

**RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS
ROARING FORK FIRE RESCUE AUTHORITY
BOARD MEETING**

May 18, 2021

Authority Board President Ed Van Walraven called the meeting to order at 9:06 a.m. Board members present were Ed Van Walraven, John Young, Leroy Duroux and Dave Heivly via Lifesize. Other's present were Chief Scott Thompson, Deputy Chief Kevin Issel, Deputy Fire Marshal Brook Stott, Division Chiefs Richard Cornelius and Terry Cox, Finance Director Jennifer Thompson, Human Resources Director Renee Thomas, IT Director Erik Johnson, Attorney Bob Cole, Battalion Chief Chance Goldyn, Lieutenant Andy Fisher, Firefighters Wes Blasberg, Maureen McPhee, Ben Smith, Jesse Tanner, and Jessica Waltenburg, and Administrative Assistant Susan Herwick.

Guest: Casey Fisher

Swearing in Ceremony:

Chief Thompson swore Jessica Waltenburg and Maureen (Mo) McPhee in as full-time Lieutenant/Paramedics and Andy Fisher in as Battalion Chief.

Minutes of April 20, 2021 Meeting:

Director John Young made a motion to accept the minutes, the motion was seconded by Director Dave Heivly. All were in favor and the motion carried 4 – 0.

Public Comments:

None

Attorney's Report:

Attorney Bob Cole stated that he had been working with HR Director Renee Thomas on the legalities of adding three temporary full-time firefighter positions this summer during wildfire season (June thru September 11) for a severity patrol.

Chief's Report:

Chief Thompson stated that Hillary Fletcher will present the Strategic Plan to the Board at the next meeting on June 22, 2021. Her presentation will end what she has been doing for us. We will then engage an external communications consultant to help us work on internal/external communications. It has been a long process due to COVID-19.

Chief Thompson stated that he has put the plans for Station 46 on West Sopris Creek out for bid. Five companies have picked up the plans so far. We will not sign a contract until we have the promised funding from the Sopris Mountain Ranch Homeowner's Association in our account.

Chief Thompson stated that the bid for the new Tender has been narrowed down to two vendors. We will meet with both of these vendors in person. It will be 16 – 18 months before delivery.

Chief Thompson stated that we have over 1 million square feet of development happening in our District right now. We need to start planning for the future. We need to remodel Station 42 and build a training facility. We also need to look at acquiring more employee housing. Most of all we need to add more staff in order to keep our current ISO rating of 3. Our community is starting to outgrow our fire department. We need to think about raising the mill levy and/or issue a bond through the Basalt & Rural Fire Protection District. The Crawford family has set aside a one-acre parcel of land behind Station 42 for a training facility. Discussion.

Chief Thompson stated that we need to start by hiring a consultant who can give us some projections and come up with a plan. We will need to have two questions on the ballot in the near future. Impact fees were discussed.

Chief Thompson stated that the strategic plan is all about staff, recruitment, retention, training, etc.

Director Young stated that once we have a consultant on board, we need to keep the community informed on our situation so that they aren't caught off guard.

Chief Thompson stated that the Crawford family is willing to sell us the three-acres of property that the fire station and training facility would occupy. Discussion commenced on how we would pay for the property.

Deputy Chief of Administration Report:

Deputy Chief Kevin Issel stated that the new fleet mechanic will start on June 7. He will be residing in an apartment at Station 41. We currently have a fire engine out of service and on the front range being repaired.

Deputy Fire Marshal Report:

Chief Thompson stated that staff helped the Prevention Division with the final on the Ski Company housing building. Deputy Fire Marshal Brooke Stott stated that construction hasn't slowed down any. Fire Prevention is busy conducting wildfire assessments as requested.

Division Chief of EMS:

Division Chief Cornelius provided the following COVID update.

Federal

CDC's Guidance for Fully Vaccinated People was recently updated: Fully vaccinated people can resume activities without wearing a mask or physically distancing except when required by federal, state or local laws, rules and regulations.

State

On May 14th Governor Polis announced there would be no more state-level mask requirements (masks are still “encouraged”). There are some exceptions to mask requirements like schools and congregate care facilities.

On April 16th the COVID-19 Dial evolved into Public Health Order 20-38: Limited COVID-19 Restrictions, allowing counties to implement regulations at the local level while still maintaining some limited requirements across the state. Counties may use the statewide dial framework as a model for implementing their own regulations.

Pitkin County

At this time Pitkin County is utilizing the statewide dial framework and have moved to Level Green: Protect our Neighbors on May 10, 2021.

Eagle County

Eagle County Public Health and Environment will lift all local public health orders related to COVID-19 tomorrow. This is largely based on disease incidence showing a steady decline and vaccination rates on the rise.

Garfield County

Garfield County residents are “encouraged,” but not mandated, to continue wearing masks indoors and follow other health-safety practices to keep the spread of COVID-19 in check. Beyond that, though, the county is essentially reopened to pre-pandemic levels in all but a few sectors still governed by state public health rules.

The exception is within Glenwood Springs city limits, where City Council last week extended its ordinance requiring masks to be worn indoors, at least through May 20.

EMS Training

We hosted a Basic EMS Field Training Officer Course developed from the National EMS Management Association April 26 – 28, 2021 at Station 45. This brought in EMS providers from all parts of the state and Utah. Several of our members successfully the course and graduated.

We hosted a Pediatric Advanced Life Support Full Provider Course last week at Station 42 with ten students. Thanks to Lt. Fisher for helping as an instructor.

Paramedic Education Program

Eric Goldberger, Michael Hall and Tucker Kinney are all still doing great. They are completing clinicals and their field internship. Their graduation is scheduled for July 16th! The next accelerated program starts on June 21st with Ryan Lee and Neal Martin accepted and attending.

New Ambulance

Three vendors will make their proposal presentation to the EMS Committee tomorrow.

Division Chief of Training:

Division Chief Cox stated that training has been going well. Extrication training will be held tonight. Swift water rescue training will take place this weekend with refresher days scheduled for those people already certified.

We will be bringing in a Fire Instructor I and Fire Officer I course this summer. Our newly promoted officers are required to take both courses.

HR Report:

Human Resources Director Renee Thomas stated that the strategic plan sub-committees have been working on initiatives and projects to meet those initiatives for the last four months.

HR Director Thomas stated that she recently made eight contingent job offers to people (5 part-time, 2 full-time, and 1 fleet mechanic). Internal promotions have created two additional openings for firefighter/paramedic which are currently being advertised. We will start the on-boarding of our new officers and people next week.

Finance Report:

Finance Director Jennifer Thompson stated that we are within budget for the year. April's property tax has been received. Our spending has changed during the pandemic. Discussion ensued regarding money that could be used to purchase the three-acre parcel from the Crawford family.

Director Young stated that we should earmark the rent from employee housing for the purchase of additional employee housing. He also suggested a modest increase in rent each year with the stipulation that the rent remain lower than the normal employee housing rents.

Board Comments:

Director Young stated that Director Irene Greiser's resignation has saddened him. We need to commemorate her tenure as a Board member somehow. Chief Thompson stated that we will do something for her and Brian Olson as he got skipped because of COVID.

Director Young stated that we need to have a celebration for everyone this year. A picnic has been suggested. Whatever we do, we need to go all out on. We should pick a date soon so that people have time to plan.

Director Young stated that we need to continue our wildfire community outreach program. Chief Thompson stated that live fuels and soil moisture are at a record low.

Director Young stated that there are lots of new faces on the Department. It is hard to keep track of all of the new people. Everyone needs to make a better effort at introducing ourselves to the new people.

Director Heivly stated that we have lots of women working for the District. Our two new Lieutenants are RFFRAs first female operational officers. We should pat ourselves on the back for this milestone. Women work smarter, not harder.

Staff Comments:

None

Old Business:

None

New Business:

Susan Herwick stated that someone from the Snowmass Board needs to be appointed to fill the vacancy left by Director Greiser's resignation.

Volunteer Meeting:

Director Heivly stated that he plans on attending the volunteer meeting at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday 6/1/2021. Chief Thompson stated that the meeting would be held in person, no restrictions, and dinner would be served.

Non-Agenda Items:

None

Adjournment:

Director Heivly made a motion to adjourn the meeting, it was seconded by Director Duroux. All were in favor and the motion passed 4 – 0. The meeting was adjourned at 10:20 a.m.

To watch this meeting in its entirety, please go to the following link:

<https://youtu.be/2DPEpHxp2dc>