

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

July 23, 2020

Authority Board President Ed Van Walraven called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. Board members present were Ed Van Walraven, Leroy Duroux, John Young, Bill Boineau, Irene Greiser and Dave Heivly. Others present were Chief Scott Thompson, Deputy Chiefs Pete Bradshaw, Kevin Issel and John Mele, Division Chief Richard Cornelius, Finance Director Jennifer Thompson, Human Resources Director Renee Thomas, Attorney Bob Cole and Susan Herwick all in attendance.

Minutes of June 16, 2020 Meeting:

Director Boineau made a motion to accept the minutes as read, the motion was seconded by Director Greiser. All were in favor and the motion carried 6 – 0.

Public Comments:

None

Attorney's Report:

Chief Scott Thompson stated that Attorney Bob Cole had approved the final draft of the MOU with the Pitkin County airport and it is okay to sign. It will be sent around on DocuSign. Chief Thompson answered several questions from Board members regarding the MOU. Director Boineau made a motion to approve the final draft of the MOU with the airport, the motion was seconded by Director Irene Greiser. All were in favor and the motion carried 6 – 0.

Chief's Report:

Chief Scott Thompson stated that Attorney Bob Cole had given him stat requirements on the Firefighter Safety Act. The Union President has requested that a meet and confer clause be added. Chief Thompson stated that we need to do this. Chief Thompson will send all Board members the Fire Fighter Safety Act for their review. The Union needs to meet the obligations of the Act. Payroll and benefits cannot be talked about but policies and grievances can. It will take 50% or more of the firefighters to sign off on anything that is brought before the Board. Chief Thompson answered the Boards questions about the Fire Fighter Safety Act.

Chief Scott Thompson stated that the construction of Station 46 depends on a well permit. The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has taken the issue of allocating additional acreage to us to the State. If the State won't agree, it is a dead deal for that location. He will update the Board when additional information comes forward.

Deputy Chief of Administration Report:

None

Deputy Chief of Operations Report:

None

Deputy Chief/Fire Marshal Report:

Deputy Chief John Mele stated that fire prevention has become development and review. There is over 500,000 square feet of commercial development happening down valley. This does not include everything happening in Snowmass Village. It also doesn't include residential development.

Division Chief of EMS:

Division Chief Richard Cornelius applied for \$100,000 of COVID-19 relief funds through the State of Colorado. He doesn't see any reason why we shouldn't be awarded this money. There is an increase in positive cases of COVID-19 in Pitkin, Eagle, and Garfield Counties. These counties all need to submit mitigation plans to curb the spread of the virus in their communities. We are at the concern level. Mid-Valley Family Practice is a State funded testing facility. The medical infrastructure in the valley is currently stable. We need to be extremely vigilant. The biggest challenge to the Counties is the difference in public health testing. The Counties are trying their best to coordinate their efforts. Division Chief Cornelius answered the Boards questions about COVID-19.

Division Chief of Training:

None

HR Report:

Human Resources Director Renee Thomas stated that we just interviewed the top two people from the eligibility list created during the last firefighter assessment process. We offered a full-time position to one of the part-time firefighters and it was accepted. The position of fleet supervisor/fleet and equipment mechanic has been posted nationwide.

Salary surveys have been coming in. There are a couple of new laws coming down from the State. Policies will be updated to reflect these new laws. All policies will be sent out for approval January 1, 2021.

Finance Report:

Finance Director Jennifer Thompson stated that she included a letter from Eagle County that states they will not be enforcing late fee or interest on property taxes that were not paid on time. This shouldn't really affect us.

Collection of ambulance bills through Andre's is doing really well.

Jennifer is looking at health insurance for employees because the Western Slope Health Care Group (WSHCG) is either going to fold or merge with another company that is based off of WSHCG.

We are right on track with revenue for the year. We really haven't been negatively impacted by COVID-19. Jennifer answered the Boards questions.

Information Technology:

None

Board Comments:

Director Bill Boineau asked how our troops were handling the stress during the pandemic? Chief Scott Thompson stated that we have a contract with the Aspen Hope Center and we have the PEER Support Group that people can access easily. We have programs in place to help with the cost of housing and childcare. We are constantly checking in with everyone to see how they are doing.

Director Dave Heivly asked about our calls for service? Chief Scott Thompson stated that at the beginning under the Stay-At-Home Order our call volume went really down. It is now back to near normal. We are staying on top of it.

Director Leroy Duroux asked about the Severity Engine. Deputy Chief Pete Bradshaw stated that when we have the staffing, we put it out on patrol.

Staff Comments:

None

Unfinished Business:

None

New Business:

None

Volunteer Meeting:

We will have a virtual meeting on August 4, 2020 at 6:00 p.m. We have requested that questions be submitted ahead of time. Director Dave Heivly stated that he would attend this meeting.

Adjournment:

Director Bill Boineau made a motion to adjourn the meeting, it was seconded by Director Greiser. All were in favor and the motion passed 6 – 0. The meeting was adjourned at 9:28 a.m.