

SNOWMASS-WILDCAT FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

Minutes of the Board Meeting Held

October 20, 2020

A regular meeting of the Board of Directors of the Snowmass-Wildcat Fire Protection District was held on Tuesday October 20, 2020 at 9:30 a.m. Noting that a quorum was present Chair William Boineau called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. due to the RFFRA Board meeting running late.

Roll Call

The following Board members were present William Boineau, Donna Aiken, Irene Greiser; Drew Detrick and Dave Heivly via conference call. Also, present were Chief Scott Thompson, Deputy Chiefs Kevin Issel, Pete Bradshaw and John Mele via conference call, Division Chief Richard Cornelius, Human Resources Director Renee Thomas, Finance Director Jennifer Thompson, Firefighter Aaron Allard via conference call, and Administrative Assistant Susan Herwick.

Approval of the Regular Meeting Minutes – August 18, 2020

The minutes of the August 2020 Regular Board meeting were reviewed. Director Aiken noted that there was an incomplete sentence under the financial report and asked that it be finished. Director Greiser made a motion to accept the Minutes as corrected, it was seconded by Director Aiken and the motion carried 5 – 0.

Public Comments

None

Finance Report

Finance Director Jennifer Thompson stated that this is the first reading of the 2021 Budget. This District received a 1% decrease in property tax evaluations. This created an almost \$26,000 shortage. The Gallagher adjustment was an additional \$34,385 and the Abatements were an increase of \$118,000 so we basically broke even. We are taking in about \$3,400,000 and keeping the same amount going into RFFRA at \$3,200,000. We used the 6.6 mills to balance the budget for SWFPD and RFFRA as well. On page 13 you will see the excess Bond revenue under the Capital projects section right now as a holding place. We want to close out the Bond in January 2021. She is still talking with the auditors to find out whether we can use this money to repay the District, or if we could use what is left of the Bond money to pay down the principal balance, or find something to spend it on that is within the Bond parameters. This will be an issue that needs to be addressed next year.

Director Boineau stated that during the RFFRA meeting Director Greiser asked about decreasing the mill levy. With the expanded demands on our District and unanticipated needs we as a Board have decided to not do this right now. We want to make sure our community knows that we are being as prudent with their money as we can but it is just not prudent at this point to lower the mill levy and still provide the same level of service to our Community. Chief Thompson stated that we do have a desire to lower the mill

levy when Station 45 was finished but with COVID-19 and the Gallagher Amendment both taking money from us this year we just can't do it. We are still at a very appropriate mill levy for our District when compared to other Districts of our size. We are being very frugal with our spending and we are a good value for the dollar and can prove that to our constituents should they ask. Director Detrick agreed the last time to not lower the mill levy. He even thinks that we might be a little on the low side of our mill levy collection. Chief Thompson stated that we have had a 1% decrease in assessed valuation in Snowmass Village this year. Director Greiser stated that property taxes on page 10 are slightly increased and it should be a lower number. Jennifer explained that the abatements that are not a given every year came in higher than expected plus the additional money that we were able to recoup from the Gallagher Amendment was what made up the difference.

Chief's Report

Chief Thompson stated that we are trying really hard to close out the Bond. We have ordered a man-lift and a floor scrubber. Lots of landscaping is being done. We are changing the air handling system in the training room for an additional \$20,000. That should finish up this building. There are no emerging issues in Snowmass Village. The Ladder Truck from Station 45 is in being repaired. We will move one additional ambulance to Station 45 for the winter season.

Division Chief of EMS Report

Division Chief Richard Cornelius stated that we received a \$100,000 grant from DOLA for COVID-19 related expenses such as salary, mechanical CPR devices, and three new cardiac monitors. The mechanical CPR devices will replace the EMS provider doing chest compressions thereby minimizing the possible exposure to COVID-19 and increases the safety of our providers by keeping them seated with seatbelts on.

Fire Marshal's Report

Deputy Chief John Mele stated that most wildfire mitigation work has been finished for the year here in Snowmass Village and in Basalt. The Fire Prevention Bureau completed a major letter writing campaign to the State in order to save the State Wildland Inmate Firefighting Team (SWIFT) crew from being decommissioned. Our letter made it to the Governor and it looks like SWIFT will be back in business again next year. The areas in Snowmass Village that were worked on this year were the entire trail system below the Tamarack Condominiums, Stellar Lane, Donnie White Curve, and Terrace Drive. He will show the Board some pictures of the difference the work made at the next Board meeting. We did damage one small Aspen tree that can be replaced for a minimal amount of money. Lots of development is being done in Snowmass Village.

Deputy Chief of Administration Report

DC Issel stated that he has been working on the landscaping at Station 45. We will be changing companies next year because the current company is not meeting our expectations.

Deputy Chief of Operations Report

No Report

Human Resources Report

Human Resources Director Renee Thomas stated that we have just finished interviewing for two new full-time firefighter/paramedics. We will be interviewing for a Fire Inspector I at the end of the month. We reposted the Fleet Supervisor position and we have a volunteer recruitment in progress. Harassment training and performance evaluations are coming up for everyone in the next few weeks.

Old Business

None

New Business

None

Executive Session

None

Non-Agenda Items

The next SWFPD Board meeting is scheduled for 12/8/2020 at 9:30 a.m. for a final reading and approval of the 2021 budget.

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Board at this time, Director Greiser made a motion that the meeting be adjourned, it was seconded by Director Aiken and the motion carried 5 – 0. Chair William Boineau declared the meeting adjourned at 10:20 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Chair William Boineau

Accepted:

Irene Greiser, Treasurer