



Basalt & Rural Fire Protection District

“Protecting Our Community Since 1970”

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

BASALT & RURAL FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT REGULAR BOARD MEETING August 15, 2023

Roll:

President Ed Van Walraven called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. Other Board members present were John Young, Vonda Williams, Hutch Foster, and Leroy Duroux. Chief Scott Thompson, Deputy Chiefs Richard Cornelius, Finance Director Jennifer Thompson, Firefighter Cleve Williams (via Life Size), Bob Cole (via Life Size), Hilary Fletcher (via Life Size), Courtney Sievers (Life Size), Executive Assistant Jennifer Diamond, and Scott Condon.

Minutes of April 18, 2023

Vice President Duroux made a motion to accept the minutes as presented. Director Williams seconded the motion. All were in favor, and the motion carried 5 – 0.

Ballot Measure Survey Presentation- Courtney Sievers and Hilary Fletcher Sievers reviewed with the Board the results from the ballot measure survey. Sievers said the results were positive; they received 575 completed surveys from the registered voters of Basalt and Rural Fire Protection District. Sievers said the survey response has a margin of error of +/- 3.94% at the 95% confidence interval. Sievers said the survey data was weighted to be representative of voter turnout demographics within the Basalt and Rural Fire Protection District for an odd-year November general election. Sievers asked the voters if an election was being held today, would you vote yes and approve the bond measure to construct and remodel the current Roaring Fork Fire Rescue Station #42, El Jebel, or would you vote no and reject it? Sievers said the numbers show that 68% of uninformed voters would approve the bond measure for the remodel, and 69% of informed voters would vote yes to approve bond measures to construct and renovate Station 42. Sievers added that these are solid numbers for the Fire District; they want to see anything above 55% to move forward with a ballot question. Sievers said this survey also reminded the voters that Snowmass

Wildcat Fire Protection District would also be using the training facility, and therefore, they would be paying a portion of the cost of the building; this, in turn, lowers the overall debt. Sievers says another critical factor in some of the voters' approval reasoning is building townhomes for employee housing. Sievers reminds the BFD Board operational Mills would go from 8 to 6 mills. Sievers also informed the BFD Board that they can see all the comments from citizens, both good and bad, from the survey and encourages everyone to review them. Sievers asked the Board if they had any questions; they did not have any questions. Hilary said this was an amazing approval rating; Good Job, congratulations to you! The Board thanks the ladies for the time and energy put into the survey.

Chief Thompson is proud of the department's overall 91 percent satisfaction rating. Chief Thompson informed the Board that the RFFRA Board approved funds to start working with an owner's representative and begin looking for an architect to start moving forward when the bonds are sold for the Station 42 project, as this will take months to do.

Attorney's Report:

Resolution #3: Chief Thompson told the Board that Attorney Cole worked on the ballot question in partnership with Bond Counsel. Attorney Cole says the primary notes are that it calls for an election on the November 7, 2023, election debt question. Attorney Cole said the partnership worked hard on getting verbiage in the questions to justify the increase, including expansion and renovation modernization. Attorney Cole says if you like how that portion reads, you can move forward with it or change that specific wording, but there are aspects to the question that can't be changed. Attorney Cole said that the first three lines are prescribed by statute under asking a debt question and the Tabor Amendment of the Constitution. Attorney Cole says the last part of the question is to exempt all the revenues from Tabor Revenue limitations and meet needs for the bond repayment and recommends keeping all wording the same.

Attorney Cole says Finance Director Jennifer Thompson is the designated election official under the resolution. Attorney Cole goes on to say if you approve this resolution, then we have a ballot question before the voters, and at that point, we can no longer spend any money to advocate for or against the measure, hence why we do the survey ahead of time. Attorney Cole explains this is one way to know the voters' reaction ahead of time, and the Attorney wants to make sure the survey is not influencing voters. Attorney Cole explains once the resolution is adopted, the Fair Campaign Practices Act prohibition of spending public money kicks in.

Attorney Cole said we could publish our information on a resolution of support because we have a website. Attorney Cole asks if anyone has questions.

Director Foster asked about Capital improvements and housing: Does it lock the employees into housing at Station 42? Attorney Cole says we are not locked into a location; it is an example of Capital improvements. Chief Thompson explains to Director Foster that there was one million dollars left in Snowmass after the Bond. Chief Thompson said, we put money forward before selling the Bond out

of our Capital. Chief Thompson said we decided to buy two employee units in Basalt when they came available with that leftover bond money because it said employee housing; it did not matter where it was. Chief explains there is flexibility. Discussion ensued. Treasurer Young explained in the earlier RFFRA meeting the Board approved for Attorney Cole to draft a contract to present to the Crawfords (the property owners of leased property at Station 42)) subject to a successful passing of this Bond, but to get it under contract before the November election; the voters have an understanding of how much is going toward the acquisition of land to grow into. Chief Thompson told the Board the Crawfords would sell five acres to the Basalt and Rural Fire Protection vs. signing another lease, and Chief Thompson would like to see the Board buy the land even if the Bond doesn't pass.

Vice President Duroux motioned to accept Resolution #3, and Director Foster seconded the motion, passing 5-0. President Van Walraven signed Resolution #3.

Finance Report:

Election IGA's Pitkin and Eagle County: Finance Director Thompson says the IGA for Eagle is ready to be signed, and Pitkin County will be changing some words but will be in line with what Eagle County IGA will be.

Attorney Cole said he did review the IGS for Eagle County, and it's acceptable; he would recommend a motion to approve that one and sign the Pitkin County IGA as long as it is consistent with Eagle County. Vice President Duroux motioned to accept the IGA with Eagle and Pitkin as long as it aligns with Eagle. Director Williams seconded the motion; all favored the IGA passes unopposed 5-0.

(Director Duroux excused himself from meeting @ 5:50 p.m.)

Chief's Report:

Butler/Snow Engagement Letter - Motion made by Treasurer Young to enter into an agreement for Butler Snow LLC to serve as the district's bond counsel and special counsel. Director Foster seconded the motion; all were in favor, and the motion passed 4-0. Vice President Duroux left for another meeting and was absent from this vote.

Chief Thompson told the Board that they appointed a Finance Committee to work on the budget. Treasurer Young was appointed from the Basalt Board, Treasure Balko from the Snowmass Board, and Treasure Striegler from the RFFRA board. The intention is to meet quarterly. Chief Thompson said if the Board has any budget questions to funnel them through Treasurer Young before the Finance Committee meeting on September 11, 2023.

Public Comment:

None

Board Comments:

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None

Staff Comments:

Chief Thompson told the Board the SDA conference is in Keystone on September 12-14, 2023. Chief Thompson advised the Board they could attend in person or virtually, and he would like one or two Board Members to attend. Secretary Diamond will email information on the SDA conference to the Board Members and contact her if you are interested in attending.

Old Business:

None

New Business:

None

Non-Agenda Items:

None

Adjournment:

President Van Walraven motioned to adjourn the meeting, Director Williams seconded the motion, and the motion carried 4– 0. The meeting was adjourned at 5:56 p.m.

To watch this meeting in its entirety, please follow the link below.

<https://youtu.be/XZef93q4vP0>