discussion.

**MOTION: Motion by John to adjourn at 7:25pm. Wabs second.  
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.**