



**RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS  
REGULAR BOARD MEETING  
January 18, 2022**

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Authority Board President Ed Van Walraven called the meeting to order at 9:15 a.m. Board members present were Ed Van Walraven, Leroy Duroux, John Young, William Boineau, Dave Heivly, and Elizabeth Striegler. Other Board Members present Donna Aiken, Others present were Chief Scott Thompson, Deputy Chiefs Richard Cornelius and Kevin Issel, Fire Marshal John Mele, Deputy Fire Marshal Brooke Stott, Assistant Fire Marshal Jim Pidcock, Division Chief Daniel Palmer, Finance Director Jennifer Thompson, Human Resources Director Renee Thomas, IT Director Erik Johnson, Attorney Bob Cole, Battalion Chief Chance Goldyn, Lieutenants Paul Blangsted, Fire Inspector Sarah Pickard, Firefighters Wes Blasberg, Eric Goldberger, Michael Hall, Tucker Kinney, David Klebes, Christopher MacGregor, Ben Mackoff, Cat Pieck, Jesse Tanner, and Administrative Assistant Susan Herwick.

Guests: Joy Kinney, Kelsey Wahlenmaier, Troy and Debi Wahlenmaier, Kelly Goldberger, Martha and Michael Hall, and Ryan MacGregor.

**Swearing In Ceremony – Firefighter Paramedics**

Chief Thompson administered the Oath for the position of Firefighter Paramedic to Eric Goldberger, Michael Hall, Tucker Kinney, and Christopher MacGregor.

**Minutes of December 07, 2021 Meeting:**

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

**Public Comments:**

None

**Attorney’s Report:**

Attorney Cole stated that he has been assisting in reviewing our resuscitation quality program in order to bring it into compliance with Colorado State Law.

**Chief's Report:**

Chief Thompson thanked everyone for their participation in the master plan process. This is an on-going project but we should have a good report in a few months.

Chief Thompson stated that Station 46 was dried in yesterday. We are still working on some water well issues. They are requesting more information.

**Deputy Chief Issel's Report:**

No Report

**Deputy Fire Marshal Stott's Report:**

Deputy Fire Marshal Stott stated that the fire prevention division has increased their fees for inspections and plan reviews. The fee schedule was explained. These fees are comparable to the fees other Districts are charging.

**Deputy Chief Cornelius's Report:****COVID-19**

Based on CDC updates, we now use the Roaring Fork Fire Rescue Authority Guidance on Work Restrictions for employees with SARS-CoV-2 Infection, Exposures, or sick with SARS-CoV-2 Symptoms. All responder personnel as HCP. Non-responder personnel will not be classified as HCP. DC Cornelius explained the Authorities Organizational Restrictions to everyone.

The Authority is currently experiencing staffing shortages that are anticipated for the foreseeable future. Therefore, Contingency Capacity Strategies will be implemented for responder personnel. Conventional Capacity Strategies will be applied to non-responder personnel.

As of January 02, 2022 100% of cases are the B.1.1.529 (Omicron) variant. As of this morning 70% of patients who are hospitalized for confirmed COVID-19 in Colorado are unvaccinated.

Local hospitals are stable but still seeing patients hospitalized with COVID-19. The Combined Hospital Transfer Center (CHTC) is at Tier III, the highest level. This means patients can still be involuntarily transferred and is largely in place to decompress hospitals at or nearing capacity. 92% of ICU beds are in use.

Eagle County rescinded their indoor mask mandate. Pitkin County still has an indoor mask mandate. We applied for the Fully Vaccinated Facilities Program and the application was approved on November 19, 2021. We will need to update our policy to align with the current vaccination eligibility criteria by February 01, 2022.

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.

Director Boineau asked whether surgical masks were adequate or should we be wearing the KN95. DC Cornelius stated that surgical mask is acceptable per CDC guidelines. If we know that someone is positive for COVID, then the requirements are much stricter.

From January 01, 2022 to today 567 hours of COVID Emergency Sick Leave have been utilized. Those members who have been impacted by the latest COVID-19 surge are very grateful for the CESL, allowing them time to recover and take care of their family.

### **Paramedic Education Program**

Ryan Lee, Claudia Kirby and Neal Martin have all completed the Denver Health Paramedic Education Program. Their graduation is in Denver on January 21, 2022. All three are back on-duty and have started their Field Training Evaluation Program (FTEP).

### **FTEP**

FTEP Committee members and Field Training Officers (FTO) Jimmy Dirkes, Chelsey Johnson, David Klebes, Ben Mackoff, Mo McPhee, Nick Wall and Jesse Tanner continue to work diligently on the Field Training and Evaluation Program (FTEP). Eric Goldberger completed FTEP on December 21, 2021. The committee continues working on updating the EMS Credential. An electronic daily observation report (DOR) is now being utilized with great success.

### **Ambulance Billing**

3 CCR § 702-4 contains a balance billing prohibition related to **emergency** ambulance services in Colorado. This regulation also contains the payment methodology carriers must apply to emergency ambulance claims. In Colorado, carriers must reimburse ambulance services 325% of the Medicare reimbursement rate for emergency ambulance services provided to patients covered under the carrier's plan. 3 CCR § 702-4 4-2-66 Sec. 5 (A). A carrier's payment following section 5 (A) requirements is considered payment in full. An ambulance service is prohibited from billing patients for emergency ambulance services the difference between the payment amount and their charged amount. 3 CCR § 702-4 4-2-66 Sec. 5 (E). However, patients are responsible for applicable in-network deductible, coinsurance, and copayment amounts. 3 CCR § 702-4 4-2-66 Sec. 5 (D). However, this balance billing prohibition does not apply to a "publicly-funded fire agency."

Roaring Fork Fire Rescue Authority is considered a publicly-funded fire agency. As a publicly-funded fire agency we are exempt from the balance billing probation but must demonstrate to a carrier we meet the definition to balance bill a patient. At this time that requirement has been met; however, we are awaiting further guidance from Andres Medical Billing based on recommendations provide by PWW, a law firm that specializes in EMS.

**Incidents**

From January 01, 2020 through December 31, 2020, we ran a total of 1962 incidents. 907 of those incidents were EMS. From January 01, 2021 through December 31, 2021, we ran a total of 2254 incidents. 1078 of those incidents were EMS.

There was an increase of 292 calls (**14.9%**) in YTD of '21 versus YTD of '20. There was an increase of 171 EMS calls (**18.9%**) in YTD of '21 versus YTD of '20. In December 2020, we ran a total of 216 incidents. 97 of those incidents were EMS. In December 2021, we ran a total of 206 incidents. 102 of those were EMS.

There was a decrease of 10 calls (**-1.5%**) in December 2021 versus December 2020. There was an increase of 5 EMS calls (**4.1%**) in December 2021 versus December 2020.

**Human Resource Director's Report:**

HR Director Thomas stated that she didn't have a strategic plan update this month.

Colorado Emergency sick leave was approved at the beginning of the COVID pandemic. This benefit will continue until the pandemic is over.

**Finance Director's Report:**

Finance Director Jennifer Thompson stated that she reviewed the 2021 budget and we spent 99% of the operations budget last year. The overall 2021 budget was spent at 92%.

We will receive a check for \$214,000 from the state for grant reimbursement. We need to submit another reimbursement request for \$152,000.

The audit is scheduled for the last week in February.

**Board Comments:**

None

**Staff Comments:**

None

**Old Business:**

None

**New Business:**

None

**Volunteer Meeting:**

Director Boineau stated that he would attend the virtual all hands meeting on February 1, 2022.

**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 6 – 0. The meeting was adjourned at 9:44 a.m.

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

[https://youtu.be/o11Oc\\_XheTQ](https://youtu.be/o11Oc_XheTQ)