

# Aspen Fire Protection District

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## Board of Directors Regular Meeting February 14<sup>th</sup>, 2023

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 at 3:04pm**

### **Roll Call:**

- Board of Directors Present: John Ward, Parker Lathrop (arrived at 3:08pm), Dave “Wabs” Walbert, Emily Taylor, Steve Wertheimer (via Zoom)
- Board of Directors Absent:
- Staff/Volunteers Present: Rick Balentine, Jake Andersen, Nikki Lapin, Jan Schubert, Jan Legersky, Ben Smith (via Zoom), Scott Arthur, Will Hardenbergh (via Zoom), Mike Haman
- Public/Others: Richard Peterson (via Zoom), Sebastian Wanatowicz (via Zoom)

### **Approval of Minutes:**

**MOTION:** Motion by Wabs to approve minutes from regular meeting held on January 10, 2023.  
**Emily second.**  
**Discussion:** None  
**Vote:** All approved. John refrained from voting as he was not present at last meeting.  
Parker was not present at time of vote.

**Public Comment:** None

**AVFD Inc.:** Entering scholarship award time. The Doug Pumpelly scholarship and Willard Clapper scholarship will be awarded to high school senior(s).

### **North 40 Housing Project Update: Sebastian Wanatowicz**

- Project Budget:
  - There were no consultant invoices. Working on reconciling to final budget and expecting a refund from Pitkin County in the next couple weeks in the amount of approximately \$196,800. This is part of the \$501,075.58 that is owed back to Aspen Fire from the project.
  - There is one payment, pay application #23, that is owed to FCI in the amount of \$350,292 for retainage. The other retainage of \$362,325 was paid and funds have been dispersed to the vendors that are done and complete with the project.
  - The total in contingency on the project is \$505,978.58. This is partially due to the C.O.R.E. grant that was received of \$50,000.
- There are still a few things to be resolved by FCI before final payment is paid out. There was some discussion around paying out partial. Rick and Sebastian to meet with Cody to figure out what can be paid out to get subs paid with minor hold for some outstanding items.
- Gym is functional and in-service. It is getting use and people are excited.

### **Wildfire Community Action Fund Project – Ali Hager**

- Financial report included in the board packet.

- FRWRM Grant: This was not funded. There are things to be learned from it. Received feedback that the fire risk is being rated lower than the Front Range and money is getting allocated closer to Front Range. They encouraged us to reapply. Starwood did not receive their grant but are able to continue with their projects with a strong funding base through the HOA. Ali discussed some of the other challenges with getting funding.
- Sky Mountain Park Project: Submitting grant in March in collaboration with Parks and Open Trails that will be for Sky Mountain Park project.
- BLM Grant: This will be opening in April. A five-year plan will be created for this.
- Rapid Detection Technology: Through the Roaring Fork Collaborative there is discussion of rapid detection technology on March 9th.
- Public Leadership Course: This was through Denver University. Ali attended and highly recommended it.
- Chipping program for 2023: We will have support of a French intern arriving in April.
- Rebranding: Discussion of rebranding with emphasis that this is a public private partnership.
- Roaring Fork Collaborative: MOUs were included in the board packet, along with the Aspen Institute MOU that will have some small adjustments.

### **Financials**

- Monthly Financial Review: Included in the board packet. Auditors will be here next week to do 2022 audit.
- Housing Fund Balance: Discussion of adding this to agenda next month to discuss.
- The Fire Place Housing Profit and Loss: This was included in the board packet.

### **Board Comments & Action Items: None**

- Board Comments:
  - Wabs has been approached by Aspen Science Center to help with a project around wildfire training and science for young children.

**MOTION: Motion from John to rescind the emergency declaration (Resolution 2023-02-01). Parker second.**

**Discussion: None**

**Vote: All approved**

### **Staff Report:**

- Fire Marshal and Prevention: Fire Marshal: There have been a lot of building plans coming through leading to many inspections coming up in March and April. Building has not slowed down.
- Operations Overview:
  - Notable calls: There were a couple structure fires that didn't turn out to be much, but volunteer and adjoining district response was great. We had some longer-term members stepping up to do shifts to keep us fully staffed. Call at school for gas leak. Shout out to Pitkin County Sheriff, Aspen Police, Aspen Ambulance and Aspen School. The resource officer did an incredible job, and everyone meshed well.
  - There was a letter from three new Vol. Representatives included in the board packet with message of unity, brotherhood/sisterhood, and leadership. It is heartwarming to see those three folks' step into this role and start taking it forward.
  - Strategic Plan Update: Report was included in board packet. We are about 3 years ahead. Anticipate most items that are listed as work in progress will be done this summer. Currently we have members working on the employee health and fitness program. It will be a robust approach to mental health, physical health and testing around NFPA compliant protocols. Staff is working on a grant currently as it pertains to the annual physical component. Colorado provides some robust programs for career and volunteer firefighters

for circulatory malfunction benefits. We are also getting ready to sign contract with Aspen Hope Center to finalize contract.

- Working on donation of old SCBA's to Bariloche, Ukraine and/or possible a small department outside Crested Butte. CMC has received the ones they requested.
- Community Risk Assessment/Standard of Coverage: This is close to getting done, expected in few months. Once done, staff will start the process to revise our strategic plan.
- Wildfire:
  - In past meetings, presentation was done on PODS (potential operational delineations). Another overview was given.
  - Currently starting discussions with AARF and Airport about ability to refill single engineer tankers out of there with water. This will have the ability to change the aircraft turnaround time.
- There was some discussion of the proposed entrance to Aspen and impact on emergency response.

#### Training Update:

- Div Chief of Training, Scott Arthur reviewed list of training items listed in staff report included in the board packet.

#### Recruiting:

- The recruit class of 2023 has started their training program through CMC. Three of the volunteers have been chosen by their peers to lead three of the four groups. Three of the nine recruits will not be going through the academy at this time due to individual situations, however they will continue to work in tasks books and do shifts at the station with hopes to attend the next academy. We also have two other recruits that are fully certified who have started doing shifts and going through task books.
- Staff is looking into a program for candidates with experience/certifications as there have been a couple more people interested. Staff continues to recruit for the academy in 2024.

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

- Roaring Fork Collaborative: This was discussed under WCAF update.
- Aspen Institute MOU: This was discussed during the wildfire update.
- Pano AI Update: Meetings were had with BOCC and City of Aspen. They approved \$40,000 each to contribute to Pano AI program. Starting conversations about possible MOU or IGA to cover three years.
- 2023 Elected Volunteer Firefighter Officers: Adam Cohen, Mike Tracey and Ryan Warren

#### **Old Business:**

- Woody Creek Project Update: No update.

#### **New Business:**

- Security upgrade: There have been a couple safety concerns. Looking at further options for security.
- Upcoming Election: Self-Nomination and Acceptance forms are due by February 24<sup>th</sup> at 5:00pm.

**MOTION: Motion by Wabs to adjourn at 4:18pm. Parker second.  
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.**