

# Aspen Fire Protection District



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## Board of Directors Regular Meeting June 11th, 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 John Ward at 5:01pm

#### Roll Call:

- Board of Directors Present: John Ward, Charles Cunniffe, Dave “Wabs” Walbert
- Board of Directors Absent: Emily Taylor and Parker Lathrop
- Staff/Volunteers Present: Rick Balentine (zoom), Jake Andersen, Ali Hammond, Shannon “Shaggy” Fink, Amanda Perusse, Jan Legersky (zoom), Nikki Lapin, Jan Schubert, Station 61 (zoom), Ken Josselyn, Ben Smith (zoom)
- Public/Others: Richard Peterson, Wendy Ecklund

### Board member Emily Taylor arrived after roll call at 5:02pm

**MOTION:** Motion by Charles Cunniffe to approve the minutes from the Regular Meeting on April 9th, 2024.

**Second:** Wabs

**Discussion:** None

**Vote:** All approved

**Public Comment:** None

**AVFD Inc.:** None

### Wendy Eckland Graves Consulting:

- Wendy reviewed the Compensation Philosophy and Salary Study that was included in the board packet.
- Discussion by the Board:
  - We would like to be at the top end of the market to make sure we get the best talent and pay the correct wages for this talent. Looking at 75<sup>th</sup> – 80<sup>th</sup> percentile with some range on pay, but to be in the top quarter.
  - We would like to be compared to departments with a tight housing market.
  - Wendy to provide a final report with recommendations on the pay structure and market data used for comparison.
    - Once received, the Board will decide on the frequency of market updates for the pay structure.

### Financials

- Monthly Financial Review included in the packet for April and May
- State backfill of \$420,016 has been received. An updated budget will be provided to the board soon.
- FPPA 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter Financial Review included in the packet.

**Board member comments/action items:**

- Adopt resolution 2024-05-01: SUPPORTING THE ASPEN SKI COMPANY WITH ITS BOAL OF ADDING ADDITIONAL CELLULAR COVERAGE ON ITS FOUR SKI MOUNTAINS TO IMPROVE EMERGENCY RESPONSE AND COMMUNICATION.

**MOTION:** Motion made by Charles Cunniffe to adopt resolution 2024-05-01 SUPPORTING THE ASPEN SKI COMPANY WITH ITS BOAL OF ADDING ADDITIONAL CELLULAR COVERAGE ON ITS FOUR SKI MOUNTAINS TO IMPROVE EMERGENCY RESPONSE AND COMMUNICATION

**Second:** Wabs

**Discussion:** None

**Vote:** All approved

**Staff Report for both April and May**

- Fire Marshal reviewed information provided in the board packet.
  - Ben Smith passed his Fire Inspector II test
  - Zach Abley, new Fire Inspector, has been doing a great job going out and meeting people, giving businesses the expectations and really getting things going.
  - Glenwood Springs Fire is considering using First Due, same as we do. As Ben is very familiar with this program, he went down there to answer questions.
- Operations Report – Deputy Chief Andersen reviewed the photos in the report.
  - Wildfire at Crown Mountain Park, great response from our members.
  - Smoke report from the Pano camera on Ajax, looking at Twin Lakes. We have not had any request as of yet to provide aid.
  - Thank you to the board for the great attitude towards retaining our incredible members.
- Training Report - Scott Arthur reviewed the information provided in the board packet.
  - Wildfire refresher was taught by one of our Volunteers. Well prepared and well taught. Thank you to Mo McPhee.
  - Photos of members who were involved in the cardiac arrest a few months ago, who were honored at City Hall and by the American Heart Association for Saving Life.
  - Another life saving call took place after the Operations meeting on June 5<sup>th</sup>.
- Recruitment
  - 2024 class all passed their Firefighter I written test. Currently finishing up Hazmat.
  - Top of their class!
- Wildfire Community Action Fund: Ali Hammond reviewed report in the board packet.
  - Next major project burn will be Red Mountain, there will be a lot of public outreach beforehand.
  - Wildfire Trivia night was a success. Feedback was that we should do more of these events, more often.
  - Chipping program is getting great traction, people are reaching out.
  - Continuing with Bark Beetle efforts
  - Aspen Wildfire Foundation fundraiser event on June 28<sup>th</sup>, at Aspen Fire Department
    - 5:30pm - Cocktail party in the bays - \$150/ticket, capacity is 100 people
    - 7pm - Hosted dinner at Caribou Club - \$500/ticket, capacity is 40 people
    - Several sponsorships from the community and Crestmont Investments will be underwriting.
  - DJ Naka G, Silent Auction, Appetizers, Stranahan's, speaker/program in the works
  - Welcome to Charles Cunniffe as the newest AWF board member

**CEO/Fire Chief and Good of the District:**

- Fire Aside Wildfire Assessment Platform – Shaggy Fink will run this project and implementation

- This is a better platform for us, cost was not expected, but it is necessary. It will allow us to better track curbside assessments as well as any updates completed at that property since the assessment.
- Possible IGA between the City of Aspen and Aspen Fire to help evaluate sites in town for trees that might need to come down, homeowners would need to work with the Forestry Service to remove any trees due to the City Canopy law.
- City of Aspen LADRS evacuation – Be Prepared, Not Scared - open house at Aspen Fire
  - June 22<sup>nd</sup>, 9a – 12pm
  - Evacuation model software purchased by the City to work on best scenarios for mass evacuation. Open house will start the discussions with the public on the best options. City of Aspen, Aspen Police Department, Emergency Management will all be on hand to answer questions, talk about Go Bags and run a simulation of a realistic evacuation.
- Aspen Fire Honor Guard Update
  - 10/11 members recently attended 4 days of training at St. Regis, photos in board packet.
  - Filed for the 501(c)(3), working on opening the bank account at ANB bank.
  - Will become completely separate from Aspen Fire.
- Master degree completed by Deputy Chief Jake Andersen. Congratulations.
- WRCB Update
  - Next meeting is in Grand Junction on June 14, 2024
  - Really moving along and getting codes written.
- 4th of July
  - Will cook hotdogs and brats
  - Hose cart team will be in the parade
  - 6 of our apparatus
  - Chief will drive the Grand Marshal in his jeep
- WWII airplanes will fly over City of Aspen to start the parade
- Good Pop is back in town. We will be selling them for donations.
- June 15<sup>th</sup> – Aspen Saturday Market – RFVWC will do the booth, along with Good Pop

**Old Business:**

- Woody Creek Project Update
  - Project is coming back around. Still working with BOCC on the potential funds.
  - Board was asked to approve the continuation with this project, as we already own this property.
    - Original drawing/idea was for 1-2 apartments along with a community center, this could change. Discussion on additional office space needs and community spaces after the Dispatch lease at North 40 expires in 2026.
- North 40 Project Update
  - This is not moving anywhere right now, so will stop going down this road for now.

**MOTION**

**Motion made by John Ward to approve the framework of the Fire Aside and to adjust the budget accordingly.**

**Second: Emily**

**Discussion: None**

**Vote: All approved**

**New Business:**

**None**

**MOTION:**

**Motion by John Ward to adjourn at 6:32pm**

**Second: Wabs**

**Discussion:** None

**Vote:** John, Wabs and Emily approved. Charles Cunniffe opposed.

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