



Basalt & Rural Fire Protection District

“Protecting Our Community Since 1970”

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

BASALT & RURAL FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT SPECIAL BOARD MEETING May 17, 2022

Roll:

President Ed Van Walraven called the meeting to order at 5:02 p.m. Other Board members present were John Young, Leroy Duroux, Vonda Williams, and Mark Kittle. Chief Scott Thompson, Deputy Chief Richard Cornelius, HR Director Renee Thomas, Finance Director Jennifer Thompson, Attorney Bob Cole, and Administrative Assistant Susan Herwick.

Swearing in of new Board Members:

Chair Ed Van Walraven administered the oath of office to John Young and Vonda Williams. Vice-Chair Leroy Duroux administered the oath of office to Ed Van Walraven. The three incumbents were reelected to the Board of Directors for a three-year term.

Election of Board Officers:

Director Mark Kittle nominated Ed Van Walraven for Chair; Leroy Duroux for Vice-Chair; and John Young as Treasurer. All were in favor and the nomination was approved 5 – 0.

Finance Report:

Finance Director Jennifer Thompson stated that impact fees from the Stott's Mill Riverpark Developments had been received. All the money that was allocated to the Authority has been transferred. The audit is finished. There were no issues. Chief Thompson stated that the auditor will be here next month for the RFFRA Board meeting, if you have any questions.

Chief's Report:

Director Kittle asked whether we had adequate staffing for wildfire response. Chief Thompson stated no, but we have hired a temporary full-time four-person severity crew for the summer. They will start on May 23 and patrol seven days a week from 10:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. He would like to send a crew out on federal assignments this year to get them some experience and to pay for the program. We hope that this program will be self-sustaining in the future by doing this. They will be doing wildfire risk assessments on people's property and following the lightening map around from the day before.

Attorney's Report:

Chief Thompson stated that Director Duroux brought it to his attention that as the RFFRA Creation document reads right now, it would only take a simple majority vote to dissolve the Authority. Director Duroux and Attorney Cole, both remember it being discussed about it taking a super majority to make this decision. We need to update a creation agreement with a third amendment adding this language. Attorney Cole stated that this language would be added under 6b. Termination Provision. Finance Director Jennifer Thompson asked what would happen if one Board did not adopt the budget. Attorney Cole stated that would be a termination of the Authority due to lack of appropriation. If this should happen, it would destroy the Districts capability to issue bonds or enter into Lease Purchase Agreements for a period of time. Lots of discussion ensued. Attorney Cole stated that to split the two Districts up again would be extremely difficult to implement and create some real hard ships for both Districts. Both Districts would be in a worse position separated than they are together. The strength here is to keep the Authority together. Discussion.

Director Duroux stated that Board members make policy. They do not get involved in the day-to-day operations of the Authority and they do not get involved with personnel. Chief Thompson stated that he spoke with both new Directors and explained to them that we believe in policy governance. He hopes that this is understood. Attorney Cole stated that the Authority agreement is clear that the employees work for the Fire Chief. The Fire Chief works for the Authority Board, not an individual Board member.

Non-Agenda Items:

The next Snowmass-Wildcat Fire Protection District Board meeting is scheduled for June 21, 2022. The next Basalt & Rural Fire Protection Board meeting is scheduled for August 16, 2022.

Adjournment:

Director Kittle made a motion to adjourn the meeting, the motion was seconded by Director Young, and the motion carried 5 – 0. The meeting was adjourned at 5:32 p.m.

To watch this meeting in its entirety, please follow the link below.

<https://youtu.be/2O2pMcZCt4w>