

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

July 20, 2021

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, John Young, and Dave Heivly via Lifesize. Other's present were Chief Scott Thompson, Deputy Chief Kevin Issel, Deputy Fire Marshal Brook Stott, Division Chief Richard Cornelius, Finance Director Jennifer Thompson, Human Resources Director Renee Thomas, IT Director Erik Johnson, Attorney Bob Cole, and Administrative Assistant Susan Herwick.

Guest: Elizabeth Striegler

Minutes of June 22, 2021 Meeting:

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

Public Comments:

None

Attorney's Report:

Chief Thompson stated that Attorney Bob Cole recommended that we use Dan Qualman as our Master Plan consultant. Dan is the retired Fire Chief from South Metro. This will be his last project as he is set to retire from consulting work. He understands special district laws, restrictions, mill levies, Tabor and everything that we have dealt with. Attorney Cole spoke to the Board regarding Dan Qualman's qualifications. Chief Thompson stated that the sample Master Plan layout was sent to the Board. It is very detailed and we can pick and choose what we want to include. He doesn't feel that there is anything in it that we wouldn't want to do. The executive staff met and feels that we need to take it on. The Master Plan will cost \$60,000 - \$70,000. Attorney Cole stated that we do not need to bid this project out because it is not a construction contract. The consensus of the Board was to move forward with the Master Plan project. Director Van Walraven stated that we need to make sure that the Master Plan works well with the Strategic Plan and that they are compatible. Chief Thompson stated that Dan is going to use the information gathered for the Strategic Plan as a stepping stone to creating the Master Plan. Director Young made a motion to approve the hiring of ESCI for completing the Master Plan. The motion was seconded by Director Duroux. All were in favor and the motion carried 4 – 0.

Chief's Report:

Chief Thompson stated that things are moving along well with Station 46 on West Sopris Creek Road. We interviewed four contractors and chose the low bid (Gary Johnson). The low bid is slightly above our projected cost of \$1,800,000 because of

lumber prices and labor shortages. We are working with the contractor today to value engineer some items and get the cost down. The biggest cost we have with this station is the excavation and concrete. Gary is meeting with the soil and structural engineers this afternoon to come up with some cost savings. They are thinking of going with some type of screw jacks instead of putting piers down through the ground to bed rock. They have used them on several other projects with great success. We have spoken with Shelton Drilling to drill the water well and assure us that we have water. We are waiting on water court but the time frame in which people can contest our water has expired. A notice has been sent to the water referee to sign our paperwork and deliver it to the District Court Judge who will also sign off on it. This should be done in the next few weeks. We will then have to go to the State and get a water well permit based on the water court's decision. Then we can talk about building a fire station. Bob Cole and Chief Thompson worked on getting the covenant finished with Sopris Mountain Ranch. This had to be done before our paperwork could move off of the planning and zoning desk. The County Attorney will need to sign our paperwork before it goes to the building department for a permit. Chief Thompson is worried about losing our million-dollar grant with DOLA if Pitkin County drags their feet. DOLA is willing to put pressure on Pitkin County so that doesn't happen. The Sopris Mountain Ranch Homeowner's have to get their funds in the bank and show us the money or this project will not move forward. We will probably have to put \$200,000 into this but we will get three housing units out of it. Finance Director Jennifer Thompson stated that we do have this money sitting in reserves.

The Tender committee will be going to Colorado Springs to look at a Tender that was built by one of the companies who submitted a bid. We will not see this apparatus until sometime next year.

Deputy Chief of Administration Report:

Deputy Chief Kevin Issel stated that he is very happy that we hired Cody Espinoza as our fleet mechanic. He is working out very well. Cody was introduced to the Board. Cody is happy to be here and away from the front range of Colorado.

Deputy Chief Issel is pleased with our new landscaping company. The ground around our facilities is looking great.

Fire Prevention Report:

Deputy Fire Marshal Brook Stott stated that according to Fire Marshal John Mele, we were fortunate to get Swift up in Snowmass Village for about two weeks before losing them to the Morgan Creek fire. With their help, we managed to mitigate about 7 acres around town hall, the 800 MHz communications tower, and the bottom of rim trail close to employee housing.

The Snowmass Center developers confirmed that they will start their underground garage at the center next spring.

The Viceroy's second tower is almost ready to submit. That's over 100,000 square feet of new construction. This project will start next Spring as well.

The plans for Building 12 right above the Viceroy are almost done. They are already approved and building will start next spring. The foundation of Building 11 is what under construction right now.

In Snowmass Village new housing/and renovation construction is around 75,000 square feet. We review those permits for fire sprinklers and also new wildfire codes.

The Westin hotel (old Silvertree hotel) has run into construction problems and said they have removed RA Nelson construction as general contractor. The project is really behind schedule and a fire concern we are managing closely. The entire lobby and interior portions of the hotel are demolished. Portions of the hotel are not currently protected and fire crews have been warned to take defensive precautions. We will continue to monitor this situation very closely. The building official in Snowmass Village is also working with us on this one. This is a Marriott hotel ownership now and we are in contact with ownership with our concerns. They appear to be responding with urgency to our concerns. The remodel is supposed to be done by November 15. It is doubtful whether this will actually happen.

The portions of Pitkin County in our authority continue to keep us busy with land use reviews.

The Town of Basalt is also keeping us busy. Their Building Official resigned so Mark Kittle is stepping in to help them out.

Division Chief of EMS:

Division Chief Cornelius stated that cases of COVID-19 variants are of concern, including the B.1.617.2 (Delta) variant. They are being investigated in nearly all counties in Colorado. CDC data reported on June 29 indicated that Colorado had the second-highest proportion of B.1.617.2 and the second-highest total number of overall variants collected. Preliminary research suggests the vaccines continue to be effective and is ongoing to understand to what degree for each variant. Authorized COVID vaccination and infection control measures continue to serve as the best practices to protect yourself and others.

The Delta variant is about 225% more transmissible than the original strains. People who are infected with the Delta variant have – on average - 1,000 times more copies of the virus in their respiratory tracts than those infected with the original strain.

The Authority still has an enhanced PPE requirement and is following CDC guidelines and recommendations.

New Ambulance

The EMS Committee met with three vendors and reviewed ambulance proposals on May 19th. On Thursday, July 8th the EMS Committee reviewed current ambulance proposals and made a vendor recommendation. We will be moving forward with Braun Northwest, Inc.

Training

Dr. Livengood provided the June volunteer monthly EMS training via LifeSize and presented on CVAs. The training had an ALS focus and also reviewed relevant protocols. For July's volunteer monthly EMS training Dr. Livengood will present a lecture on Hypoglycemia. This will once again be provided via LifeSize, have an ALS focus and review relevant protocols.

Paramedic Education Program

Michael Hall and Tucker Kinney graduated on July 16th! Eric Goldberger is still completing his field internship and other program requirements. Claudia Kirby and Neal Martin started the Denver Health Paramedic Education Program accelerated program on June 21st and are both doing great.

Field Training and Evaluation Program

FTEP Committee members and Field Training Officers (FTO) Jimmy Dirkes, Chelsey Johnson, David Klebes, Ben Mackoff, Mo McPhee and Jess Tanner have all been diligently working on the Field Training and Evaluation Program (FTEP). Matt Evans and Matt Mikowski completed Phase I of the FTEP and have now started Phase II. In the near future, Tucker Kinney and Michael Hall will return from the Denver Health Paramedic Education Program as Colorado State Certified Paramedics and start their 120-day FTEP. Director Heivly asked whether we were giving out FTOs a salary increase because of the extra work load. Chief Thompson stated yes, they are receiving a 5% bonus because of the extra liability. This is part of the compensation analysis that will be revealed in the Strategic Plan.

Incidents

April 01, 2020 through June 30, 2020 we ran a total of 352 incidents. 136 of those were EMS. April 01, 2021 through June 30, 2021 we ran a total of 532 incidents. 240 of those were EMS. There was an increase of 180 calls (51%) in Q2 of '21 versus Q2 of '20. There was an increase of 104 EMS calls (76%) in Q2 of '21 versus Q2 of '20

Director Heivly asked if we were tracking mental health calls. Division Chief Cornelius stated that yes, we do track them and calls have increased. He can have exact figures for the next Board meeting. Director Heivly asked whether we have looked into crisis intervention training is a training that staff can attend in order to have better skills to help people in mental health crisis. PEER support is something that exists for staff that need counseling. Division Chief Cornelius stated that there are also additional training opportunities free of charge through the Colorado Health Center.

Division Chief of Training:

No Report

HR Report:

Human Resources Director Renee Thomas stated that tomorrow three candidates will be testing for the open Deputy Chief position. This could create more promotions and hiring.

The Strategic Plan committees have been formed and are starting to get together to work on initiatives. We will develop a calendar for monthly check-ins. Progress is expected to be slow for a while.

Director Young asked how the severity patrol was going. HR Director Thomas stated that it is not going well. Staffing the vehicle has been difficult.

Finance Report:

Finance Director Jennifer Thompson stated that the tax revenue was in for the second quarter and has been transferred to RFFRA. The authority is running at about \$600,000 in operating expenditures each month. We will be receiving about \$8,000 back from the Sylvan Fire.

Finance Director Thompson stated that budget meetings were coming up. She will present the preliminary budget at the September meeting. The first reading will be at the October meeting. The second reading and budget adoption would occur at the meeting in December.

Health Insurance has gone up 3 - 5%. Unanticipated expenditures are not significant. We may have to do a supplemental budget at the end of the year. She is not concerned with cash flow. We are running at about 50% spent at the end of June. The budget is in good shape.

Director Young stated that he is grateful that we have Jennifer. She does a great job for us.

Board Comments:

Director Young asked if anything had been decided regarding a summer celebration. The Dallenbach Ranch had been looked into as a venue but everything is pretty busy this summer. We may have to push our celebration into the fall and hold an event indoors.

Director Young asked about the Crawford land acquisition. Chief Thompson stated that the first step has been done. The partners are in agreement that they want to sell to us. There are encumbrances because of loans on the property. They are working with a land planner to get through that. The project is moving forward but it is a slow process.

Staff Comments:

Chief Thompson and Jennifer Thompson will be out of town from July 22 to July 30.

Old Business:

None

New Business:

None

Volunteer Meeting:

Director Ed Van Walraven stated that he would attend the meeting in August. Chief Thompson stated that there would not be an August meeting because of National Night Out on Tuesday, August 3 at the Willits Triangle Town Park.

Non-Agenda Items:

None

Adjournment:

Director Duroux made a motion to adjourn the meeting, it was seconded by Director Young. All were in favor and the motion passed 4 – 0. The meeting was adjourned at 9:55 a.m.

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

https://youtu.be/JFujpc_7Yk8