

# Aspen Fire Protection District

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## Board of Directors Regular Meeting February 9, 2021

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

### **Meeting called to order by John at 5:10pm**

#### **Roll Call:**

- Board of Directors Present: John Ward, Denis Murray, Dave (Wabs) Walbert, Michael Buglione, Stephen Wertheimer
- Board of Directors Absent: None
- Staff/Volunteers Present: Rick Balentine, Nikki Lapin, Jan Schubert, Jan Legersky, Ryan Warren, Mike Haman
- Public/Others: Karl Hanlon, Paul Broome, Carolyn Sackariaison

#### **Approval of Minutes:**

**MOTION: Motion by Wabs to approve minutes from Regular Meeting held on January 12, 2021. Steve second. All approved.**

**Public Comment:** None

#### **North 40 Housing Project Update: Paul Broome**

- Schedule of Values from FCI for GMP Contract: The current budget as of end of month is \$17,013,781. Once comments are back from the building department, we will do a CD document set that will bring things up to speed and do a change order at that time. Paul expects the budget to hover around this number.
- FCI Contract Update: Plan to mobilize February 15th. Karl Hanlon's team has reviewed the general content. Paul and Rick will get their reviews done and it will be resent to Karl Hanlon.
- Permit Status Update: Assuming all requirements have been met the permit could be received by the end of the week. They will work to get trailer onsite and get sound fencing up around perimeter.
- McBride Property Usage: Staff is still waiting for an answer if this property can be used. Rick did meet with North 40 HOA. There was an overall agreement of support of using the property for staging. FCI is carrying funds in case this is not available.
- Paul Broome's Status: Paul announced that he is leaving due to housing situation and family travel, but he will be available to help get a new person on board and available to help with anything that can be done remote. John brought up having someone else to help with day-to-day as Rick will need to be focused on fire department. There was discussion of what is needed and how much oversight is needed per week. No decision was made. It was suggested looking at the last bids and Paul offered to put some feelers out there.

**AVFD Inc – Ryan Warren, President:**

- AVFD Inc. and Aspen Fire Protection District: Ryan reviewed the separation again of AVFD Inc. and Aspen Fire Protection District. AVFD Inc. is its own corporation and has its own board.
- AVFD Inc. Membership Meeting: AVFD Inc. held a membership meeting prior to the monthly District Operation meeting. Discussion of the expansion and making it a more robust organization.
- Junior Firefighter Program: It is AVFD Inc.'s desire to put together a Junior Firefighter program. Charlie Curtis will be heading this up and will roll it out slowly. There may be a summer camp. AVFD Inc. is looking to partner with some other agencies in the valley. This will require a close agreement with the district to utilize district apparatus and district staff.
- AVFD Inc. discussed and voted to increase community outreach.
- Scholarships: Ryan spoke to the scholarships. The board is looking to enhance the program with one or more additional scholarships.
- AVFD Inc. will be creating a website.
- It is the AVFD Inc. board's desire is to become the voice of the firefighters. The Chief has agreed to have a monthly meeting with Ryan each month to discuss concerns from firefighters.

### **Financials:**

- Starwood Rent: Rent will be run through the district and the district will pay Starwood directly on a quarterly basis.
- FPPA Actuarial: Staff reached out to FPPA after discussion at last meeting in regards to putting more money in. For additional \$1300 they can do up to three more comparisons. At one point it was discussed to increase FPPA to reflect cost of living. The last increase was in 2015. There was discussion of decreasing the amount of unfunded.

**MOTION: Motion by John to do actuarial study on \$650, \$700 and \$750. Denis second. Wabs recused himself due to being recipient. All approved.**

### **Board Comments & Action Items:**

- Michael: Michael brought up hiring process for Deputy Chief. Question was asked if this is an immediate need or is there another position needed. Rick gave an overview. There have been 12 applications received, both internal and external. Michael and Wabs will be participating in the oral board. There is a robust process put in place similar to Captain hiring. Rick discussed the replacement of Grant's position. It was decided by the Officer's to move forward.
- Steve: Great job getting the North 40 project to this point. Steve would like to see continued consideration and importance of a Wildfire position.
- Wabs: Wabs would like to see additional funds put into FPPA and not wait for the audit. There was further discussion of how much should be put into FPPA budget in 2021. There is an audit for end of year budget for 2020 with expectation there will be excess funds that can be allocated. After much discussion, it was decided to wait and add funds in until after the audit.
- Denis: Discussion of Chief's contract. Karl will write the task list and give it to Rick for signature.
- John: There is a suggestion of this meeting being put on Grass Roots TV. John mentioned it is great to see two volunteers running for City Council.

### **Fire Marshal Report:**

- Aspen will be hosting World Snowboard Championship.

### **Training Report:**

- Captains will be taking on the training, both Career and Volunteer. They will be co-Captains on training.
- Jeff Edelson stepped down as Training Captain and will be moving to volunteer firefighter.
- Recent SCBA training had 16 members participate. There is plenty of training coming up.

- Aspen Fire will be proving EMT's to help with vaccinations on Friday to distribute 1,380 vaccines.

**CEO/Fire Chief & Good of District**

- Personnel Update: The position, previously held by Grant Jahnke, has been filled by Dan Palmer. Thank you to Jan Legersky for accepting Interim Fire Marshal position. We will be hiring a Deputy Fire Marshal position in the near future. The Fire Marshal position will need to be posted as well. Parker is currently on contract if he is needed.
- Deputy Chief Position: There are a variety of people helping with this selection process. The goal is to make a selection by February 26th.
- Volunteer Recruits: There are 25 applications received for new volunteer recruit class. The SAFER Grant will help pay for 8 new firefighters via FEMA. There was an informational meeting last Thursday with 16 participants. Interviews will be held February 16th, 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>.
- Strategic Planning: This will be held April 8<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>. The Board will meet with them on April 8<sup>th</sup> 5pm- 7pm. The citizen outreach was completed.

**Old Business:**       None

**New Business:**     None

**MOTION:**     **Motion by Michael to adjourn at 6:52pm. Wabs second. All approved.**