

Aspen Fire Protection District

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Board of Directors Regular Meeting November 9, 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 5:03pm

Roll Call:

- Board of Directors Present: John Ward, Denis Murray, Stephen Wertheimer, Michael Buglione, Dave (Wabs) Walbert
- Board of Directors Absent:
- Staff/Volunteers Present: Rick Balentine, Jake Andersen, Nikki Lapin, Jan Schubert, Jan Legersky, Ali Hager, Ken Josselyn, Roya Beklik, Charlie Curtis, Jake Spaulding, Arnold Nimmo, Braulio Jerez, Jacob Arywitz
- Public/Others: Sebastian Wanatowicz

Approval of Minutes:

MOTION: Motion by Michael to approve minutes from: Regular meeting held on October 12th, 2021 and Special Meeting held on October 14th, 2021. Steve second.

Discussion:

In reference to the second motion of the regular meeting held on October 12th, Steve asked that the comment he noted "Once she comes back with policies and procedures, the maximum funding and expenditures can be lifted.", that "lifted" be changed to "reviewed".

Vote: All approved.

Public Comment: None

AVFD Inc., Ryan Warren: Not Present

North 40 Housing Project Update: Sebastian Wanatowicz

- Fire Place Budget Review:
 - Payout #9 from the contractor was in the amount of \$1,174,010.95. This is highest billing to-date. The total billing is now at \$7.5 million including soft costs. Currently framing second floor on building #2 and #3 and framing first floor building #4. The concrete is being finished up. Sebastian continued to review the contingency reconciliation and allowances. The project is on track in terms of budget and project schedule.
 - Currently working on pricing allowance #15. This will play into the panels that go on Fire Place, North 40 place and contemplating looking at Aspen Village station. Rick was wanting to look at the Woody Creek station.

- The engineer did look at Aspen Village and it was determined it is not suitable for PV panels at this time. The roof loading would need to be assessed. There may need to be some reinforcing done. The electrical infrastructure of the building may need to be upgraded. It could hold up to 50 panels potentially. Denis proposed getting a plan and proposal for a two-bedroom apartment at Aspen Village. There was discussion of hiring architect to give conceptual plan for apartment, get a design, talk with Chris Bendon on permitting and get a price from FCI. There was discussion of what size unit can fit out at Aspen Village.

MOTION: Motion by Denis to hire an architect to give us a plan for the addition of a dwelling unit at Aspen Village station and hire a planner to help through the permit process. Steve second. Discussion: Jason Lasser originally gave us the drawing. Rick suggested giving him an opportunity to look at plan. Rick commented that it will be tight for a two- bedroom. All approved.

Wildfire Community Action Fund Project

- Ali gave a project update. Since the last meeting a fund has been set up and policies and procedures have been created. Currently the project has \$164,500 pledged. Ali reviewed some upcoming projects with Roaring Fork Valley Wildfire Collaborative and Bark Beetle Project. Information on these projects were included in the board packet.
- Policies and Procedures: A draft was presented. This has been reviewed by the attorney and Steve reviewed as well. It will be reviewed and brought back to the next meeting for board approval. It was agreed to accept the funds that have been pledged.
- Ali's title will change from Fuels Reduction Specialist to Director of Community Wildfire Resilience.
- DC Andersen gave a quick demonstration of the Wildfire Risk Map on the website. Also presented was the Wildfire Assessment request. This has ended for the season and will resume in the spring.

Strategic Plan and Staffing Review

- DC Andersen has met individually with many individuals throughout the organization about increasing career and volunteer staff and the vision for the future. DC Andersen gave a presentation to board covering calls, how fires have changed over the years, call times and volume, OSHA and NFPA regulations, findings from the strategic plan, current model staffing impacts and projected costs.
- Staff is recommending the addition of two additional positions, a Lieutenant and Firefighter position. This would be 6 additional staff members to cover those two positions. The presentation is included in the board packet.
- There was discussion of the volunteer program and number of volunteers needed into the future. The goal is to cover 60 shifts by volunteers.

After much discussion around the proposal. The board would like to review the information further and discuss at next meeting.

Financials

- Monthly Financial Review: Financials were included in board packet. No further discussion was had.
- 2022 Draft Budget Review: This was included in the board packet. There was some discussion around recruiting and the fees grant will cover.

Board Comments & Action Items: No further discussions were had.

Staff Report:

- Fire Marshal and Prevention
 - Discussion of the fire inspections and using firefighters to help with life safety inspections and pre-plans. Jan discussed the importance of firefighters being able to do preplans and learning the buildings.
 - Ben is heading up the First Due preplan program coming in.
- Training Report:
 - DC Andersen gave a brief rundown of recent training. It was pointed out that Aspen Fire had the opportunity to do a propane training. It was very good. This was open to other agencies.
 - There are currently 6 new members starting that will be attending the CMC Academy. We have 8 members that are currently finishing up the recruit program with an additional three from the previous year that are completing certifications.
- Wildfire
 - Beetle Kill Project: We have been asked to cost share for this project. Cost will be \$10,000. This is a multi-agency project. There is some money from this year that can be allocated to it under special projects. We may also help by the use of our drone and Michael Brands.

CEO/Fire Chief and Good of the District:

- Bud Strong, Badge #1 Memorial: There will be a service here on Saturday, November 13th at 11:30am. Jay Parker will be one of the speakers as he was here when Bud was a member. The family will be presenting his badge to the museum. Navy Honor Guard will be here to join our Honor Guard. Elks will be providing lunch after the service. The family would like the ashes and family brought over to the Elks in the antique truck.
- Col. Merritt may want to use our station for Veteran's Day service due to weather. Rick will be a guest speaker.
- Holiday Party will be held December 4th.

Old Business:

- Staff is working on putting together a Pano AI project overview. Rick still supports the project. It was decided to add this to agenda during a special meeting on December 7th at 11:30am - 1:00pm.
- Aspen Fire Housing Guideline and Rental rate: Staff is working on forming a group made up of members across the department to look at guidelines.
- Great article in the newspaper in regards to book DC Andersen purchased at garage sale. There will be photo taken when the stone is placed. Denis suggested purchasing some grave spots for volunteers or firefighters that may not have one in the future. Denis will talk to Stoney on the price. Rick did receive some marble for the headstone.

MOTION: Motion by Denis to adjourn at 7:57pm. 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.**