

Aspen Fire Protection District



420 E Hopkins Avenue ▪ Aspen, CO 81611 ▪ 970-925-5532 ▪ www.aspenfire.com

Board of Directors Regular Meeting Minutes December 09, 2025

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 Wabs at 5:02pm.

Roll Call:

- Board of Directors Present: Dave “Wabs” Walbert, Charles Cunniffe, Parker Lathrop, and Emily Taylor (arrived at 5:03pm)
- Staff/Volunteers Present: Jake Andersen, Ken Josselyn, Nikki Lapin, Scott Arthur, Shaggy Fink, Jan Legersky, Jan Schubert, Amanda Perusse, Dan Palmer, Ben Smith (online)
- Public/Others: Lawrence Bond (online), Jeff Edelson

MOTION: Motion made by Charles to approve the minutes from the Regular Meeting on November 11th, 2025.

Second: Parker

Discussion: The board reviewed the prior month’s meeting minutes. Clarifications discussed:

Recruitment timeline language was clarified and accepted. The Seneca Drone contract was noted as not ready for board action and will return in January.

Vote: All approved.

Public Comment: None

AVFD Inc.: None

Financials – Provided in the board packet

The board reviewed monthly financials.

Discussion highlights:

- Account **42601 (Cooperator Incidents):** Expenses are paid upfront by the district and later reimbursed; reimbursements offset expenses.
- FPPA state funds transfer **directly to FPPA** and do not pass through AFPD operating accounts. No action required.

2026 Budget

Staff presented final changes following the **December 8, 2025 work session**:

Key updates:

- **Line 41860 (Volunteer Staff)**: Updated to reflect the \$2,000 fitness/wellness benefit increase.
- **Sales Tax Revenue (3200)**: Capital allocation adjusted from \$1,000,000 to \$883,000 due to additional revenue from the bond extension.
- **Unallocated Funds (49501)**: Increased from \$840,000 to \$942,000.

Board member comments/action items:

MOTION: Motion made by Charles to Approve Resolution 2025 #12-01 to Adopt 2026 Budget as it was prepared and presented in the board packet.

Second: Emily
Discussion: None
Vote: All Approved

MOTION: Motion made by Charles to approve Resolution #12-02 to Set Mill Levies for 2026.

Second: Emily
Discussion: None
Vote: All Approved

MOTION: Motion made by Charles to approve Resolution #12-03 to Appropriate Funds for 2026.

Second: Emily
Discussion: None
Vote: All Approved

Appointment to Vacant Board Seat

The board reviewed two candidates for the interim vacant board seat:

- **Jennifer Goldfarb**
- **Jeff Edelson**

Discussion focused on balancing fire service experience with financial and governance expertise. The board determined that financial and corporate experience would best complement current board composition.

MOTION: Motion made by Charles resolution to appoint Jennifer Goldfarb as interim board member.

Second: Emily
Vote in favor: Wabs, Charles, Emily
Opposed: Parker
Motion carried.

Staff Report:

Staff reports were reviewed as provided in the board packet. Highlights included:

- **Fire Marshal / Prevention (Jan Legersky):**
 - Wildfire resiliency coordination with the county
 - Dry hydrant permitting and inspection process to be reinstated
 - Fire lane parking enforcement challenges on private roads
- **Operations (Ken):**
 - November activity summary including structure fires, hazmat incidents, and EMS calls
 - Thanksgiving Day deck fire successfully contained
 - Aurora Borealis impacts and communications vulnerabilities
- **Training (Scott Arthur):**
 - Over 5,000 training hours completed in 2025 (more than double 2022 totals)
 - Class of 2025: Badging expected January–February
 - Class of 2026: 10 hires (8 academy, 2 lateral)
 - Implementation of Vector training platform expected to further increase documented hours
- **Wildfire Resiliency (Shaggy Fink):**
 - HOA outreach and Firewise education
 - Vegetation mitigation progress
 - Grant-funded wildfire pathway modeling underway

CEO / Fire Chief – Jake Andersen

- Update on finance/payroll support search
- Holiday party scheduled for December 11
- Expression of appreciation to the board
- Noted zero career staff turnover over the past four years
- Upcoming strategic planning and retreat opportunities

New Business

- Resolution appointing **Jennifer Goldfarb** to be signed by board members.
- FPPA Pension Board meeting to be conducted separately with a separate recording.

MOTION: Motion made by Charles to adjourn.

Second: Emily

Discussion: None

Vote: All approved

Adjourned at 6:23 pm

***** A board packet of this meeting can be requested by contacting the Executive Administrative Assistant at amanda.perusse@aspensfire.com or by calling 970-925-5532.**