



**RECORD OF
PROCEEDINGS REGULAR
BOARD MEETING
May 21, 2024**

Call to order: President Van Walraven called the Authority Board meeting to order at 9:08 a.m.

Roll Call: President Van Walraven, Vice President Arthur, Attorney Cole (via Lifesize), Board Member Young, Treasurer Striegler, Board Member Duroux, Finance Director Thompson, Chief Thompson, Division Chief of Training Palmer, Deputy Chief Fire Marshal Mele, IT Director Johnson, Deputy Chief of Administration Issel, Executive Assistant Daimond Deputy Chief of Operations Cornelius (via Lifesize).

Approval of minutes: Treasurer Striegler motioned to accept the meeting minutes from April 16th, 2024; Board Member Duroux seconded the motion. There was no discussion, and no one opposed.

Attorney Report: Attorney Cole recapped for the Board some senate bills relating to our mission and finances, including limiting multi-family dwellings, the use of hands-free devices while driving, prevention of first responders using a diagnosis of excited delirium, chemical banning of PFAS foam, this year's bills on property taxes which is intended to be a long-term fix, so they do not need to do this each year and then cover loss back to the District. Attorney Cole explains it will reduce our current property tax from 29% to 27.9% in 2024 and 25% in 2027. Attorney Cole stated that the current tax rate for multi-family residential dwellings is 6.8%, which will be reduced to 6.7%. Attorney Cole said the current tax rate on the single-family dwelling side is 7.06% and will decrease to 6.7%. Attorney Cole noted that these reductions would reduce the District's revenue. Attorney Cole said there is a formula in the bill for some reimbursements to fire districts for losses 2022-2024. Attorney Cole noted that Senate Bills 24-233 will remain in limbo until we pass the November election. Attorney Cole said this will be another hectic year figuring out the district finances. Attorney Cole said he would look further into the other two propositions regarding their limitations. Discussion ensued regarding sales tax.

Chief Report: Chief Thompson told the Board he finished the contract for our architect for Station 42 with the help of the Attorney and that the land purchase for Station 42 was complete.

-Chief Thompson said the water tanks at Station 46 are back up and running. Chief Thompson said they would pull all the billings to see the actual cost of damages. Chief Thompson said he would then work with Attorney Cole to return a proposal to the bonding or insurance company. Deputy Chief Issel can now finish the landscape plan for the new station.

Finance Report: Finance Director Thompson said the backfill money came in at 650,000 dollars, which we had anticipated. Finance Director Thompson said the Station 46 water tank bill came in at 236, and we anticipate one more bill.

Finance Director Thompson said, like in the past, the District will get two budgets for this year, but we have the mill buffer for this year.

Finance Director Thompson said both Pitkin and Eagle County contacted her regarding the November elections. Finance Director Thompson said she told them undecided and would need to notify them by the end of July.

Finance Director Thompson said the budget is doing well, which aligns with our anticipated budget. Finance Director Thompson said the operation budget is holding steady as this is our biggest line item, so thank you to the Battalion Chiefs and Deputy Chief Cornelius for keeping us on track.

Human Resources Report: Career Progression presentation by:

Lieutenant Fisher, Firefighter Paramedic Klebes, and Deputy Fire Marshal Stott.

The Career Progression Team presented to the Board the document that new members will use as a road map to navigate the components of their jobs and how the job progression looks at the beginning of training, including getting certifications and moving up in rank.

HR Director Thomas thanks the team for this three-year project. HR Director Thomas said this team learned about equity and fairness when developing systems; they persevered through many back-and-forth changes and supported each other.

HR Director Thomas said she will bring on eight new staff members next month. HR Director Thomas said Operations will want to do a part-time staffing recruitment, and the Volunteer group will also do a recruitment academy in the near future.

HR Director Thomas said the Compensation team will work on getting data out for a new assessment of where we sit via the market.

Fire Marshal's Report: Deputy Chief Fire Marshal Mele said the Prevention team recently worked with the Lazy Glen Trailer Park citizens for the Sound the Alarm program with the Red Cross. Deputy Chief Fire Marshal Mele said they made 76 contacts, and 85% of the smoke detectors did not work; it was eye-opening. Deputy Chief Fire Marshal Mele said they would do some newspaper ads with the Latino community in the future.

Deputy Chief Richard Cornelius Report via Lifesize: Deputy Chief Richard Cornelius gave a shout-out to everyone who recently helped with orientation, onboarding, and training the nine people sworn in today.

-Deputy Chief Richard Cornelius also thanks the Career Progression Team. As a new member, Deputy Chief Richard Cornelius said that understanding career progression is crucial to new hires so they understand what opportunities are available.

-Deputy Chief Richard Cornelius said we had 162.5 volunteer hours in April. Deputy Chief Richard Cornelius said we would look at doing a volunteer academy this year to replenish our volunteer membership. Deputy Chief Richard Cornelius noted in April, we had a total of 191 incidents; 82 were EMS-related. Deputy Chief Richard Cornelius said if you compare that to April 2023, we had a 19-call increase or 11%. Deputy Chief Richard Cornelius said 982 incidents, 482 EMS-related year to date. Deputy Chief Richard Cornelius said a total increase of about 51 incidents or 5.5%.

-Deputy Chief Richard Cornelius told the Board they placed a new ambulance in service at Station 41 in May. Deputy Chief Richard Cornelius used two grants to purchase the ambulance, totaling \$126,195.00; that money should come in by next week.

-For situational awareness, Deputy Chief Richard Cornelius told the Board about road closures on Hwy 82 that will impact RFFRA operations:

- There is a resurfacing project in Snowmass Canyon between mile markers 26 and 33 that started on May 13th.
- There is a 24/7 single-lane closure, resulting in 40-minute delays for some bridge work from May 28th - to June 28th. Once the bridge work is complete, the delays are expected to go down to 15 minutes. This project will go through October.
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-Discussion on recruitment of volunteers.

Deputy Chief Kevin Issel Report: Deputy Chief Issel said Station 42's re-development and engineering are our primary focus. Deputy Chief Issel said we are holding two one-bedroom units for new hires. Deputy Chief Issel said we are renting an apartment for some of the Wildfire Severity Crew Members; we still need more housing, as you already know. Deputy Chief Issel told the Board that the ladder truck from Willow's fire was still out of service and waiting for parts.

Deputy Chief Issel said that with the new ambulance, we will surplus the old ambulance and list that for sale.

Master Plan Discussion: Chief Thompson said we made some movement on the LEPC involving that in the Pitkin County Public Safety Council. Deputy Chief Thompson said they would be meeting every quarter and hopefully moving forward with the new Emergency Manager.

Public Comments: None

Board Member Comments: Board Member Young commented on the Wally Dallenbach ambulance dedication that happened on May 2nd; it was a great turnout, and hearing the origin of how Wally Sr got our first ambulance was heartwarming. Board Member Young says he regrets not speaking up at the event and telling everyone who came how grateful we are.

Staff Comments: Today is John Mele's birthday

Old Business: None

New Business: President Van Walraven told the Board that he and Treasure Striegler evaluated Chief Thompson for his annual review and discovered that he had not had a raise in eight years, not counting COLA. President Van Walraven said that in recognition of the success of the Authority, we are proposing that he receive a discretionary bonus of approximately 4%. President Van Walraven listed the following achievements that contributed to our desire to give him this bonus:

- Continued partnerships and collaborations with neighboring agencies.
- Working with board members from other agencies.
- Working with attorneys and Butler Snow to develop a survey plan for the voters.
- Taking the survey to voters and getting a successful vote back from the voters

- Dealing with Station 46 and its issues
- Using Station 45 bond money to buy housing at Riverpark
- His work on the master plan work
- His work on the strategic plan
- The Cultural Handbook product
- Upholding the saving, serving, and solving problems motto.

Discussion ensued.

Board Member Young motioned to support this recommendation for Chief Thompson to get a 4% bonus. Treasurer Striegler and Board Member Duroux seconded the motion. All Board members were in favor, and none opposed.

Volunteer Meeting: Dave Heivly June 4th.

Adjournment: Board Member Duroux motioned to adjourn the meeting Vice President Artur seconded the motion there was no discussion and the meeting ended at 10:06.

<https://youtu.be/OOE146aXieo>