

Roaring Fork Fire Rescue Authority
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SCOTT THOMPSON
FIRE CHIEF

**REGULAR MEETING AGENDA OF THE BOARD OF
DIRECTORS FOR May 16, 2023 at 9:00 a.m. STATION 42
1089 JW Drive Carbondale, CO 81623 Meeting Notes**

Authority Board President Ed Van Walraven, Other Board Members present Leroy Duroux, Elizabeth Striegler, Dave Heivly, John Young, Scott Arthur, Bill Boineau,. Others present were Chief Scott Thompson, Deputy Chiefs Richard Cornelius, and Kevin Issel, Finance Director Jennifer Thompson, Human Resources Director Renee Thomas, Hutch Foster, IT Director Erik Johnson, Division Chief Daniel Palmer, Battalion Chief Chance Goldyn, Attorney Bob Cole (via Lifesize), and Executive Assistant Jennifer Diamond.

Meeting Called to order by President Ed Van Walraven at 9:12

AGENDA ITEMS:

Approval of Minutes: President Van Walraven asked for a motion to accept the minutes for the May 16, 2023 meeting; Director Young moved to accept the minutes; Director Duroux seconded the motion. The motion carried 6 – 0.

Attorney's Report -

Attorney Cole reviewed the SB23-303 bill that could be changing property taxes significantly since prior years; Attorney Cole advised how fast tax bills are now being moved through the legislation they are pushed thru at the end and getting more complicated to understand. The SB23-303 Bill is attached to the end of Attorney Cole's notes for review. Attorney Cole has advised that he has been thru the document several times and will need more time to review it. Attorney Cole reported a lot of variables in the bill itself. He advised that one option worth considering is to ask the voters for a set amount of Mill Levy increase and have the Board set the mill levy rate at whatever is necessary to generate that set amount. Attorney Cole advised this solution would then remove all the variables in this highly complex bill that has been created. Chief Thompson said this is nothing new and that North Route Fire Protection District set an amount to operate the District and then backed into it just like a bond. Chief Thompson said, this way, we are not dependent on mill rate

fluctuations.

Chief Thompson said this makes sense to him, but he must develop an equation that helps RFFR with growth.

Chief Thompson goes on to say that the master plan was straight on last year with 10 percent of growth last year; inflation, CPI, and all those other things are costing this District a lot more to run, so how we put all this into play will require Attorney Coles help. Chief Thompson said Attorney Cole is the right person to do that, but we must go to the voters in both districts. Chief Thompson reiterated that he believes this is a fiducially sound concept because the voters will not overpay for our services. Chief Thompson said this bill does not hamper the schools as the Senate has opted them out.

Chief Thompson states we will not be able to meet our master plan or strategic initiatives unless we come up with more money. Director Arthur asked how to incorporate growth into something we take to the voters; don't we have to have something that we have a specific number, and can we ask for an additional five to ten percent every year for growth? Attorney Cole responded by stating yes, you can ask for a percentage; however, you define it to the voters is how it is approved. Attorney Cole gave a simple example if you need 10 million dollars in year one, but the project amount will grow by inflation, you say ten million plus an inflation factor. Another example Attorney Cole gave was that if you think inflation will be 10 million plus ten percent, you must get the voters to approve it. Attorney Cole advised the answer is in the question on the ballot. Attorney Cole says it will be best to build in whatever necessary growth factor you reasonably believe applies to that ballot question. Board Member Leroy Duroux asked, "So we won't know until November what the rules are going to be as far as what our income is going to be, correct?" Attorney Cole answered that under the new bill, you would not know; that is correct. Board Member Duroux said that it would be hard to do a budget. Chief Thompson points out, "Who is not going to vote for lowering their property tax?" Board Member Duroux agrees that not many people will vote against lowering property taxes. Chief Thompson believes that it is safe to assume this bill will pass. Chief Thompson says we must tell the public that we want to maintain our services, and this is the cost to do it. Some questions Chief Thompson brings up are inflation rates mentioned in this SB23-303 bill but wonders where the data is being pulled, not knowing what the percentage is or where it will come from.

President Van Walraven asked what is our mechanism to put this into effect after we go to the voters in November? Attorney Cole answers this by saying it is done through the District Mill Levy's; if both Districts went to the voters and got the approval of this kind of tax authorization, then RFFRA would back into this calculation, again, for example, if the question says we need ten million dollars, then RFFRA gets the assessed value certification from the County Assessor; so, it's a

simple calculation to back into the Mill Levy. The Board then sets the middle levy before December 15. President Van Walraven asked, "Do we not have to go to the state to do any of that, or will we just do that in the District?"

Attorney Cole answers, "Yes, it will be done in District."

President Van Walraven asked a second question, whether there is a recommendation for or against HH?" Attorney Cole answered that "no" he did not have an opinion as he does not understand it well enough to make the recommendation; he believes its more probably a political decision that RFFRA Board needs to make.

Board Member Leroy Duroux asked Attorney Cole if this bill also limits the counties or just Special Districts? Attorney Cole answers, "It's all property tax entities except school districts, but it has a lesser impact on municipalities, mainly because they get so much of their revenue through sales tax, so it does not concern them as much.

Attorney Coles says Counties are a little more weighted to property tax, which affects them a little more than municipalities, but they still get a lot of revenue from sales tax. Special Districts are the ones that hit the hardest because you're almost entirely dependent on property tax."

Chief Thompson advised we have done a lot of work concerning the SB23-303 bill and what is happening to us; we've told our employees that 2024 was when we were going to turn the revenue stream up, and we would be able to meet and do what we needed with the Master and Strategic plan; that includes hiring more people, working on the compensation plan so we quit losing people to other agencies after we train them, and our career progression so employees know when their next raise is coming. This bill is a big deal; we need to determine our priorities as a board. Chief Thompson goes on to say that the remodel of Station 42 is going to be down the road. Chief Thompson said he ran some preliminary numbers and that it is twenty-five million dollars to add housing, a maintenance facility, and a training facility to Station 42. Chief Thompson said a presentation would come next month on prebuilds and how to accomplish a bond and deal with this revenue shortfall. Chief Thompson said we know that two questions cannot go to the voters because we would lose. Chief Thompson adds Carbondale went through that a couple of times; everybody that I work with in elections says do not do that, so the first thing I think we have to do is stabilize our income before we remodel this fire station even though we have outgrown our fire station & we do not have a training place, we have some tough decisions to make between now and November. Director Heivly asked if there would be any negative implications of going after this revenue stabilization if SB 23-303 did not pass? Chief Thompson believes this is no longer a choice if SB 23-303 did not pass, suggesting that you only take what you need and do not take everything you can. Hence, Chief Thompson thinks something we could show the taxpayers is we have these increased assessed valuations. Chief Thompson advised instead of taking it like the mill rate, we back into it by the number we need, making this a positive

spin to the taxpayers. Chief Thompson recapped by saying to taxpayers we are not going to decrease your services; we are going to keep you going with stellar services, and this is what it costs to do that. President Van Walraven adds that we need to be as transparent and precise as possible to explain it to the taxpayers and confirms that this will be on the ballot in November. Attorney Cole said that in July, you must notify the County Clerk that you are likely to have an election, and it is around the end of the first week in August is the date for certificating the ballot for the Mill Levy. Chief Thompson says we must go to both sets of Voters, Snowmass, and Basalt.

Director John Young said since we do not know what our assessed valuation is going to be based on the number of protests that are going to be filed, I would guess 20% would protest their assessment & the County does have to react to that and decide if there is any merit to those protests that numerically adds a factor in all of this as well. Chief Thompson says if you look at the financial report of percentages, the lowest rate of increase was in Snowmass Village at 54%, and the highest increase was 61% in Basalt Pitkin County; so, we are still not going to come down, it is all about what we can charge for. Chief Thompson asks the Board if they are good with Attorney Cole working on a question and coming up with something we can start working on? Board Member Arthur is on Board with moving the Attorney forward, and President Van Walraven asks if we need a motion; Chief Thompson says a motion is unnecessary and determines the Board is in favor of moving Attorney Cole forward with creating a question on the election ballot. Chief Thompson asked Attorney Cole if he would need help from RFFRA to hire a consultant? Attorney Cole says to give him a few weeks to review the bill and understand RFFRA's operational needs for the next five to ten years as a threshold amount and what periodic increases will be needed. Attorney Cole advised you can do this internally or hire a consultant.

Chief Thompson states that most of the work has already been done in the Master Plan. This will give us a working number of employees to develop a good number of what it costs to accomplish the Master Plan. Board member Leroy Duroux asks if this only covers operational or Capital costs. Chief Thompson answers that Snowmass Wildcat has three-quarters of the mill for Capital, so yes, it would eliminate that. Chief Thompson says we would have to build that in our plan of replacing stations, maintaining stations, and replacing apparatus. Chief Thompson says that he worked on a rolling stock plan for the next three years two weeks ago, so by using this information, we could blend this all into our question; here is what we need for operation, here's what we need for Capital. Board member Duroux asked if this would alleviate going to the voters for capital bond issues. Chief Thompson said yes for apparatus, fire station upkeep, and things like this, but a big something like this Station remodel, yes. Chief Thompson says the only other thing we could do is raise that and do a certificate of participation out of this to pay for this fire station. Chief Thompson said we would have to make payments on that, and he asked Attorney Cole about the risk of doing this because it could take away from operations.

Attorney Cole responds with an issue doing a certificate of participation is it is a substantial capital outlay. Attorney Cole said ideally, we would come up with an operational number that includes apparatus and some station upkeep and either with stated increases that period or on the rate of increase annually. Attorney Cole says it gets complicated with a big build like a 25-million-dollar fire station remodel. Does Attorney Cole ask if you will capitalize on that over time, or will you have a big bump in your revenue stream and try to authorize that through this question?

Chief Thompson adds that construction costs increase 1 % a month, so we will need more than 25 million to build in the future; interest rates are rising. Chief Thompson explains it makes building almost unaffordable. President Van Walraven wraps it up by saying to get on this as quickly as possible and suggests that when coming up with a budget or plan to put more than needed in the proposal, it's easier to take something out than add it. Chief Thompson advised that the master plan has estimated 10% growth each year for Snowmass and Basalt.

SB23-303

Reduce Property Taxes And Voter-approved Revenue Change

Concerning a reduction in property taxes, and, in connection therewith, creating a limit on annual property tax increases for certain local governments; temporarily reducing the valuation for assessment of certain residential and nonresidential property; creating new subclasses of property; permitting the state to retain and spend revenue up to the proposition HH cap; requiring the retained revenue to be used to reimburse certain local governments for lost property tax revenue and to be deposited in the state education fund to backfill the reduction in school district property tax revenue; transferring general fund money to the state public school fund and to a cash fund to also be used for the reimbursements; eliminating the cap on the amount of excess state revenues that may be used for the reimbursements for the 2023 property tax year; referring a ballot issue; and making an appropriation.

SESSION:

2023 Regular Session

SUBJECTS:

Fiscal Policy & Taxes Local
Government
State Revenue & Budget

BILL SUMMARY

Section 3 of the bill requires the secretary of state to refer a ballot issue to voters at the November 2023 election that asks voters whether property taxes should be reduced and that seeks voter approval to retain and spend excess state revenues that will be used to backfill some of the reduced property tax revenue. Most of the bill only becomes effective if the voters approve the ballot issue.

Local government property tax revenue limit. Beginning with the 2023 property tax year, **section 6** establishes a limit on specified property tax revenue for local governments,

excluding those that are home rule and school districts, that is equal to inflation above the property tax revenue from the prior property tax year (limit). A local government may establish a temporary property tax credit, which does not change the gross mill levy, that is up to the number of mills necessary to prevent the local government's property tax revenue from exceeding the limit.

Alternatively, the governing board may approve a mill levy that would cause the local government to exceed the limit, if the governing board approves the mill levy at a public meeting that meets certain **criteria**. **Valuation changes.** The valuation for assessment (valuation) of nonresidential real and personal property, excluding producing mines and lands or leaseholds producing oil or gas, is based on an assessment rate of 29% of actual value, but currently there are temporary reductions in the valuation for certain subclasses of property. **Section 8** creates the additional temporary reductions. For the 2023 property tax year:

- For lodging property, property listed under any improved commercial subclass code, and all other nonresidential property, excluding agricultural property and renewable energy production property, the assessment rate is reduced from 27.9% to 27.85%;
- For renewable energy agricultural land, which is a newly created subclass of agricultural property that is valued under **section 7**, the assessment rate is reduced from 26.4% to 21.9%.

Thereafter, the assessment rate for lodging property and all nonresidential property, excluding agricultural property and renewable energy production property and property that is not under a vacant land subclass, is reduced from 29% to:

- 27.85% for the 2024 through 2026 property tax years;
- 27.65% for the 2027 and 2028 property tax years;
- 26.9% for the 2029 and 2030 property tax years; and
- 25.9% or 26.9% for the 2031 and 2032 property tax years, depending on the increase in the valuation in the 32 counties with the smallest increases from the 2030 to 2031 property tax years (revenue increases).

The assessment rate for agricultural property, excluding renewable energy agricultural land, and renewable energy property is reduced from 29% to:

- 26.4% for the 2025 through 2030 property tax years; and
- 25.9% or 26.4% for the 2031 and 2032 property tax years, depending on the increase in the valuation in the 32 counties with the smallest revenue increases.

The assessment rate for renewable energy agricultural land, which is a newly created subclass of agricultural property that is valued under **section 7**, is reduced from 29% to 21.9% for the 2024 through 2032 property tax years.

Beginning with the 2033 property tax year, all of the temporary valuation reductions expire and the valuation of all nonresidential real property is 29% of the actual value of the property.

The valuation of residential real property is based on an assessment rate of 7.15% of actual value, but currently, there are temporary reductions in the valuation. **Section 9** further reduces the valuation of residential real property. For the 2023 property tax year, the valuation is reduced from 6.765% of the amount equal to the actual value minus the lesser of \$15,000 or the amount that causes the valuation to be \$1,000 (alternate amount) to 6.7% of the amount equal to the actual value minus the lesser of \$40,000 or the alternate amount.

For the 2024 property tax year, the valuation is reduced as follows:

- For multi-family residential real property, the valuation is reduced from 6.8% of the actual value to 6.7% of the amount equal to the actual value minus the lesser of \$40,000 or the alternate amount; and
- For all other residential real property, the valuation is reduced from an estimate of 6.98% of the actual value to 6.7% of the amount equal to the actual value minus the lesser of \$40,000 or the alternate amount.

For the 2025 through 2032 property tax years:

- For multi-family residential real property and primary residence real property, including multi-family primary residence real property, the valuation is reduced from 7.15% of the actual value to 6.7% of the actual value minus the lesser of \$40,000 or the alternate amount;
- For qualified-senior primary residence real property, including multi-family qualified-senior primary residence real property, the valuation is reduced from 7.15% of the actual value to 6.7% of the amount equal to the actual value minus \$140,000 or the alternate amount; and
- For all other residential real property, the assessment rate is reduced from 7.15% to $\pm 1-6.7\%$.

Beginning with the 2033 property tax year, all of the temporary valuation reductions expire and the valuation of all residential real property is 7.15% of the actual value of the property.

The bill also establishes that all of the temporary reductions in valuation for residential and nonresidential property created in the bill are contingent on the state's ability to retain and spend state surplus up to the proposition HH cap. If, for any reason, excluding a legislative enactment by the general assembly, the state is not permitted to retain and spend this money, then the temporary reductions in the bill do not apply.

Section 11 creates the residential subclass of primary residence real property for owner-occupiers and establishes administrative procedures related to the classification that are based on the procedures for the homestead exemption, with those procedures expanded to treat civil union partners like spouses. **Section 11** also creates the residential subclass of qualified-senior primary residence real property, which is a property with an owner-occupier who previously qualified for the senior homestead exemption for a different property and who does not qualify for the exemption for the current property tax year. **Sections 1, 12, 13, 15, and 16, and 21** delay deadlines as necessary due to the valuation changes for the 2023 property tax year. **Section 20** requires county assessors to provide notice, which will be prepared by the property tax administrator, to taxpayers about the new valuations for assessment and the application process for primary residence real property and qualified-senior primary residence real property.

The state is currently required to reimburse local governmental entities for property tax revenue lost as a result of the reductions in valuation enacted in Senate Bill 22-238. **Section 14** modifies this backfill mechanism by:

- Specifying that the amount of revenue lost for a property tax year is based on a local governmental entity's mill levy for the 2022 property tax year, excluding specified mills;
- Including the additional property tax revenue reductions that result from the bill in the backfill for the 2023 property tax year;
- Eliminating the maximum amount of the backfill for the 2023 property tax year that is a refund of excess state revenues;
- Extending the backfill for the 2024 through 2032 property tax years for the valuation reductions in the bill, but making a local governmental entity that has an increase in real property total valuation of 20% or more from the 2022 property tax year ineligible for the backfill;
- Creating the local government backfill cash fund, which includes a \$128 million general fund transfer, and requiring the money from the fund to be used to backfill revenue to local governments beginning with the 2024 property tax year; and
- Beginning with the 2024 property tax year, proportionally reducing the amount that each eligible local government receives if necessary to avoid exceeding the total amount that is identified as being available for the backfills statewide ;
- Clarifies how local governmental entities, which are now defined, are treated if their boundaries are in more than one county for purposes of the backfill; and
- Requires the state treasurer to reduce a backfill as necessary to avoid a local governmental entity exceeding its constitutional fiscal year spending limit.

Section 14 also modifies the backfill mechanism to treat cities and counties as counties instead of municipalities, and this change is not contingent on voter-approval of the ballot issue.

Section

18 requires the department of revenue to calculate the amount of excess state revenues that will be refunded for the fiscal year 2022-23 with and without the changes from the bill. **Section**

19 requires the state treasurer to transfer \$72 million from the general fund to the state public school/ und. **Voter-approved revenue change.** If the voters approve the referred ballot issue, then the state will be authorized to retain and spend revenues up to the proposition HH cap, created **in section 3.** For the 2023-24 fiscal year, the proposition HH cap is equal to the excess state revenues cap for the prior fiscal year adjusted for inflation plus 1% and population changes. Thereafter, the proposition HH cap is equal to the proposition HH cap for the prior fiscal year, adjusted for inflation plus 1% and population changes. The proposition HH cap is also annually adjusted for the qualification or disqualification of enterprises and debt service changes.

If the general assembly does not enact assessment rates for the 2033 property tax year that are the same or lower than the assessment rates for the 2032 property tax year described above, then the proposition HH cap is reduced to be equal to the excess state revenues cap, and the state will retain \$0 under this authority beginning with the 2031-32 fiscal year. Thereafter, the general assembly may partially or wholly restore the proposition III-I cap without additional voter approval if the general assembly enacts valuation reductions equal to or greater than those for the 2032 property tax year.

The amount retained under this authority is first used in the following fiscal year to backfill certain local governments for the reduced property tax revenue as a result of the property tax changes in the bill and Senate Bill 22-238, and the remainder is transferred to the state education fund to offset the revenue that school districts lose as a result of the property tax changes. **Section 5** requires the state controller to include the new voter-approved revenue change in the annual report on TABOR revenues. **Sections 2, 4, 10, and 17** make conforming amendments related to the valuation changes and related procedures and the voter-approved revenue changes.

- **Housing:** Chief Thompson advised he closed on the River Park Units; they did get the deed restrictions passed with the Town of Basalt. Chief Thompson advised he is working on splitting 1/3 of the closing costs with CMC and the Developer.
- **Brush Creek Road Closure:** Brush Creek Road is closed till November just below Owl Creek Road and there is a plan in place running RFFR's four-seater Ranger with gurney and fire pump to critical calls in the Sinclair and Brush Creek neighborhoods to expedite services while the apparatus is driving the detour.
 - **Are we changing location to St 42 and Lifesize till November due to road closure?** - The Board decided to have the next meeting, which is June 20, 2023, at Station 45 and see how the traffic goes, for now the board is not changing any board locations.
- **Ambulance Press release:** Chief Thompson said the pushing in ceremony for the new ambulance was done and posted on social media / web site. Vice President Leroy Duroux attended.

**Finance Director-Jennifer Thompson Report
May2023**

2022 Budget/ Audit:

Finance Director Jennifer Thompson said the audit is still being finalized; and she has not yet received the draft document but does not anticipate any issues.

2023 Budget:

Finance Director Jennifer Thompson said the budget numbers look good to date. Finance Director Jennifer Thompson advised we received a significant amount in property taxes in March and April and the operating cash flow is looking very healthy at this time.

Station 46 West Sopris Creek:

Finance Director Jennifer Thompson said the final grant payment has been transferred to RFFRA and the WSC bank account has been closed.

Basalt Apartments:

Finance Director Jennifer Thompson said the money was transferred into the RFFRA Capital account from the restricted account in SWFPO in the amount of \$1,062,102.80 for the two apartments in Basalt. Finance Director Jennifer Thompson said the total amount paid for the two apartments was \$1,354,656.40 which was paid out of the RFFRA Capital MM. Finance Director Jennifer Thompson said she is expecting a \$10,000 refund in earnest money that was placed on the office space which will now be purchased directly by CMC.

Special District Association:

Finance Director Jennifer Thompson said she is planning on attending a regional workshop in June in which part of the agenda is walking through the 2023 legislative update and review on how this year's legislative changes affect our districts.

2023 Wildfire Season:

Finance Director Jennifer Thompson said she is scheduled to attend a training on Wednesday, May 17 to meet with representatives from the Colorado Division of Fire Prevention and Control for the 2023 billing season.

S823-303:

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Finance Director Jennifer Thompson said she has included an article from the Colorado General Assembly which details the changes proposed for property tax collection. Finance Director Jennifer Thompson said she is in the process of communicating with our attorney and my peers to work on a spreadsheet to pinpoint the impact on our respective Districts. Finance Director Jennifer Thompson advised the current increases that we have seen are as follows:

	2023	Projected	%	Revenue over
	Assessed Valuation	2024	Increase	previous ye
		Assessed		
		Valuation		
Basalt Eagle	273,153,790	465,066,750	59%	\$1,535,304
Basalt Pitkin	170,196,180	280,993,700	61%	\$ 886,380
SWFPD Pitkin	515,146,150	950,042,510	54%	\$2,870,751

Finance Director Jennifer Thompson advise with the status of the bill SB23-303, the impact to our Districts will be significant. Finance Director Jennifer Thompson said the numbers above could be cut by as much as 80%. Finance Director Jennifer Thompson said this will be an ongoing project as we work through all the nuances and confusion of this legislation.

Finance Director Jennifer Thompson tells the board she is working on two budgets one if the bill passes and other if it doesn't. Finance Director Jennifer Thompson said one budget is normal with Cola increases etc. Finance Director Jennifer Thompson said she is also working on another budget from the Masterplan adding extra employees, extra benefits, compensation plan, and adding in the cost of doing business. Finance Director Jennifer Thompson said the cost of infrastructure is the biggest project she has outside of personnel, what is the actual cost of running all these fire stations and the repairs, including the repairs needed on the 19 housing units we have purchased. Finance Director Jennifer Thompson said she will bring the board two budgets to approve we will probably do a first reading on both of them, we will most likely have a meeting in November so prepare for that. Board Member Leroy Duroux asked if we are thinking about a designated person for housing and station maintenance and operations. Chief Thompson stated that Deputy Chief Issel is working on all this right now, and Board Member Duroux added that Deputy Issel could be doing other RFFR operations. Board member Arthur thanks Jenn Thompson for doing the double work on the budgets.

Fire Marshal's Report – Deputy Fire Marshal Brooke Stott said construction season is here, lots going on downtown, trying to keep the crews up to speed on what is going on. Fire Marshal Brooke Stott said it will be a busy summer with all the road construction and detours. Deputy Fire Marshal Brooke Stott advised Fire Inspector Jessie Garcia received his Fire Instructor 1 certification two weeks ago and Fire Inspector Brad Jones is working on his Fire Inspector 3 Plans Examiner; the test was through ICC.

Deputy Chief Richard Cornelius – Report

April Volunteer Hours

248 total volunteer hours

174 In-station hours

74 Responding from Home/Work (all were OCO hours)

Incidents

April 2023

170 Total Incidents

71 EMS related incidents

April 2022

138 Total Incidents

63 EMS related incidents

Increase of 32 incidents

23.2%

2023 YTD



923 Total Incidents
450 EMS related incidents
2022 YTD
884 Total Incidents
463 EMS related incidents
Increase of 39 incidents
4.4%

Flood & Debris Flow 2023

The Incident Action Plan (IAP) was updated and can be utilized should a flood or debris flow take place in the Roaring Fork Valley. There are eight divisions identified in the IAP including the Lower Crystal and Upper Crystal. Flooding is expected on the Crystal River so we want to be prepared should our neighboring agency need assistance. Eagle County stood up their Emergency Operations Center (EOC) today for Monitoring/Info Sharing for the 2023 Spring Runoff - High Water. We are also participating in biweekly conference calls with the National Weather Service and other partners to monitor the current and expected trends.

With the potential high water to impact the Roaring Fork Valley, particularly on the Crystal River we want to be prepared. A meeting with public safety partners will take place next week to bring public safety partners together to discuss their plans should high water impacts occur.

New Ambulance

The new ambulance was placed in service on May 3, 2023. The Pitkin County Board of County Commissioners approved the ALS permit at their regular meeting on April 25, 2023. A ceremony took place at Station 41. Aspen Daily News published an article and a news release was also distributed. Thus far the crews are very pleased with the functionality and quality of the ambulance.

Pitkin County Mass Casualty Incident (MCI) Plan

A draft of the MCI plan will be reviewed prior to it is finalized for distribution. The project is expected to be completed by the end of May.

Ambulance Base Rate Charges and Bundled Billing

We are continuing to monitor ambulance base rate charges and bundled billing.

Brush Creek Road culvert project

We have adjusted our response to incidents operational guideline to give the crews more flexibility to respond in a UTV for time sensitive medical and fire incidents where access would otherwise be delayed during the Brush Creek Road culvert project.

Temporary Full-time Wildland Seasonal Firefighters

Four Temporary Full-time Wildland Seasonal Firefighters will start their two-week orientation on May 30, 2023. Patrol will start on June 11, 2023 and run through September 9, 2023. Patrol will take place seven days a week. On some weekends there will be overlap with two crews.

Board Member Arthur stated the volunteer station hours have dropped do you think the high point having 200,240 hours in station a couple of months ago was a blip or is it due to coving vacations? Deputy Chief Cornelius said one of the high performing volunteer members transitioned to part-time, then to full time, so Deputy Cornelius believes that had an impact. Board Member Arthur asked where the new ambulance was being held, and Deputy Chief Cornelius stated it is at Station 41, he welcomes anyone to stop by and have a look if they would like.



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SCOTT THOMPSON
FIRE CHIEF

Deputy Chief Kevin Issel – Given by

Chief Thompson

Chief Thompson requested a change to the special event rates: Staff is recommending the modification to the Board Ambulance Service Billing Policy that became effective January 1, 2023. Chief Thompson says the modification requested has to do with Special Event Billing rates; the current rates being looked at are for a staffed Ambulance at \$200 an hour and A single resource Firefighter or EMT at \$80 an hour.

Chief Thompson said we would like to increase a staffed Ambulance hourly rate be to \$225 an hour and that a single resource to \$100 an hour; when the policy was presented and adopted January 1, 2023, the focus was ambulance transport billing rates and the rate increase for special events was simply overlooked. Chief Thompson said as we begin our special event season, we would like to see this adjustment approved now as we are beginning to see requests for service. Chief Thompson said the following are some of the reasoning for the rate adjustment to be retroactive to January 1, 2023:

- Increased operational costs
- Increased labor rates, RFFR pays double time for special event staffing



- Fleet maintenance
- Vendors should not be allowed to pass on costs to tax payers
- Have not increased special event rates in a couple years.

Chief Thompson asked for a vote for minor changes as stated above. President Van Walraven asked for a motion to change rates Vice President Scott Arthur made a motion the motion was 2nd by Dave Heivly all were in favor non opposed.

- **Update on employee housing** - Chief Thompson said they have moving around people in the new units and have room for the severity crew coming in for the summer, they will be housed in the new two bedroom at Willits until September then another staff member will move in September.
- **Agenda Year in Review**- President Van Walraven said after reviewing the Year in Review document there is no mention of who gives the Chief the authority to make decisions. President Van Walraven requested more information be put into the organizational chart regarding how the board is put together and how the chain of command works from the board to the staff. Chief Thompson said he will put a paragraph in the year end review by organizational chart regarding how the board is made up, and how they function. Chief Thompson said when the change is made, we will publish on social media and the web site.

Human Resource Director Renee Thomas – Report

Human Resource Director Renee Thomas advised she has job offers out for the seasonal wildfire severity crew. Two candidates are in the valley and two are not in the valley and will be sharing housing.

Strategic Plan Compensation Team Analysis:

Human Resource Director Renee Thomas advised the team presented to the Executive staff on Tuesday, May 2nd. Human Resource Director Renee Thomas said the presentation focused on the history of the team and the project assigned to us. Human Resource Director Renee Thomas advised they have been focusing our efforts on what the staff wanted, a pay plan that is easy to understand and lets the members forecast to determine movement in their personal lives (housing, family, etc.); while keeping in mind that wages were the most important aspect of compensation through a staff survey. Human Resource Director Renee Thomas said the team also focused on a plan that honors longevity and uses it as a strategy for retention. Human Resource Director Renee Thomas said the executive team supported the plan developed to date and asked that we continue forecasting costs for long-term impact. Human Resource Director Renee Thomas said taking current staff and placing them into the draft compensation plan currently would have increased the budget by \$100,000 in wages, not including benefits or longevity pay. Human Resource Director Renee Thomas advised they were also asked to postpone the presentation to the board to have more discussions about the state referendum that may impact our tax valuation. Human Resource Director Renee Thomas advised the team will present at the June board meeting.

Career Progression Plans:

Human Resource Director Renee Thomas said the team lead initiative is now working with her team to schedule meetings and revisit where they were and how to move forward with the career progression plan. Human Resource Director Renee Thomas said the team is on hold right now, waiting to see how the compensation team’s program may fit into their plan.



Empowerment Mapping / Process Mapping: Human Resource Director Renee Thomas said Erik is revisiting what to do now because Dr. Livengood has become too busy to help on this project, so the team is re-evaluating how to take the information forward and work on identified processes.

Employee Recognition Program: Human Resource Director Renee Thomas said the team meets almost weekly and is working on their plan and proposals.

- Public Comments - none
- Board Member Comments
- Staff Comments
- Old Business
- New Business
- Volunteer Meeting
 - June 6, 2023, 18:00@Station 42
 - Board Member Dave Heivly attending
- Adjournment 10:20

