

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

**September 21, 2021**

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Authority Board President Ed Van Walraven called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. Board members present were Ed Van Walraven, Leroy Duroux, William Boineau, and Elizabeth Striegler. Other's present were Chief Scott Thompson, Deputy Chiefs Richard Cornelius and Kevin Issel, Fire Marshal John Mele, Deputy Fire Marshal Brook Stott, Finance Director Jennifer Thompson, Human Resources Director Renee Thomas, IT Director Erik Johnson, Medical Director Joe Livengood, Attorney Bob Cole, Battalion Chief Jason Hutter, Lieutenants Gregor Dekleva and Brent Perusse, Firefighters Wes Blasberg, Michael Hall, Chelsey Johnson, Brooke Pashley, Chelsea Flamm, Will Shoesmith, James Dirkes, Jesse Tanner, Matthew Mikowski, Matthew Evans and Administrative Assistant Susan Herwick.

Guest: Evan Schriver

**Swearing in Ceremony:**

Chief Scott Thompson swore in Matthew Mikowski and Matthew Evans as Firefighter/Paramedics. They have completed the FTPEP (Field Training Evaluation Program). Chief Thompson thanked the FTO (Field Training Officers) for all of their hard work in bringing these guys on board.

**Minutes of August 17, 2021 Meeting:**

Director Boineau made a motion to accept the minutes as corrected, the motion was seconded by Director Duroux. All were in favor and the motion carried 4 – 0.

**Public Comments:**

None

**Attorney's Report:**

Attorney Bob Cole stated that the letter to Evan Schriver of the Fields Development for either a MOU (Memorandum of Understanding) or another agreement for employee housing in 2023 or 2024. Attorney Cole okayed the Board of Directors to move forward. Evan is excited for the Authority to be on board with the development. They will be breaking ground soon. He just needs to know what we need. The consensus of the Board was to move forward and continue working with Evan and Bob Cole on an agreement.

Attorney Cole stated that he was working on a design contract for Station 46. The construction contract has been signed and we started excavation last week.

**Chief's Report:**

Chief Thompson stated that the State is now mandating vaccinations in healthcare settings. Dr. Livengood explained the COVID vaccines. They are no longer under emergency use. They have been approved. Discussion ensued regarding the Authorities COVID vaccination policy. Religious and medical exemptions will still be allowed but the personal choice option will be removed from the vaccination policy. Attorney Cole confirmed that this discussion was consistent with existing law regarding COVID vaccination and the two exemptions. Chief Thompson asked the Board to approve the remove of personal choice from the vaccination policy. DC Cornelius stated that the target date for vaccination is October 31, 2021. Director Duroux made a motion to mandate COVID vaccination for all members by October 31, 2021 with religious and medical reasons being the only exception and anyone not vaccinated will be tested for COVID weekly. Director Boineau seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion carried 4 – 0.

Chief Thompson stated that the other policy that is in need of revision is the PTO (paid time off) and shift trade policy. Our current policy states that if a person takes PTO in their 28-shift cycle, they don't get paid overtime. He would like to not have PTO count against the employee. We would bring down the caps on PTO for both administration and operations. Shift trades that occur will have to have the same certification levels. Discussion ensued regarding the PTO/Shift Trade policy. The Board approved not having the use of PTO count against hours worked beginning January 1, 2022. This revised policy will be in effect for a one-year trial period and then be reevaluated. Jennifer Thompson stated that this policy should be adopted at the same time the budget is adopted because of the impact it will have on several line items.

Chief Thompson stated that the contract for Station 46 has been signed and excavation has begun. Sopris Mountain Ranch Homeowners Association is only \$20,000 shy of meeting their goal of \$900,000 in donations for construction. There is a 30-day waiting period before the Judge can sign off on the well.

**Deputy Chief Issel's Report:**

Deputy Chief Kevin Issel stated that he will begin winterizing all of the vehicles and facilities in October. Director Boineau asked whether DC Issel needed to hire an assistant. DC Issel stated that he would rather hire more line staff. Our infrastructure is in good shape. We use sub-contractors when needed. The master plan should tell us what the solution is for our future.

**Deputy Chief Mele's Report:**

Deputy Chief John Mele stated that SWIFT (State Wildland Inmate Firefighting Team) is in town again today doing more wildfire mitigation work. They have completed 30 acres already this year. Director Boineau stated that the SWIFT crew was an invaluable resource for wildfire mitigation projects.

## **Deputy Chief Cornelius's Report:**

### **COVID-19**

Division Chief Richard Cornelius stated that cases of the COVID (Delta) variant continue to be of concern locally, regionally and throughout the State of Colorado and nation. These cases are being investigated in nearly all counties in Colorado. 83% of patients who are hospitalized in Colorado are not fully vaccinated.

We continue to respond to incidents with patients with confirmed or suspected COVID-19 as well as those who previously had COVID-19 with lingering symptoms or complications. The Authority still has an enhanced PPE requirement and is following CDC guidelines and recommendations.

Updated guidance from the CDC published on July 27, 2021 recommends if you are fully vaccinated, to maximize protection from the Delta variant and prevent possibly spreading it to others, wear a mask indoors in public if you are in an area of substantial or high transmission. Currently the CDC identifies both Eagle, Garfield and Pitkin County as high transmission.

Pitkin County has implemented an indoor mask mandate. As a result, we have updated and published the Current COVID-19 Organizational Restrictions.

CDC still recommends that people whose immune systems are compromised should receive an additional dose of mRNA COVID-19 vaccine after the initial 2 doses. CDC does not recommend additional doses or booster shots for any other population at this time.

### **New Ambulance**

Members of the EMS Committee traveled to Portland, OR the first week in September for a pre-construction meeting at the Braun Northwest factory in Chehalis, WA.

### **Training**

For August's volunteer monthly EMS training the transition to Vector Solutions Check-It Controlled Substances took place in person in addition to a BLS Provider recertification course. Dr. Livengood will be providing the September volunteer EMS training in person and via Lifesize on Seizures with an emphasis on Pediatrics.

### **Paramedic Education Program**

Ryan Lee, Claudia Kirby and Neal Martin are currently enrolled in the Denver Health Paramedic Education Program accelerated program and are doing great. They took their final exam last week and will take their NREMT psychomotor exam on Friday.

### **Field Training Evaluation Program**

FTEP Committee members and Field Training Officers (FTO) Jimmy Dirkes, Chelsey Johnson, David Klebes, Ben Mackoff, Mo McPhee, Nick Wall and Jess Tanner have all been diligently working on the Field Training and Evaluation Program (FTEP). Tucker

Kinney, Michael Hall, Chris MacGregor and Eric Goldberger are all in their 120-day FTEP. Lt. Mo McPhee took over as FTEP Coordinator and the committee is working on standard evaluation guidelines.

### **Incidents**

January 01, 2020 through August 31, 2020 we responded to 1307 total incidents. 647 of those were EMS. January 01, 2021 through August 31, 2021 we responded to 1595 total incidents. 775 of those were EMS. There was an increase of 288 calls (**22%**) in YTD of '21 versus YTD of '20. There was an increase of 106 EMS calls (**19.8%**) in YTD of '21 versus YTD of '20

In August 2020 we responded to 173 total incidents. 67 of those were EMS. In August 2021 we responded to 191 total incidents. 89 of those were EMS. There was an increase of 18 calls (**10.4%**) in August '21 versus August '20. There was an increase of 22 EMS calls (**12.7%**) in August '21 versus August '20.

We are continuing to see more EMS incidents with a mental health component.

### **Human Resource Director's Report:**

Human Resources Director Renee Thomas stated that the strategic plan teams have met. A progress update will be provided each month in the Board packet and the timeline will be updated every other month.

Renee is working on several policies that need to be updated in the policy manual. Attorney Cole reviews all policy updates for legality before they are presented for approval.

### **Finance Director's Report:**

Finance Director Jennifer Thompson presented the 2022 preliminary budget and explained the executive summary of the budget. The Board wants her to continue on the current path with the budget.

### **Board Comments:**

Director Van Walraven explained that he needed to use our ambulance to go to the hospital. He stated that the crew was very compassionate and did a great job. It is comforting to know that we have that level of care for our community.

Director Duroux stated that he attended the all-hands meeting. It looks like everyone is beginning to get back together. He congratulated everyone who had saved a life recently. He stated that it makes sitting on the Board of Directors a feel-good job.

### **Staff Comments:**

Chief Thompson stated that the volunteers in Thomasville were able to find an AED and shock a cardiac patient back into a viable rhythm before air lifting him to the hospital by helicopter this past Sunday night.

**Old Business:**

None

**New Business:**

None

**Volunteer Meeting:**

Director Boineau stated that he would attend the virtual All-Hands meeting at Station 42 on October 5, 2021.

**Non-Agenda Items:**

None

**Adjournment:**

Director Boineau 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  
a.m.

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

[https://youtu.be/3ol\\_CArk8vE](https://youtu.be/3ol_CArk8vE)