



**RECORD OF
PROCEEDINGS REGULAR
BOARD MEETING
April 16, 2024**

Call to Order: Noting that a quorum was present, President Van Walraven called the meeting to order at 9:00 am on April 16, 2024.

Roll Call: President Van Walraven, Vice President Arthur, Treasurer Striegler, Board Member Duroux, Board Member Young, Chief Thompson, Finance Director Thompson, HR Director Thomas, IT Director Johnson, Executive Administrative Assistant Diamond, Deputy Chief Cornelius, Deputy Chief Issel, Deputy Chief of Training Palmer, (Life-size) Board Member Heivly, Attorney Cole, Deputy Fire Marshal Stott, Fire Marshal Mele.

Approval of Minutes: Treasurer Striegler motioned to accept the regular meeting minutes from March 19, 2024; Vice President Duroux seconded the motion. There was no discussion, and all were in favor; none opposed. The motion carried 5-0.

Attorney Report: Attorney Cole said he is comfortable moving forward with the 2010 Environmental assessment for Station 42.

-Attorney Cole said he's working with Deputy Chief Issel to resolve a vendor problem.

-Attorney Cole said he worked on finalizing the Plan Review contract with Jenson Hughes; the Chief has signed this contract, which is complete.

-Attorney Cold said he is working on the Crawford transaction for the Basalt Fire Protection District.

Chiefs Report: Station 42: Chief Thompson told the Board that the closing date to purchase five acres for Station 42 is April 30, 2024.

The Crawfords did a property-wide environmental assessment in 2010, and our Attorney has reviewed it and would accept this assessment moving forward. Discussion

Chief Thompson told the Board Deputy Chief of Training Palmer, Deputy Chief Issel, and himself had toured Grand Junction facilities to get ideas on how to finish the design of the training tower. Discussion

Chief Thompson said the maintenance facility underwent no more changes and that the steel building portion is out for bid.

Chief Thompson said the water attorney is working on the extension agreement with the Metro District to bring the water across the street. Chief Thompson said when this is complete, they will sign off for us to drill the well for training and irrigation.

Station 46: Chief Thompson said the water tanks at Station 46 have minor leaks due to tank adjustments; they will fill and bury the tanks once fixed. Chief Thompson said we will soon have the fire sprinklers online. Chief Thompson said he would work with our Attorney regarding the damages. Chief Thompson said the bonding company called wanting a reference, and he would contact them to let them know about the claim.

-Chief Thompson informed the Board that in June 2024, Scott Condon, a reporter for the Aspen Daily News, will retire. Treasurer Young is eager for a press release to go out as this is the first significant spending of the bond money. Treasurer Young also wants to ensure the Crawfords are praised in the press release. Chief Thompson assured the Board that he is working on this already, so there is much to celebrate.

-Chief Thompson said the legislation is working on a bill allowing fire districts to collect sales tax to stabilize fire districts' income. Discussion

Finance Report: -Finance Director Thompson informed the Board of the backfill money we received from the two bills, SB22 and S23b-001. Finance Director Thompson said the net was \$657,446.00 from both Pitkin and Eagle Counties for both districts. Finance Director Thompson said she would repay the reserves used at the beginning of the year, leaving \$307,000 in extra operating income. Finance Director Thompson clarified this was unbudgeted revenue and would not count on it in the future as legislation could change. Discussion

-Finance Director Thompson said she would ensure the bond money is available for the closing of the property at Station 42 on April 30.

-Finance Director Thompson said the overall budget is on track, running about twenty-two percent, usually at twenty-five percent for the first quarter.

HR Report: HR Director Thomas told the Board that the compensation team initiative was complete, and the last session was published on video. HR Director Thomas would like the compensation team to present the presentation on the May agenda in front of the Board.

-HR Director Thomas said the strategic planning initiative has ended.

-HR Director Thomas said career progression will be finalized after one last review; then, they will present it to staff members.

-HR Director Thomas said the process mapping group is working on the internal process of onboarding and off-boarding.

-HR Director Thomas said she and Deputy Cornelius would start looking at the strategic plan to determine where the two teams will begin to examine the cultural organization, time frames, and the strategic plan's next priorities. Treasurer Striegler expressed interest in having the teams present their presentations to the Board.

-HR Director Thomas said the staff wants to start another safety team. HR Director Thomas said this is also part of the strategic plan.

-HR Director Thomas said they are doing interviews tomorrow for full-time Paramedics, and then next week, they will have interviews for temporary full-time Wildfire Severity Crew.

-HR Director Thomas said she will post for an EMS Division Chief soon.

Fire Marshal Report: Fire Marshal Mele reports working on a wildfire mitigation project behind employee housing behind the Town Hall in Snowmass Village, where they are creating a defensible space between structures. Fire Marshal Mele said he will also be working in Basalt on some mitigation.

- Deputy Fire Marshal Stott gave an update on the single stairway proposal bill; it has been tabled for now.

- Deputy Fire Marshal Stott told the Board that Jesse Garcia passed his Fire Inspector 2 exam.

Deputy Chief Cornelius Report: Deputy Chief Cornelius reminds the Board that in May, we are swearing in eight new members and two more in June. Deputy Chief Cornelius wants everyone to have advance notice as we invite family and hope to make the process more formal. Discussion ensued regarding a timeframe, and they decided to have the swearing-in's at 8:45 at Station 45 in the truck bay.

-Deputy Chief Cornelius told the Board about upcoming vacancies. Deputy Chief Cornelius said they hope to fill one of the full-time vacancies tomorrow.

-Deputy Chief Cornelius said two members will attend paramedic school on the front range on June 10 and August 19. Deputy Chief Cornelius said one Paramedic would return from paramedic school on July 11, 2024.

-Deputy Chief Cornelius told the Board that two members are off the schedule for up to six months due to injuries. Deputy Chief Cornelius said they will try to meet a minimum staffing of ten.

Deputy Chief Cornelius said they are interviewing ten Paramedics tomorrow. HR Director Thomas said there is a good mix of local and out-of-area applications.

-Deputy Chief Cornelius said March was busy with over 200 volunteer hours in the station.

-Deputy Chief Cornelius said that in March, there were 280 total incidents; 125 of those were EMS-related. Deputy Chief Cornelius said we had 53 incidents and over 23%; year to date, we have had 800 total incidents, half were EMS related, and we are up about 5%.

-Deputy Chief Cornelius said we are budgeted to have thirty-seven full-time members and are asking the Board to add one full-time temporary position—Discussion. Vice President Arthur motioned to exceed the budget to over hire two temporary full-time personnel. All Board members favored this motion, which passed 6-0.

Deputy Chief Issel Report: Deputy Chief Issel told the Board we are down to one available housing unit, which they hope to use for one new hire.

- Deputy Chief Issel told the Board that they purchased a forklift for Station 42 instead of a crane with some of the bond money.

-Deputy Chief Issel said ladder 45 is still out of service for the next two to three weeks, awaiting parts. Deputy Chief Issel told the Board we moved another ladder truck to Snowmass Village.

-Deputy Chief Issel told the Board that once our new ambulance gets certified, we will surplus one of the old ambulances and sell it in the next three months.

-Treasurer Striegler brought up a discussion regarding employee housing. Board Member Young, after much discussion, suggested having a work session for housing suggestions. Chief Thompson reminded this Board that the money for new housing opportunities is in the Basalt and Rural Fire Protection District and that the Basalt Board would make those decisions; it becomes Authority property once it is finished.

Masterplan: Chief Thompson said nothing that we haven't already discussed.

Public Comments: None

Board Member Comments: -President Van Walraven commented on the Elemental movie event last week; it was terrific. A discussion ensued regarding home assessments, getting county permits, and hardening homes.

-Treasurer Striegler asked about a workshop to educate the public on hardening homes, chipping projects, wildfires, etc. Chief Thompson told the Board that the Roaring Fork Valley Wildfire Collaborative is doing this work throughout the valley. Discussion about chipping ensued.

-Vice President Arthur commended the agencies' teamwork in responding to the Gant structure fire in Aspen.

-Board Member Young attended the volunteers' meeting and said our volunteers are of excellent quality; we should never forget their vital work.

Staff comments: -IT Director Johnson checked in with the Board regarding their IPADS; let him know if they need any work or if you are not using them.

-IT Director Johnson informed the Board that we are working on building a new website in the next couple of months, bringing us into ADA compliance.

Old Business: None

New Business: -Fire Marshal Mele reminds the Board that in 2019 and 2020, we got Snowmass and Basalt to pass hardening home guidelines and rules that all new construction is built with class A roofing, non-combustible siding, decks, etc., moving forward. Fire Marshal Mele said the older subdivisions need more work and some education; if the state moves forward with Wildland Urban Interface codes, home hardening will be enforced. Fire Marshal Mele told the Board that the county only enforces these codes in remote areas described as extreme wildfire hazards. Chief Thompson said there is a commission at the state level working to harden homes.

-Vice President Arthur Volunteered to attend the volunteer meeting on May 7, 2024.

Adjourn: -Vice President Duroux motioned to adjourn the meeting, Treasurer Striegler seconded the motion, all in favor, none opposed, and the meeting ended at 10:21.

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

<https://youtu.be/3vUnkuRNmos>