

# Aspen Fire Protection District

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## Board of Directors Regular Meeting March 12th, 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 5:06pm**

### Roll Call:

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

**Charles Cunniffe arrived just after roll call at 5:07pm**

**Parker Lathrop arrived at 5:08pm**

**MOTION:** Motion by Wabs to approve minutes from Regular Meeting on February 13th, 2024.  
**Second:** Emily Taylor  
**Discussion:** In the minutes, under Financial Review, fix FFPA to FPPA.  
Clarification on the FPPA recommendation of going to a more conservative investment strategy mentioned in last month’s meeting. The FPPA pension board will have a meeting just after next month’s regular board meeting to review options.  
**Vote:** Approved by 4 board members, John Ward abstained as he was not at the last meeting.

**Public Comment:** None

**AVFD Inc.:** None

### Financials

- Monthly Financial Review included in the packet.

**MOTION:** Motion by Wabs to fund this year’s FPPA right now, instead of waiting until the last week of December.  
**Second:** Charles Cunniffe  
**Discussion:** The reason behind the motion is that the FPPA fund is currently making more money than the fund the money is currently in and by funding it now, we could pay down our liabilities quicker.  
**Vote:** All approved

- FPPA Review and discussion
  - Discussion of last month's meeting. John Ward, Emily Taylor and Charles Cunniffe were volunteered to be on the FPPA Pension Board, as it was assumed that Parker Lathrop and Wabs should not be part of this board due to pecuniary interests. FPPA confirmed that it is the call of the board and it is not uncommon in the districts of Colorado firefighters/people who have an interest to sit on these boards.
  - Statute states that the Treasurer of the Aspen Fire Protection District Board is the Treasurer for the FPPA Pension Board as well.
  - FPPA Pension Board must have a meeting once a year. The next meeting will take place after the regularly scheduled AFPD board meeting on April 9<sup>th</sup>, 2024. Request by Richard Peterson at that meeting that Parker and Wabs declare for the record that they have pecuniary interest.

**MOTION: Motion by John Ward to adjust last AFPD board meeting's decision to now include all Aspen Fire Protection Board members in the FPPA Pension Board along with the 2 Aspen Fire Volunteers members.**

**Second: Parker Lathrop**

**Discussion: None**

**Vote: All approved**

- There are 2 Aspen Fire Volunteers on the FPPA Pension Board. One will be a 1-year term, the other is a 2-year term. Currently they are Ken Josselyn (Career member) and Mike Tracey (Volunteer member).

**MOTION: Motion by John Ward to adjust the previous motion from 2 Aspen Fire Volunteer members to 2 Aspen Fire Members**

**Second: Charles Cunniffe**

**Discussion: None**

**Vote: All approved**

**Board member comments/action items:**

- There were no comments from the board.
- IGA – Wildfire Monitoring Camera and Operations
  - Discussion on the program itself.
    - There are 4 cameras, and the IGA will split the cost between 5 agencies.
    - Discussion on program funding over the past 3 years.
  - This IGA is between Aspen Fire, the City of Aspen, Town of Snowmass Village, Pitkin County and Roaring Fork Fire Rescue Authority.

**MOTION: Motion by Charles Cunniffe to approve IGA - Wildfire Monitoring Camera and Operations**

**Second: Emily Taylor**

**Discussion: None**

**Vote: All approved**

- Discussion about T-Mobile using a camera system just like our cameras, specifically for an ad. Parker will send the ad to Chief and DC Andersen for follow-up and discussion with Pano AI.

**Staff Report:**

- Fire Marshal – Jan Legerksy reviewed the report provided in the board packet.
  - Fire Inspector has been hired, Zachary Abley, and will start in the beginning of April.
- Operations Report – Deputy Chief Andersen reviewed the photos in the report
  - Recent fire in Snowmass Village at the Willows
    - Multiple agencies and 47 people on scene all worked together really well, very well organized, highly complex fire.

- We had 20 members from Aspen Fire on the scene, and an additional 11 who showed up to cover 2 of our Aspen Fire stations and 2 of Roaring Fork Fire Rescue's stations.
  - Ladder Truck update
    - Ladder 61 is out of service and will be for a while as we wait for a part coming from Germany
    - RFFR also has a ladder out of service
    - Carbondale offered to loan us a ladder to cover Aspen/Snowmass for now
    - Looking into renting or leasing a truck if this is another issue in the future
- Training Report - Scott Arthur reviewed the report provided in the board packet.
  - Recent cardiac arrest save – great cumulative effort between Aspen Fire, Aspen Police Department and Aspen Ambulance. They got the pulse back on scene, flew the person to Denver, they woke up 2 days later and were back to work a week later.
  - This month's training will be on fire behavior and a very interactive training will be done by Chief Andersen, burning up a doll house that showed actively how fire works. One on 3/12, another on 3/14 and 3/16. Thanks to Wabs for donating the doll house for burning.
- Recruitment – Scott Arthur reviewed the report provided in the board packet
  - We accept applications year-round.
  - Fall Academy at CMC is changing their scheduling model, it will be geared toward full time students with 2 x full 8 hours days, which would be a 9-week course.
    - It is possible that we might start recruiting earlier for the Fall Academy option, as this is the last year for the SAFER grant and we would like to get as many people through as possible.
  - Spring Academy starts mid- January and will be the same schedule as year's past, 2 nights and 1 day per week, for a 12- week course.
    - We plan to start recruiting in July for the class of 2025, followed by interviews, bringing them on in November for in-department orientation prior to academy.

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

- Aspen Wildfire Foundation 501c3 is official and can receive donations.
- 1<sup>st</sup> donation of \$10,000 received 3/12/24
  - The owner of St. Regis is on the Board of the Aspen Wildfire Foundation and has been working for quite a while with WCAF to have a joint fundraiser, but it hasn't come to fruition yet.
  - The St. Regis and the Snow Lodge donated the \$10,000 gift to recognize the efforts that have been put in and to ensure the success of the WCAF/Aspen Wildfire Foundation.
- Possible event here on June 20<sup>th</sup>, more information to come on.
- Attending a class hosted by the Roaring Fork Wildfire Collaborative this week – Assessing Structural Ignition Potential
- Attending the WUI (Wildland Urban Interface) conference at the end of the month in Reno.
- Introduced the recently hired Wildfire Resilience Project Coordinator, Shannon "Shaggy" Fink, who joined us for the meeting. Welcome. Official start date will be April 1<sup>st</sup>.
- Both Ali and Shaggy will be based out of Station 64 in Aspen Village as of April 1<sup>st</sup>.

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

- We-Cycle draft
  - We are giving them a license to put ebikes at the North 40 fire station, this will be a non-charging station. The license will be for a year and then revisited. Question if we are allowed to put Aspen Fire Advertising on those ebikes? Richard Peterson will ask them.

**MOTION: Motion by John Ward to approve preliminary based on attorney final for WE-CYCLE license.**

**Second: Emily Taylor**

**Discussion: None**

**Vote: All approved**

- Aspen Fire Honor Guard
  - Currently at 11 members, goal is 12
  - Recently ratified the bylaws and are continuing to work towards a 501c3 for AFHG

- Hosting a training at Station 62 from May 31<sup>st</sup> – June 3<sup>rd</sup> for AFHG, APD, RFFR and others.
- Will be posting the colors for National Disabled Veterans April 2<sup>nd</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup>
- WRCB update (Wildfire Resiliency Code Board)
  - Goal is to work on WUI (Wildfire Urban Interface) codes and parameters.
    - Currently working on wildfire and risk mapping
  - There will be a meeting in either Snowmass or Aspen in July, all are encouraged to join in person.
  - Other options are monthly meetings online at the DFPC website <https://dfpc.colorado.gov/WRCB>
- North 40 Project
  - Still in the preliminary stages.
  - Charles Cunniffe and Rick Balentine are meeting with John McBride on 3/13/24 to discuss and review options. Pitkin County Sheriff is also interested in possibly partnering with us on this project.

**Old Business:**

- Woody Creek Project Update
  - There is interest in reviving this project (housing and community center). There have been a few changes since the preliminary idea, so those previous drawings may or may not still work.
  - We will be doing some fuels mitigation and landscaping around the Woody Creek and Aspen Village stations this spring, which will help to show communities what responsible mitigation looks like.
- Aspen Village Project
  - Working on creating temporary office space at station 64, better ventilation system/AC etc.
    - Ali and Shannon Fink will be based out of this station, hopefully starting in April.

**New Business:**

- Last meeting the board of directors asked for confirmation on attendance of the board for meetings.
  - In the job description, it is stated “Affiliate to miss 3 meetings annually without being excused would create a vacancy in the office.”
    - Statute says 3 consecutive meetings, however, the board voted back in 2016 to be 3 meetings annually.

**MOTION:        Motion by Charles Cunniffe to adjourn at 6:14pm**  
**Second:        Wabs**  
**Discussion:    None**  
**Vote:            All approved.**

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