



**RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS
REGULAR BOARD MEETING
March 19, 2024**

Call to Order: Noting that a quorum was present, President Van Walraven called the meeting to order at 9:00 am on March 19, 2024.

Roll Call: Board Member Young, President Van Walraven, Vice President Arthur, Board Member Duroux, Chief Thompson, Finance Director Thompson, Deputy Chief Cornelius, Deputy Chief Issel, HR Director Thomas, Deputy Fire Marshal Stott LIFESIZE- Attorney Cole, Treasurer Striegler, Bill Boineau, Deputy Chief Fire Marshal Mele, Division Chief of Training Palmer.

Approval of minutes – President Van Walraven asked for a motion to accept the meeting minutes from February 20, 2024. Vice President Arthur moved to accept the meeting minutes from February 20, 2024; Board Member Duroux seconded the motion, there was no discussion and the motion passed 5-0 unopposed.

Attorney Report- Attorney Cole said he is working on the contract for the final purchase of five acres for Station 42.

-Attorney Cole said he is reviewing a contract with Jensen Hughes and will go over a couple of items with Chief Thompson. Chief Thompson clarified that this contract is for the Fire Marshals to have an outside review of big projects they are working on.

-Attorney Cole said he is reviewing an AlSCO agreement for Deputy Chief Issel.

-Board Member Young asked who signed the contract to purchase Station 42, the Board President or Chief Thompson, and if the Board needed additional information. Attorney Cole said this would be reviewed and voted on in the upcoming Basalt and Rural Fire Protection meeting later today.

-Board Member Young said in the paper today that Aspen opened a portal to the emails of all the governance with the elected officials to avoid these CORA (Colorado Open Records Act)

requests as they were inundated with requests. Board Member Young confirms with the Attorney that the public has a right to our emails. Attorney Cole advised that not all your emails will be public records; for example, emails to and from the Attorney are subject to attorney-client privilege. Attorney Cole said emails from constituents with an express or implied expectation of confidentiality are not considered public records. Attorney Cole spoke about the document retention ACT and the requirements for records retention.

-Board Member Young asked Attorney Cole, who owns Rainfall. Attorney Cole said the people of the state own Rainfall, which is subject to the prior appropriation doctrine, with exceptions that allow for such things as rain barrels. Chief Thompson told the Board that rainwater is not an option for training as fifty gallons is the maximum you can take, and we would need more than that.

Chiefs Report:

- **AI Cameras-** Chief Thompson told the Board that he would like the Board to enter into an IGA approved by our Attorney. Chief Thompson told the Board that Roaring Fork Fire Authority IGA will share the cost of the AI cameras on top of all the mountains with the City of Aspen, Pitkin County, Snowmass Village, Aspen Fire, and Roaring Fork Fire Rescue at \$32,000 a year. Chief Thompson said the information we get from the cameras is vital to public welfare. Chief Thompson said in many locations where it takes 30-45 minutes to respond, we can immediately see the information on the camera. Chief Thompson said using these cameras in the past has helped pinpoint the time when the fire started. President Van Walraven asked for a resolution to accept the Inter-Governmental Agreement for Wildfire Camera Funding and Monitoring Operations. Board Member Young motioned to approve the IGA contract for the AI cameras; Treasurer Striegler seconded the motion; the motion passed with no opposition.

Chief Thompson said he is working on a grant to put an AI camera on Crown Mountain in the summer of 2024.

Station 42: Water- Chief Thompson told the Board that he met with two people from Water Law whom he previously used at Station 46. Chief Thompson told the Board we can not use the ditch water for training. Chief Thompson told the Board that the Crawfords had no water rights; they gave away all water rights in trade to support this subdivision. Chief Thompson said the water district suggested a well to fill a 10,000-gallon tank that we can use to irrigate plants and for training, which holds our rights to the water. Chief Thompson explained we must also buy water shares from Ruedi at \$500 a year. Chief Thompson said the 10,000-gallon tanks on the training grounds will have a fire pump with a pressurized hydrant and a green hydrant for drafting; all water will be reused and recycled.

-**Housing-** Chief Thompson said he devised a site plan to have nine housing units total, starting with four and an additional to build five more units. Chief Thompson shows the Board the plans. Chief Thompson said they plan to begin in late summer. Vice President Duroux is impressed with the quality of work the team is doing.

-**Pitkin County Regional Emergency Dispatch Center** - Chief Thompson told the Board that the Pitkin County Regional Dispatch Center is at the end of its lease at the North 40 location.

Chief Thompson told the Board that the Pitkin County Regional Dispatch Center wants to put the center here at Station 42 with the rebuild. Chief Thompson added that if they move forward, Pitkin County will bear the cost of that construction, keeping in mind that we are still a year out from construction on this building. Discussion ensued.

-Treasurer Striegler reminded the Board to remember all the positive developments moving forward, such as recycling training water for agriculture purposes and sharing space with the Dispatch Center if it happens. Board Member Young agrees with the importance of communicating to the citizens how we are moving forward in the development of Station 42. Chief Thompson said the water plan would be part of a public meeting for the Roaring Fork Planning Commission and the Commissioners during the location and extent process. Chief Thompson added they are still waiting for approval from the water attorney and that anyone within 600ft of the well must give written consent for approval.

Station 46: Chief Thompson told the Board the tanks were in place and met with engineers to ensure everything was done correctly. Chief Thompson said the next step is to bury and fill the tanks, and we should have fire sprinklers soon. Chief Thompson said the leftover soil will be used to bury the tank. Chief Thompson said once they are done, we will know the cost of the damage, and our Attorney will work with the insurance and bond company.

Willow Structure Fire Recap: Chief Thompson said there were no injuries from this incident. Chief Thompson said forty-seven firefighters from the valley responded, and the building next door was saved. Chief Thompson said this is a forty-million-dollar loss, and our fire investigation team turned over this over to insurance companies. Chief Thompson said six insurance companies are pinpointing why it started, and as that is not our job, we pinpoint where it began. Chief Thompson said nothing suspicious came up during their investigation. Discussion ensued about the positive teamwork from all agencies working together on the structure fire. Chief Thompson advised the Board that ATF responded for experience. Chief Thompson said they had been there for an entire day and had not come up with any positive conclusions. Deputy Fire Marshal Stott said our investigators worked with ATF, DFPC, Carbondale Fire, and Snowmass PD. Chief Thompson said how the fire was fought saved the C building, and the teamwork between agencies was essential. Chief Thompson said there was severe burn damage to the tip of the ladder, which will require replacing the controls on that ladder. Chief Thompson said we also ended up with rocks in the pump from the water system. Chief Thompson said the building was not knocked down; it was gutted on the inside and would be remodeled. Board Member Young told the other members how lucky we were that the wind did not pick up. Board Member Young wants to highlight the teaching moments to the citizens: keeping the fire hydrants clear of snow and fire access. Treasurer Striegler expressed how grateful she is for putting out this structure fire and how grateful she is to the team efforts of the other agencies in the valley for their help. Chief Thompson said the after-the-action review for this event will be on March 29, 2024.

Finance Report-

-Station 42- Chief Finance Director Thompson is working with an insurance claims adjuster regarding the ladder truck's damage.

Chief Finance Director Thompson said the newest ambulance had arrived, and we should be getting the money back from the grant, and the price dropped to \$152,000 instead of \$278,000. Chief Finance Director Thompson said she can keep the money in an un-restricted Colo Trust Fund.

Chief Finance Director Thompson said we are on track at fourteen percent of the budget. Chief Finance Director Thompson said the preliminary guess of what the Basalt Bond owned Roaring Fork was \$18,000; however, a few line items need to be accounted for. Chief Finance Director Thompson said the money would be repaid from the checking account for the bond, and no more money should come out of Roaring Fork.

Chief Finance Director Thompson said property taxes for the start of 2024 came in, and we are back to normal spending. Chief Finance Director Thompson said we did not have to borrow any more reserves and would pay back the borrowed reserves throughout the year. Chief Finance Director Thompson said she was reminded that we are still pending backfill as part of state legislation. Chief Finance Director Thompson said she did not count on the funds in this budget, which would arrive in April or May; the money will go to pay reserves if/when it arrives.

HR Report: - Strategic Plan - HR Director Thomas told the Board that she is doing several informational meetings with the staff for retention and compensation, a recorded meeting is available to watch if missed. HR Director Thomas said the meetings are going well and evolving as we present it; people are excited and grateful. HR Director Thomas said the career progression team is working on rolling out a draft SOG; they are looking to roll it out next week or April 1. IT Director Johnson said he is working on process mapping, mapping out five to six processes, and then putting the information into the software, digitally reproducing the information. President Van Walraven asked HR Director Thomas if she was getting buy-in from teams and staff. HR Director Thomas said career progression has not gone out, yet everything aligns with our organization. She adds that she thinks everyone is on Board.

Hiring: HR Director Thomas said we posted for full-time positions, including firefighter paramedic, firefighter EMT, and single-roll paramedic. The closing is this Friday, March 22. HR Director Thomas said we also posted about the seasonal wildfire severity crew, and the closing date is March 29.

HR Director Thomas said she has been working on the Division Chief job description with Division Chief Training Officer Palmer and Deputy Chief Cornelius, including the Division Chief of Training and Division Chief of EMS. HR Director Thomas said she is looking to post Division Chief of EMS this week. President Van Walraven asked HR Director Thomas if she had had any response for the Paramedic Firefighter. HR Director Thomas said yes, she has received fifteen applications. Chief Thompson said they saved a one-bedroom apartment as a recruitment tool for the Firefighter Paramedic job. Vice President Arthur asked if we are receiving any local applications. HR Director Thomas said yes, we have received a few local applications. Chief Thompson said that as we promote a division chief of EMS, we will open up another paramedic position; the goal is to have four paramedics on each shift.

HR Director Thomas said we get one to two volunteer applications weekly.

Fire Marshal- Nothing to report, staying busy.

Richard Report-

-February Volunteer Hours- Deputy Chief Cornelius told the Board we have 21 volunteer members. Deputy Chief Cornelius said that we have 130.75 total volunteer hours for February, all in-station hours.

Incidents: Deputy Chief Cornelius said incidents for February 2024 were 250 total incidents and 134 EMS-related incidents versus February 2023, which had 246 total incidents and 122 EMS-related incidents, showing a 1.6% increase in our incidents. Deputy Chief Cornelius said the 2024 YTD is 520 total incidents and 275 EMS-related incidents versus 2023, which had 516 total incidents and 251 EMS-related incidents, an increase of four incidents by 0.8%.

Type III Brush Trucks

Deputy Chief Cornelius said the Wildland Committee traveled to Creswell, OR, on February 26 for a pre-construction meeting. Deputy Chief Cornelius noted that the Authority will purchase three Super Single Type 3 Brush Trucks from Iturri over the next three years. Deputy Chief Cornelius added that the delivery of the first apparatus is expected to be within twelve months.

New Ambulance

Deputy Chief Cornelius said a final inspection was completed on March 11, and the new ambulance was delivered on March 15. Deputy Chief Cornelius noted we are in the process of getting the new ambulance outfitted and permitted by the Pitkin County Board of County Commissioners and expect the new ambulance to be in service within the next few weeks. Deputy Chief Cornelius said we would also place an order for another ambulance. Deputy Chief Cornelius told the Board that Braun Northwest, Inc. is at a 500-day build time from receipt of the chassis.

Paramedic Education Program

Deputy Chief Cornelius said Ethan Printy is halfway through the didactic portion of the Arapahoe Community College Paramedic Program; he started clinical this week. Deputy Chief Cornelius said Printy is expected to complete the program on July 11, 2024. Deputy Chief Cornelius said Nick Braun and Marcus Gerbaz have submitted their applications and will likely attend a six-month program in the Denver Metro area starting in either June or August 2024.

CO EMS Supplemental Payment

Deputy Chief Cornelius told the Board that we completed a desk review of the Colorado EMS supplemental payments on Friday, March 8, 2024. Deputy Chief Cornelius said if we are selected, the next step is to complete a comprehensive audit review. Deputy Chief Cornelius said the cost report certification will be provided in July or August 2024. Deputy Chief Cornelius said costs have increased since 2021, and we must review current rates.

Issel Report: -Employee Housing-Deputy Chief Issel said we have nineteen units for employee housing. Deputy Chief Issel told the Board that two employees have bought their own homes (the essence of how the program should work), one last year and one this month; they are volunteers who rented and moved on to buy their own homes. Deputy Chief Issel said new hires are moving into vacant units, and we are holding one unit should we need it for our paramedic position.

Deputy Chief Issel said there are no major problems with our housing units.

-Station 42- Deputy Chief Issel said we will move out of Station 42 next year. Deputy Chief Issel is trying to figure out space for administration due to the rebuilding of Station 42. Deputy Chief Issel said we have five other fire stations we can utilize to reduce costs, as we are trying not to rent any space.

Station 43—Deputy Chief Issel said they are replacing the garage doors at Station 43, which were funded from the capital budget.

Station 41—Deputy Chief Issel said air conditioning will soon be available in Station 41 units, and the money will come from the capital budget.

_Wildfire Season- Deputy Chief Issel said we have had three to four wildfires already coming into the wildfire season.

Deputy Chief Cornelius added that the State changed to involve all agencies in all-hazards training, not just wildfire training, to get everyone on the same page; this will happen in May. Deputy Chief Cornelius said the Division of Fire Prevention and Control is also coming so all the agencies can run through an emerging incident and how MAMA works.

Master Plan: Chief Thompson said the generator for this building was put off for Station 42's rebuild.

Public Comments: None

Board member comments—Board Member Young asked that the Board be introduced to new team members so that they have a face with their names. Deputy Chief Cornelius said that at the May board meeting, we would swear in eleven members, some new, six promoted, and five new.

Board Member Young said Jeffery Woodruff will be the new county commissioner for District 5. Board Member Young was impressed with Woodruff's service on the governor's wildfire commission.

Chief Thompson said Patty Clapper has been supportive in the past; she is trying to change the state code for the interface code for building hardening structures.

Deputy Fire Marshal Stott told the Board the International Association of Fire Chief's codes proposed changing R2 buildings over three stories down to one staircase. Deputy Fire Marshal Stott advised we would not advocate for this, and she will share the article regarding this with the Board.

Vice President Duroux said the grass is so high at State Highway 82 / Aspen Junction area; can we do a control burn? Chief Thompson said that on April 2, the commissioners will meet with the Colorado Department of Transportation regarding concerns about car accidents and signs that have come down yet to be repaired. Chief Thompson said he would go to the meeting to get these items addressed.

Board Member Young brought up frustrations with getting a county permit, which takes two to three months to obtain a permit to change from a flammable roof to a non-flammable roof.

Staff comments:

Old business:

New business:

Board Member Young will attend the All Hands meeting on April 2, 2024.

Vice President Arthur motioned to adjourn the meeting; Treasurer Striegler seconded the motion, and the meeting ended at 10:20.

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

- https://youtu.be/nq3_s9HRZ3s