



Basalt & Rural Fire Protection District

“Protecting Our Community Since 1970”

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

BASALT & RURAL FIRE PROTECTION BOARD MEETING February 20, 2024

Call to Order: Noting that a quorum was present, President Van Walraven called the meeting to order at 5:03 pm on February 20, 2024.

Roll Call: President Van Walraven, Vice President Duroux, Treasurer Young, Director Williams, Chief Thompson, Finance Director Thompson, Executive Administrative Assistant Diamond, Human Resource Director Thomas, Deputy Chief Cornelius.

Approval of Minutes: Vice President Duroux motioned to accept the regular meeting minutes from January 20, 2024; Director Williams seconded the motion; there was no discussion, and all were in favor, none opposed. Motion carried 4-0. Treasurer Young motioned to accept the regular meeting minutes from the February 5, 2024, emergency meeting; Director Williams seconded the motion; there was no discussion, and all were in favor, none opposed. Motion carried 4-0

Chiefs Report: Chief Thompson advised the Board that they are working on three separate contracts for the purchase of Station 42: one for the property, the second for the General Contractor, and the third for the architect. Chief Thompson said the contracts had been given to the Attorney for review.

Chief Thompson told the Board they are working on choosing from three separate site plans, getting input from crews and officers. Chief Thompson said he wants good information and thoughts on how we set up this campus. Chief Thompson said water rights will be a big deal for this project. Chief Thompson said costs would include contacting a Water Attorney; the Chief is also working with Mid-Valley Metro District for water needs. Chief said they

wanted to use ditch water for training but that water could only be used for agricultural needs. Chief Thompson advised the Authority will need water for training and landscaping, and a shallow well may be needed. Chief Thompson said a tank in the ground where we pay for water may be required for training. Treasurer Young asked what the domestic water can be used for. Chief Thompson advised that household water is charged by the gallon and cannot be used for irrigating landscapes.

On another note, Chief Thompson said the tender that is on order will now be ready in the fall. Chief Thompson told the Board the fire truck company lost engineers, which is why the delay occurred.

Chief Thompson talked about Station 42 relocating offices and staff during construction. Chief Thompson told the Board we would be working on places for admin to work and a place to host the Board Meetings. President Van Walraven asked if all the residential units were occupied and if they could use that space. Chief Thompson said all units are occupied, so that is not an option. Chief Thompson said he would explore options with Eagle County, CMC, and the Town of Basalt. Chief Thompson adds Station 44 has the potential to host a board meeting.

Treasurer Young asked if we would put up a fence when we own the five acres. Chief Thompson said No, he is working with the Crawfords, who have already ordered elk fencing. Chief Thompson said it would save money on two sides of the property. Chief Thompson said we would fence in our training facility because of liabilities and put in an electric gate on both sides of the property.

Finance Report: Finance Director Thompson advised that in the last quarter of 2023, the Eagle County portion of our tax revenue was affected by an application for an exemption granted to Valley View Hospital retroactive for 2021, 2022 and 2023. Finance Director Thompson said that compared to prior year numbers, the taxes received in October, November, and December were decreased by (\$60,000) compared to revenue received in those months in 2022. Finance Director Thompson says that with the new property tax legislation, the property tax bills were mailed out by both counties on January 30, 2024, delaying the payment of said tax bills. Finance Director Thompson advised that our tax income for January is down 30% (\$300,000), a significant drop from previous tax years due to this delay. Finance Director Thompson advised she is using our cash reserves to supplement our operating money market account. Finance Director Thompson Finance Director Thompson said that after speaking with the treasurer at Eagle County, she is confident that our February tax income will be sufficient to fund our operating budget and repay the cash reserves.

Finance Director Thompson advised the Board that the budget for January 2024 is running at 6% overall.

Finance Director Thompson advised the Snowmass Board that Basalt had successfully closed the Bond and received \$26,046,266.16 of the tax-exempt portion and \$3,236,642.14 of the taxable portion. Both accounts are with Colotrust and are receiving 5.5% interest. Finance

Director Thompson said she has also opened a local checking account to process accounts payable associated with the Bond.

Finance Director Thompson advised that the purchase of five acres for Station 42 would be around three million dollars and come from non-taxable bonds. Finance Director Thompson advised for security, there are a few signers on staff for that account, and both President Van Walraven and Treasurer Young can log into the accounts anytime.

Public Comments: None

Board Comments: Director Williams told Chief Thompson that seeing the photos and bios of the new people working at RFFR helped put a face to the name. Chief Thompson added that some new people have extensive experience with busy systems, benefiting our people. Chief Thompson said one of the new persons said they feel we care about our employees, and they have yet to have that experience with other agencies and plan to stay. Chief Thompson thanks HR Director Thomas and Deputy Cornelius for hiring great people. Chief Thompson thanks Division Chief Training Officer Palmer for getting them through the academy and rolling them into the schedule. Chief Thompson was thankful for the additional staffing, especially with the last couple of structure fires; the increase in staffing has helped stop loss quicker. Chief Thompson said this is why we are following the master plan and succeeding.

Director Williams shared thoughts on the well issues, asking if the Chief has thought about drilling a well and putting in a tank with a cistern with a float so the pump isn't kicking on all the time and causing it to burn out. Vice President Duroux wonders if there are exemptions for the fire department regarding using water. Chief Thompson said water could not be used for two purposes, and water law is complicated. Treasurer Yong asked about using rainwater. Chief Thompson said you must have a plan if you use rainwater and submit it to the state; he will see what the water attorney advises.

Staff Comments: None

New Business: None

Old Business: Chief Thompson said our call volume is the same as last January as this January.

Executive Session (if needed):

Non-Agenda Items: None

Adjournment: Director Williams motioned to adjourn the meeting, Vice President Duroux seconded the motion, and the meeting ended at 5:19.