

Aspen Fire Protection District



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Board of Directors Regular Meeting December 8, 2020

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

Meeting called to order by John at 5:03pm

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, Parker Lathrop, Nikki Lapin, Jan Schubert, Bruce Bradshaw, Anthony Lewin, Antonio DeGoldi, Arnold Nimmo, Michael Holmes, Jake Spaulding, Jeff Edelson, Josselyn, Mike Lyons, Ryan Warren, Thom Barr, Zac Zachary, Scott Arthur, James Gordon, Charles Curtis, Gunter Schaldach
- Public/Others: Karl Hanlon, Paul Broome, Dr. Chris Martinez, Dr. Robert Thutton, Jason Smith

Approval of Minutes:

MOTION: Motion by Denis to approve minutes from the following meetings: Regular Meeting held on November 10th, 2020 and Work Session on November 10th, 2020. Wabs second. All approved.

Public Comment: None

COVID-19 Vaccine Update – Dr. Chris Martinez

- Dr. Martinez gave an overview of two COVID-19 vaccines coming available; Pfizer and Moderna. Most likely Aspen Fire will receive Moderna. He discussed the similarities in both vaccines and gave an overview of how the vaccine works. He noted that the studies have not been completed to show it prevents COVID-19, but will help so you are more asymptomatic. Masking and current protocols should continue to be taken until studies show more. There was discussion of risks.
- Many questions were taken from members online.

AVFD Inc: None

North 40 Housing Project Update: Paul Broome

- Budget Update: Preliminary numbers from FCI have been received. Paul presented a breakdown of financials to the board.

- Paul will be meeting with the design team and contractors to review and vet out some of the costs. Currently it the project looks to be over budget by \$1.3 million, but the team will be going over all costs and a list will be brought back to the board for review and ability to add/delete items.
- Rick is in talks with McBride to use some land near station for staging.

Financials:

- Review of current financials. Staff noted that last month the estimated wildfire income was approximately \$50,000 and actual net income is about \$125,0000.
- Rick reviewed some revisions on the 2020 budget. Based on the ending balance of 2020, it was suggested moving \$800,000 to Capital Acquisitions, instead of the original \$600,000 budgeted.
- 2021 Budget Review:
 - Housing Project: There is \$16 million from COP plus \$1.2 million from property tax noted in the ending balance of 2019. Today it is at \$16.5 million. The difference is what has been spent thus far. Rick discussed funds being moved into 2021 as well to cover costs that will come up.
 - FPPA: Staff proposed to double FPPA from previous year to help with deficit.
 - Administrative: Jan Schubert gave an overview of what expenses go into this line item. Many hard costs for COVID costs and remote working have been put into this line item.
 - Salaries: Staff is working on a salary survey with Employer's Council expected sometime the end of January, beginning of February.
 - Capital Acquisitions: Included in the board packet is the purchase of Engine 61. This will be paid in 2020.
 - Staffing: Parker gave an overview duty staff daily responsibilities. There was discussion about whether duty crews/captains can take over training division duties. Ken spoke to the importance of having the Training Officer position. Board would like to see more proficiency and having duty crews pick up some of tasks.
 - Shift Coverage Incentive: The goal is to get more shift coverage from volunteers, especially when career firefighters begin to take PTO. Board expressed importance of energizing the volunteers to step up. The key to keeping costs down is getting volunteers to take shifts.

MOTION: Motion by Denis to amend to move \$200,000 into Capital Acquisitions fund. Michael second. All approved.

MOTION: Motion from Steve to approve 2021 budget. Denis second. Discussion: Denis wanted to express again that he would like to see the budget process moved up so it doesn't feel rushed. John requested in the future to add another column that shows big changes in line items with percentage. All approved.

Board Comments & Action Items:

- COVID-19 Vaccine: Discussion was had on whether the vaccine should be mandated. The consensus of the board is that they strongly support and encourage getting the vaccine, but does not want to make it mandatory at this time. Karl Hanlon will work with John on a board statement and modify the policy that was presented
- COVID-19 Testing: Aspen Fire has received Binax tests to start serial testing. Rick recommended tying in serial testing if members don't get vaccine. These tests are guaranteed through end of 2020, but may receive more from a private citizen.

Fire Marshal Report:

- Jan Legersky is very busy with permit review along with reviews of business enclosures. Denis gave an overview of how the effect has been on City Building.
- The plan was to have duty crew help with life safety inspections, but due to COVID this has posed a challenge. Ultimately the duty crews will study and become inspector certified to do life safety inspections.
- Smuggler Incident took up a lot of time. This caused some concerns from citizens. There will be an operations review.

Training Report:

- The Training Division added more training and has been working with members who are short on requirement hours.
- Rick noted he gave everyone a 10 point add on to response points due to COVID. All members should make it except maybe one.

CEO/Fire Chief & Good of District

- Strategic Plan Update: Rich Buchanan sent out a questionnaire to all members today. They would like to do a two-day retreat in January with minimum of 15 people. There will be a public one held virtually.
- No holiday party this year. Rick is looking at alternatives. John spoke about importance of doing more activities with members, such as BBQ's.
- Santa around town will still happen. North 40 and Burlingame have been added to the route this year.
- Mountain Mutual Aid: Staff is working on maintaining those relationships.
- Aspen Ambulance: Rick and Parker had a good meeting with Aspen Ambulance. Aspen Fire will work with them to help with medical when needed and also provide wildfire training to some of their folks.

Old Business:

- Chief Contract: John suggested meeting to put together milestones for the next year. John will reach out to everyone.