

Aspen Fire Protection District

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



Board of Directors Regular Meeting April 9th, 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 5:02pm

Roll Call:

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

MOTION: **Motion by Charles Cunniffe to approve amended minutes from Regular Meeting on March 12th, 2024.**
Second: **Parker Lathrop**
Discussion: **In the minutes, under New Business, there is a typo to be fixed. “Affiliate to attend 3 meetings annually without being excused would create a vacancy in the office:”, should read “Affiliate to miss 3 meetings annually without being excused would create a vacancy in the office”.**
Vote: **All approved**

Public Comment: None

AVFD Inc.:

- Charlie Curtis has been elected as the new president for AVFD Inc.

Financials

- Monthly Financial Review included in the packet.
- Backfill amounts from the State are forthcoming, around \$420,000. Once received, we will need to amend the budget with the funds and resubmit it to the Board for approval, around June, 2024.

Board member comments/action items:

- Emily and Wabs – discussion on ACES Fire Science Camp for Summer 2024. Use of AFD board room on July 8th and 9th approved by Chief Rick Balentine, added to the schedule to hold the space. Charles Cunniffe will reach out to David at ACES to move forward on this camp with staffing and advertising. ~ 10-12 campers. Suggestion to have kids of Firefighters to join the camp as well. Cost and other logistics TBD.

Staff Report:

- Fire Marshal – Jan Legerksy reviewed the report provided to the Board in the meeting, as it was not available at the time the board packet was completed.
 - Regional Fire Marshal Group met on March 13th. Discussion centered on common issues with which all fire marshals tend to deal with.
 - Western Mountain Region Fire Marshal Association of Colorado (FMAC) group is being revived. The tentative first meeting will be set for 1-2 months from now.
 - Thanks to Ryan Ocepek, Vail Fire Marshal, for getting the group up and running.
 - As it is part of the FMAC, we have their support, including financial resources.
 - Goals: improve training opportunities and frequencies for prevention divisions on the Western Slope.
 - Western Slope FMAC most likely will include Eagle County, Pitkin County, part of Garfield County, Summit County and Lake County.
 - 3 fire investigations in the last few weeks, so the Fire Marshal and Deputy Fire Marshal have been very busy.
 - Great job to all who helped on the Gant Fire and kept on top of it so that it didn't get worse.
 - Mention from Chief Balentine about policy on turn out gear. All members did a great job, as did those who came from our mutual aid partners. We have a policy in place for exposed turnout gear to be hosed off before being put back into an apparatus, as well as members changing their clothes to prevent transfer of particulates into the apparatus. As there was asbestos found at the Gant Fire, it was great to see our members using our policy appropriately to prevent that particulate transfer.
 - Chief Josselyn was command on the Gant Fire and did an outstanding job!
 - Cause of the Gant fire is still under investigation.
 - New Fire Inspector, Zachary Abley, will start April 15th.
 - Prevention Trainings:
 - Several Aspen Fire members attended the NFPA course Assessing Structure Ignition Training March 14th and 15th at Roaring Fork Fire Rescue station 42. Very educational.
 - Prevention crew will be attending a Fire Investigation Interviewing & Photography course April 18th and 19th at Carbondale Rural Fire Protection District. Presented by the Colorado Chapter of the International Association of Arson Investigators, which will provides specific training on preparing for and conduction informational interviews with witnesses in fire investigation cases.
- Operations Report – Deputy Chief Andersen reviewed the photos in the report.
 - Gant Fire
 - Again, great job to BC Josselyn on this fire, as this is a high-risk property built in 1973 and not fully sprinklered, it could have gotten out of hand very easily.
 - We are likely to see more of these types of fires as buildings age.
 - Car Fire
 - Very impressed with all involved, especially the driver of the car, who was able to pull over to the side of the road, put it into park and put on the parking brake in an area that was well groomed, otherwise, could have been a wildfire. Lots of moving parts on this fire and everyone worked really well together.
 - Special mention for Volunteer Firefighter Michael Brands, who immediately brought a truck over from Station 64 and was right on it.
 - Explosion in bedroom, baseboard heater malfunctioned. Could have been much worse but had a pretty good outcome.
- Training Report - Jake Andersen reviewed the report provided in the board packet by Scott Arthur
 - Discussion on live fire simulations using “doll houses” to show how smoke and heat travel through a structure and can cause flashovers.

- Recruitment
 - Still accepting applications, will start contacting those interested around end of July, with interviews and selection process around August/September and stay on our same program as in years past.
 - Possible volunteer recruiting event, maybe a movie. Ryan Warrant and Thom Barr are spearheading this project. More information to come.
 - Received a grant for our health and safety program so that we will be able to do NFPA 1582 compliant physicals for our members this year. Working on rolling this out. More information to come on this.
- Wildfire Community Action Fund: Ali Hammond reviewed report in the board packet.
 - Aspen Wildfire Foundation 501c3 is official and can receive donations.
 - May 3rd- Wildfire Event – partners will come in and have informational tables same as in previous year, with the addition of trivia night and hotdogs.
 - June 28th – fundraising event. Cocktails at Aspen Fire and dinner hosted by the Caribou club. Working on sponsors. Contact Ali if you have anyone in mind. More information to come as this unfolds.
 - Welcome to the new Wildfire Resilience Project Coordinator, Shannon “Shaggy” Fink.
 - Screening of Elemental: Reimagining Wildfire. April 10th at TACAW. Hosted by Roaring Fork Valley Wildfire Collaborative.
 - June 16th First Responders golf tournament, most likely will have to cancel as there won’t be enough people to help out due to a swift water rescue training, food and wine and Father’s Day all being that same day.

CEO/Fire Chief and Good of the District:

- Migration from Google to Microsoft 365/Outlook
 - Sorry for any issues this has caused, migration was not as smooth as we expected.
 - Matt or Bob with Mitch and Co can help you get reset up if you are having issues.
- We-Cycle
 - Attorneys are still finalizing the lease agreement.
 - They will advertise our logo on their e-bikes and at the bike station at North 40
 - It is not a charging station.
 - Received prep-work invoice of \$7000. The expected invoice was \$2500. The board approved \$2500 towards the cost of the prep work. Rick Balentine will offer \$2500 to We Cycle and let the Board know the outcome.
- Aspen Fire Honor Guard
 - Really proud of all members. Provided opening and closing ceremonies for the National Disabled Veterans at Snowmass. Closing had over 800 people in the room. We received a lot of compliments on the Honor Guard.
 - We are sponsoring an Honor Guard training academy May 31st – June 3rd. Full at 21 participants plus the drill master. Originally to be at station 62, but now that so many have joined, we are moving to the St. Regis who has graciously offered to comp us their board room space for all 4 days!
- WRCB update (Wildfire Resiliency Code Board)
 - Board updates:
 - Currently working on wildfire and risk mapping, pushing to use our own risk map, as it is more accurate than the State’s at this time. It might even become a model for others.
 - This might cause insurance companies to be more transparent with their maps across the state. Oregon has already adopted this.
 - There will be a board 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>
- AFD is also in discussion with the City of Aspen to do an IGA for when people in Aspen would like to take down trees, they would need to go through AFD for approval.

- North 40 Project
 - Still in the preliminary stages, might need more drawings. Waiting on a number from John McBride to present to the Board for consideration.

Old Business:

- Woody Creek Project Update
 - Recommendation by County commissioner, Jeffrey Woodruff, that Chief Balentine petition the BOCC for funds from the GMQS of 2 years ago, which is \$325,000, that was originally slated for us to build district housing.
- Aspen Village Project
 - The offices have received a fresh coat of paint and some reorganization of furniture. Ali Hammond and Shaggy Fink are using these offices for the WCAF/AWF.

New Business:

- Discussion for the Board to support Skico as they are looking to increase cell phone capacity all over the mountains to increase public safety. Recommended that a resolution is created for next meeting for ratification.
- Discussion on partnership with Skico for mitigation work
- Discussion of new possible Pano AI site on Loge
- Christmas presents for the board were delivered, belt buckles from the Volunteer Representatives and Battalion Chiefs.

MOTION: **Motion by John Ward to adjourn at 5:53pm**
Second: **Charles Cunniffe**
Discussion: **None**
Vote: **All approved.**

***** A full recording of this meeting can be requested by contacting the District Administrator at nikki.lapin@aspensfire.com or by calling 970-925-5532.**