

Aspen Fire Protection District

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Board of Directors Regular Meeting February 13th, 2024

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

Meeting called to order by Parker Lathrop at 5:05pm

Roll Call:

- Board of Directors Present: Parker Lathrop (zoom), Dave “Wabs” Walbert, Charles Cunniffe, Emily Taylor (zoom)
- Board of Directors Absent: John Ward
- Staff/Volunteers Present: Rick Balentine, Jake Andersen, Jan Schubert, Ali Hammond, Amanda Perusse, Jan Legersky, Nikki Lapin (zoom), Ben Smith (zoom), Scott Arthur (zoom)
- Public/Others: Richard Peterson

MOTION: **Motion by Wabs to approve minutes from Regular Meeting on January 9th, 2024.**
Second: **Charles Cunniffe**
Discussion: **None**
Vote: **All approved.**

Public Comment: None

AVFD Inc.: None

Financials

- Monthly Financial Review included in the packet.
 - Discussion to clarify ski pass funds: Aspen Fire pays Aspen Ski Co upfront for passes and our members reimburse Aspen Fire.
 - Discussion on FPPA pension board
 - 2 volunteer members were voted in to the FPPA pension board, we need 3 Aspen Fire Board Members to join and complete the board. Emily Taylor, Charles Cunniffe and John Ward were volunteered to join.
 - Next FPPA Pensions Board meeting will be next month, TBD
 - They need to review how FPPA is currently funded and if there is a higher percentage to yield if money is funded sooner than December, and look into options for a more conservative investment program.
 - Rick Balentine will send out FPPA Pension informational phone call information to the new board members, Nikki will send a google invite to all pension board members as well.

Board member comments/action items:

Discussion: How many board meetings can a board member miss? Nikki will review previous verbiage and send out to all board members.

Adopt Resolution 2024-02-01 to Establish The Public Places For Posting Notice

Motion made by Charles to adopt Resolution 2024-02-01 to Establish the Public Places For Posting Notice

Second: Wabs

Discussion: None

Vote: All approved

Staff Report:

- Fire Marshal – Jan Legerksy reviewed the report provided in the board packet.
 - Bar checks went as expected, Ben Smith did all of them
 - Winterskol had zero issues. Thanks to Thom and Drew Barr and Family for staffing the event/bonfire
 - XGames went well, somewhat scaled back this year and very well organized.
 - Fire Inspector position – applications closed on the 11th. Have 9 applicants. Interviews will begin next week. Hope to have them on board by mid-March.
 - Upcoming events: World Cup and Palm Tree Festival
- Deputy Fire Marshal - Ben Smith
 - Mutual aid agreement with RFFR and Eagle Fire with First Due apparatus tracking, huge milestone for him and a lot of work on his part.
 - Discussion on First Due Platform and utilizing it for more (power pole placement maps, hydrants etc)
- Operations Report – Deputy Chief Andersen reviewed the report provided in the board packet by BC Arnold Nimmo.
 - Reviewed photos: continuing to save tax payers money by being very thorough on all calls and providing outstanding service.
 - Our volunteers had a robust response and were able to run multiple calls at the same time and remain in service during the last snow storm, really well done.
- Training Report and Recruitment– Scott Arthur reviewed the report provided in the board packet.
 - Recruit class update: We have 5 going through academy now. Discussing prospect of future classes, maybe recruitment this summer for a class this fall? Would use remaining money in FEMA grant that is specifically for volunteers.

Wildfire Community Action Fund: Ali Hammond reviewed report in the board packet.

- Looking to expand our educational offerings this year, every month of the summer, with the Roaring Fork Valley Wildfire Collaborative. Will start in April at TACAW, another showing of Elemental.
- Working with Firewise and HOAs to update their plans over several years to help with insurance issues, starting with Starwood.
- Aspen Wildfire Foundation 501c3 status is in progress.
- Maybe a collaborative fund-raising event with St. Regis this spring.
- Wildfire Resilience Project Coordinator job is posted and open until 2/20/24.

CEO/Fire Chief and Good of the District:

- Honor Guard
 - We are bringing in a trainer May 31-June 3rd to have a honor guard academy here in Aspen. \$250/pp.
 - Posting colors for the opening and closing ceremonies for the National Disabled Veterans here in Aspen April 2nd and April 7th.
- WRCB update - new wildfire risk map for the state, very high level, but not quite as accurate as our current map. Working to see if districts like ours can use input from our mapping to offset what the state has. More to come on this.
- North 40 Project
 - Board member Charles Cunniffe put together some drawings. We have a meeting with McBride on Friday to show them the renderings. Thank you to Charles for putting this together for us.

- Updated staffing levels
 - We have started our updated staffing levels. The interaction between all of our members is encouraging, as they feel they are all getting better training and better experience through this. Thank you to the board for allowing this to happen.

Old Business:

- Woody Creek Project Update
 - Discussion is ongoing about possible funding.
- Aspen Village Project
 - Updating some office space for a few administrative folks from headquarters to start working down at Aspen Village station a few days a week. Minimal upgrades, almost complete.

New Business: none

MOTION: Motion by Wabs to adjourn at 5:46pm
Second: Charles Cunniffe
Discussion: None
Vote: All approved.

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