

Aspen Fire Protection District

420 E Hopkins Avenue • Aspen, CO 81611 • 970-925-5532 • www.aspenfire.com



Board of Directors Regular Meeting December 14, 2021

The Board of Directors of the Aspen Fire Protection District met for their regular meeting. The meeting was open to the public virtually via Zoom.

Meeting called to order by Denis at 5:11pm

Roll Call:

- Board of Directors Present: John Ward (arrived at 5:21pm), Denis Murray, Stephen Wertheimer, Michael Buglione, Dave (Wabs) Walbert
- Board of Directors Absent:
- Staff/Volunteers Present: Rick Balentine, Jake Andersen, Jan Legersky, Jan Schubert, Nikki Lapin, Arnold Nimmo, Scott Arthur, Ken Josselyn, Bruce Bradshaw, Ali Hager, Thom Barr, Jack Orsi, Jeff McMahan, Ryan Warren, Hutch Foster
- Public/Others: Richard Peterson, Sebastian Wanatowicz

Approval of Minutes:

MOTION: Motion by Wabs to approve minutes from: Regular meeting held on November 9th, 2021 and Special Meeting held on December 7th, 2021. Michael second.

Discussion: None

Vote: All approved.

Public Comment: None

AVFD Inc., Ryan Warren: Not Present

- In light of vote last month, AVFD Inc. board decided to bring to light the importance of hiring from within as much as possible. The AVFD Inc. board is drafting a letter of support that will be sent to the AFD board. There was further discussion about hiring internally.

North 40 Housing Project Update: Sebastian Wanatowicz

- Fire Place Budget Review: The regular consultant invoices for architects and mechanical engineers as well as two invoices from waterproofing and inspections. The flat roofs on two and three were inspected. There is framing up on two and three and being dried in with sheeting, internal wall framing and roughing in domestic hot water and fire suppression piping. Building one is partially framed and coordinating some roof, rafting and loft framing aspects before drying it in. Building four has curbs poured but not framed. This will be next.
- Contingency and Allowances: FCI put in payout #10 for \$958,328.60. The pay application has been approved and in process of payment. This leads to a total payout of \$6,392,882.45. There have been two change orders in the amount of \$70,000. Sebastian reviewed the contingency reconciliation and allowances.

- FCI has put out an RFP in regards to the solar as it pertains to putting panels on Fire Place, North 40 fire station and if further is needed, on Aspen Village. Sebastian and team are working to get the price package for review at the next meeting.
- A time lapse of the project was shown. Currently the project is exceeding the schedule.

Wildfire Community Action Fund Project – Ali Hager

- In the second month with main focus on fundraising, mitigation projects, grant writing and outreach.
- Fundraising: Goal is to raise enough startup funds so ensure the longevity to do mitigation in the long term and to use as matching funds for grants. Currently have raised \$164,500. This number will cover basic operating expenses for the next year. Next fundraising is for projects. Working on a grant we will be applying for in April called Forest Restoration and Wildfire Risk Management (FRWRM). Hoping to apply for some funds that will go toward treatments up in the Hunter Creek area. Project materials are coming together. Chief and Ali have been meeting with interested parties and working on a possible grant with Pano AI.
- Mitigation: Working on slam dunk projects that are important for removing fuels and on some brush mitigation up Red Mountain, along with other projects in the Hunter Creek area.
- Collaborations: We now have a seat on the steering committee for Roaring Fork Wildfire Collaborative. There are 50 entities involved that meet once a month to look at opportunities, how to move forward and support each other. Also, Ali recently attended a PODS meeting. This looks at maps for defining defensible lines and looking at holistic landscape. Also working with Hunter Smuggler Collaborative that is made up of interested parties to help combine forces.
- Talking about putting together a citizen advisory board as it pertains to wildfire. This would help accomplish two-way communication and an opportunity to have people with diverse backgrounds within our district to get feedback on community needs and help with potential fundraising. Big part of the job is communication and education.
- Policies and procedures were presented at last month's meeting. It was agreed to review and approve at the next meeting. The board requested a report in board packet in regards to collaboration, identified mitigation projects and fundraising.

Financials

- Monthly review of budget:
 - There was clarification of Pano AI expense, It's shown as an expense, but income is shown in contributions received.
 - There was discussion of worker's compensation increase. This is due to the salary increases with addition of career firefighters. The EMOD did go down. Nikki noted that next year we will be getting a quote from Pinnacol as well. Staff is also working on some other programs that may give further discounts.
 - Starwood rent: Clarification that rent is paid upfront on a quarterly basis to Starwood and this is offset in the income from tenant rent and utilities. Rick noted that Starwood is very happy with the tenants and the program.
- 2022 Draft Budget Review:
 - 41861 Volunteer Health Insurance/HSA/HRA: The increase is due to the last two classes not yet eligible that will be this coming year. New volunteers will be offset by the grant.
 - 41115 Overtime: This has been budgeted \$60,000. The goal, if things go as planned, is to only need this amount with the hopes it will be less.
 - 42220 Pano AI Project: They were asking for \$120,000. As a partnership effort, it was agreed to possibly only pay \$60,000. Rick is talking with insurance companies. The goal is to get insurance companies to help fund this project and to help decrease the cost to homeowners that live in areas with this technology. There will be an offset to the \$60,000 through funds still in WFAC project under line item 38050.

- Charging stations at North 40: There was discussion about charging stations at North 40 for future electric vehicles for the district, in addition to residential ones in parking garages. Discussion if it should be in this budget, not part of the housing project. It was suggested it could come out of the Capital Acquisition fund.
- Air Conditioning: Budgeted for Station 61 bunk rooms and apartment at Station 62.
- North 40 Roofing: Confirmed with Ajax Roofing that their bid does include doing all roofing around existing and new solar panels.

Board Comments & Action Items:

MOTION: Motion by Steve to approve Resolution 2021-12-01 To Adopt 2022 Budget. John second.

Discussion: None

Vote: Yes (John, Wabs, Steve, Michael) No (Denis). Motion passes 4-1.

MOTION: Motion by John to approve Resolution 2021-12-02 To Set Mill Levies. Steve second.

Discussion: None

Vote: All approved.

MOTION: Motion by John to approve Resolution 2021-12-03 To Appropriate Funds. Michael second.

Discussion: None

Vote: All approved.

- Denis Murray: Denis has requested the following: a meeting with AVFD Inc. Board, to see a breakdown of salary changes with overtime and merit increases, see update on Aspen Village proposal of and putting a unit where the office is and would like fire code adoption draft by February. Jan Legersky commented that she needs time to review and asks for the same timeframe her predecessors have. Jan will put it together for review by the board at least a month prior to City and County approving theirs. Denis wants to see all the residences sprinklered. Denis also requested to take Aspen Volunteer Fire Department off the front of the building and put Aspen Fire Department.
- Steve: COLA did have their election for board seat. The incumbent was elected. Thank you for your support.
- Michael: Spoke to Rick about getting individual COVID tests to be used at home. The state has a program and staff is looking into it. There is discussion of serial testing those unvaccinated at other agencies.

Staff Report:

- Fire Marshal and Prevention
 - It is holiday crunch time. Information on inspections was included in the staff report. Staff is currently working on life safety programs. Ben is heading up the First Due preplan program coming in.
- Operations Overview: DC Andersen thanked the board for their hard decisions that have been made. He understands the full comprehension and gravity of the trust and responsibility to run

this operation, provide service in a fiscally responsible manner and to manage the morale of all our members. A lot of good ideas and suggestion have been brought forth through this process. Rick and Jake will be meeting with Deputy Chief and Chief of Roaring Fork Fire and Director of Aspen Ambulance to finalize Roaring Fork Valley Major Incident Response Model and revitalization of auto-aid agreements. Also, having meeting with operations chiefs up and down valley to figure out how to align operating guidelines, practices and training practices.

- Training Report:
 - Scott gave an overview of training for November and coming up in December. We will be holding our last CPR class for the year and moving forward will be using a new program called RQI. We will have a station set up to online training software. Each member will have a quarterly assignment that they will come in on their own to do. They will get hands-on practice. Further updates are included in the staff report.
- Recruiting:
 - The new recruits will be starting the CMC Academy on January 18th. There are 6 new recruits. They have been required to do (3) 10-hour day shifts prior to going to academy to get to know the station, culture, equipment and members. Exploring options for the future for those that may not be able to provide the same commitment.

CEO/Fire Chief and Good of the District:

- Thank you to the board for your hard work and commitment. Rick did send an email to the board about reinstating pay for board members. Board members are entitled up to \$100 per meeting not to exceed \$2400. This was forfeited in the past to go toward Honor Guard.
- Rick would like to encourage open communication between everyone, the volunteers and career staff when possible, but please remember operations items need to be made at an operational level. The board has a conduit to all members through Chief and Deputy Chief.
- The officers decided not to go through with the holiday party for the safety of department and retired members. Looking at putting together a get together in the late spring, early summer when we can congregate outside. AVFD Inc. did decide to move forward with a party this Saturday.

Old Business:

- Fire Place Housing Guideline and Rental rate: Rick has a group of members interested in being part of the focus committee. They will be getting together soon to discuss what progression will look like along with other guidelines. This will not include rates. The board would like to see information prior to February at a special meeting set for Monday, February 7th at 11:00am - 1:00pm.

MOTION: Motion by Wabs to adjourn at 7:21pm. Steve second. All approved.

***** A full recording of this meeting can be requested by contacting the District Administrator at nikki.lapin@aspenfire.com or by calling 970-925-5532.**