



**RECORD OF
PROCEEDINGS REGULAR
BOARD MEETING
November 14, 2023**

Call to Order:

Noting a quorum was present, President Ed Van Walraven called the meeting to order at 9:02 a.m.

Roll call: Chief Thompson (Lifesize), Treasurer Striegler, Financial Director Thompson, Board Member Heivly (Lifesize), Deputy Fire Marshal Stott, Board Member Young, President Walraven, Board Member Duroux, IT Director Johnson, Executive Administrative Assistant Diamond, HR Director Thomas, Deputy Chief of Operations Cornelius, Division Chief of Training Palmer, Fire Marshal Mele (Lifesize), Attorney Cole (Lifesize), Assistant Fire Marshal Pidcock (Lifesize), Firefighters: Gerbaz, Waltenburg, Randolph, Rottman.

Staff Comments:

Division Chief of Training Palmer took a brief moment to honor Financial Director Thompson. It has been a tough year with medical hurdles, so we wanted to gift a snowboard to Financial Director Thompson for beating cancer. Division Chief of Training Palmer goes on with the snowboard story where it came from and concludes by saying it has been a trying, tough year; way too persevere.

President Statement:

President Van Walraven took time to thank everyone in this room; it's been a heck of a year—Kudos to the first responders for their professionalism. President Van Walraven says you responders are the face of the Authority; without that camaraderie with the public, our citizens would not have voted for our bond. President Van Walraven also thanked the Board for supporting the first responders.

Approval of October 17, 2023 minutes:

President Van Walraven requested a motion to accept minutes from the October 17th meeting. Board Member Duroux motioned to accept the October 17th meeting minutes; Treasurer Striegler seconded the motion. All were in favor, with no discussion, and non-opposed to accepting the October minutes as written.

Attorney Cole Report:

Attorney Cole congratulated RFFR on their success in passing their bond; it's excellent news for you. Attorney Cole said he has been assisting HR with personnel matters. Attorney Cole said he will have to follow closely regarding the defeat of the HH bill. Attorney Cole advised this will impact your revenue. President Van Walraven, when will we know something concrete? Attorney Cole said he saw the 17th, which is when he thinks we will learn something. Attorney Cole said he wouldn't be surprised if Governor Polis already drafted a bill for when HH failed. Chief Thompson and President Van Walraven spoke about the residential assessment rate to Elizabeth Velasco from Glenwood Springs. Chief Thompson said we are nearly 100% funded by commercial and residential taxes. Attorney Cole explains taxes are due in March, and there is controversy between the parties on how to deal with it in the short term vs. the long term. Attorney Cole says to think of a short-term fix for one year, and the next session will address it in the long term. Board Member Duroux said he talked to Representative Perry, who gave him little information. Attorney Cole said all local districts cause taxes to go up. Attorney Cole says the school districts, except special districts, are the most significant amount of your taxes. Board Member Duroux asked what it would take to implement a sales tax vs. a property tax. Attorney Cole said it would require legislation as sales tax has already been authorized. Attorney Cole said if they can do a sales tax for fire, we should push SDA to advocate for it; supporting sales tax to the fire district is a great goal and achievable.

Board Member Young asked Attorney Cole how much flexibility there is on an affordable housing bond. Board Member Young said we are looking at an option to sell affordable housing to our employees. Attorney Cole advised to defer this to the Bond Counsel and Kim Crawford, who can work on language to make it very flexible. Attorney Cole said if you are looking at options outside what you already do, let's get Kim Crawford involved. Attorney Cole said he thinks we should get the land under contract ASAP. Board Member Duroux asked what process you take to get this under contract. Attorney Cole advised that he can work with the property owner to draft a standard agreement, review the title documents to ensure no problems and check the deed. Chief Thompson said Eagle County land use code does not permit lots of less than 35 acres, but we can condemn this property, and the county will accept that land flat amendment; the process will take one or two months. Chief Thompson said Robert, the CEO of the Crawfords estate, is coming next year to get through the land amendment; then, we can start working on contract negotiations. Chief Thompson said we intend to own this property by summer. Financial Director Thompson said the preliminary schedule for the bond kicks off next Monday and closes February 7th; as of right now, we will have the bond money in hand at the end of February.

Chief Thompson told the Board that Attorney Cole worked on a letter of intent with Jadwin Park LLC. Board Member Young said all three discussions regarding the Crawford property will be discussed at tonight's Basalt board meeting. Board Member Young advised that the purchase must be at cost, not free market rate; the meeting for the town council is two weeks from now when we will get more information.

Badging for Carsyn Randolph

Financial Director Thompson got the second Pitkin County numbers and said it did not drop 10%, Snowmass was 4%, and Basalt was 5%. Financial Director Thompson said the net result added another \$100,000 on Snowmass's side, increasing the revenues by \$100,000. Financial Director Thompson said everything stayed the same in the line-item budget, and therefore, it was not included in this packet. Financial Director Thompson directed the board to page 14 in the packet, saying the one full mil credit draft for 2024, the increase happened so that Snowmass was then able to match Basalts; there were at 4.8 with⁴ the new Pitkin County number, and she was

able to raise that to 4.9. Financial Director Thompson said the budget variance towards the bottom is \$114,000 in the black; we are under budget but short in capital.

Financial Director Thompson said concerning the Gallagher amendment, with the original numbers, we were getting upwards of \$600,000 of additional revenue. That number dropped to \$325,000 with Pitkin's change, and we were still able to net a higher amount through Snowmass and a little through Basalt. Financial Director Thompson said that the mill levy calculations are estimates only as we are still determining what will happen at the end of the month. Financial Director Thompson, where we stand now is last year, Basalt's overall mill would include the bond issue, general fund, and pension fund were at 8.834 mills; if you don't include the new Bond debt, the mill goes down to 7.595, then you add in the bond which is about three mills so we will be about 10.5 showings we dropped more than one mill in our regularly scheduled property taxes. Financial Director Thompson explains this could be adjusted because of the Gallagher amendment. Financial Director Thompson said if they change the residential assessment rate, we can get the money back if passed in a certain way. Financial Director Thompson said Snowmass was at 9.843 last year; this year, it will be at 8.051, almost 1.8 mill less. Financial Director Thompson explains that because Snowmass has a huge debt service, we were able to drop their debt service mill due to increased revenue. Financial Director Thompson thinks Governor Polis will go after the residential assessment rate.

Financial Director Thompson said the budget is how we presented it. Financial Director Thompson said she would amend the budget anyway to have a good starting balance; there is no need to make any adjustments; we will only spend what we budgeted. Financial Director Thompson said she reached out to First Western, with whom we originally had the Snowmass bond. Financial Director Thompson said she is negotiating with Elise Cohen and other Banks to see the best offer. Financial Directory Thompson noted that in the next couple of months, there will be lots of bond work and reports to be sent to bond counsel.

Board Member Young asked if we must split the money and have so much money in each Bank for them to cover it. Financial Directory Thompson said the FDIC rules have changed, and First Western is now addressing this issue with me. Financial Directory Thompson said that whatever plan they give her, she will run it through our auditors before committing. Financial Director Thompson said we did keep all money from the Snowmass bond in one account. Financial Directory Thompson said the Bank required an outline of costs to get the money back to the checking account when needed. Financial Director Thompson said outside of Stiffel, Attorney Cole is working on this, as is our Board.

HR Report: No Report

Fire Marshal Report: No Report

Deputy Chief of Operations Report: Deputy Chief of Operations Cornelius reported decreased volunteers as they transitioned to part-time employees. Deputy Chief of Operations Cornelius said the major incident response model with neighboring incidents was 15 provided auto aid, including major incident responses. Deputy Chief of Operations Cornelius said we received five calls for help from other agencies. Deputy Chief of Operations Cornelius said hose testing is complete, and we received max points for the IOS survey. Deputy Chief of Operations Cornelius noted eight proposals for type three engines; they will be reviewed and sent to the Board by the December meeting. Board Member Duroux asked if they are recruiting volunteers any time soon. Deputy Chief of Operations Cornelius said after the two big pushes for interviews this month and in January, we could work on volunteer recruitment.

October Volunteer Hours

107.5 total volunteer hours
80.5 In-station hours
27 Responding from Home/Work

Incidents

October 2023

199 Total Incidents
76 EMS-related incidents

October 2022

189 Total Incidents
77 EMS-related incidents
Increase of 10 incidents
5.3% increase

2023 YTD

2230 Total Incidents
1003 EMS related incidents

2022 YTD

2075 Total Incidents
985 EMS-related incidents
Increase of 155 incidents
7.5%

Hose Testing

Annual hose testing has been completed, which is required by NFPA 1962 and allows us to receive maximum points for our hose testing program. I appreciate all who are involved in completing the annual hose testing, particularly the on-duty crews.

RFP

A Request for Proposals was sent out for a Super Single Type 3 Brush Truck. Currently, eight manufacturers have the RFP: QTAC Fire and Rescue Apparatus, BME Fire Trucks, Skeeter Emergency Vehicles, SVI Trucks, BFX, Rebel Brush Trucks, Heiman Fire Equipment, and Vengeant Apparatus. BFX has already declined to bid as they are building something other than Type 3 Brush Trucks. Proposals are due in November. The Wildland Committee will review RFPs and recommend a manufacturer, which will be covered during the December Authority Board of Directors meeting. Over the course of three years, the Authority will purchase three Super Single Type 3 Brush Trucks.

Orientation and onboarding for Part-time Firefighter/EMTs and Firefighter/Paramedics

Orientation and onboarding started on October 2nd and was completed on October 28th. Thanks to the Training Division and all members who have served as instructors throughout this important process. Nine part-time Firefighters/EMTs and firefighters/Paramedics participated in the orientation and onboarding.

All Valley Battalion Chief Meeting

On Thursday, Roaring Fork Valley Battalion Chiefs from Aspen to Glenwood Springs agencies will occur. We are excited to strengthen the working relationships and continue to work on common operational guidelines.

Deputy Chief of Administration Report:

Deputy Chief of Administration Issel is attending the regional chiefs meeting.

Master Plan Discussion: Nothing new

Public Comments: none

Board Member Comments: Treasurer Striegler said thanks for the letter to the editor, Deputy Cornelius, and President Van Walraven wrote on behalf of RFFR, expressing gratitude for our bond approval.

Board Member Young said it is worth noting the excellent leadership of Chief Thompson to get this bond on the ballot, for the work on the survey showing 56% support from the community means there is incredible leadership from Chief Thompson and the Board Members. Great job, Board Member Young said our community supports us, and this was the big ask, we have cemented our future; let's move forward and grow.

Board Member Young said he attended the volunteer meeting, and even though they are down to around 20 members, they are an excellent component of our team. Board Member Young said our Volunteers are well-spoken and dedicated to making a difference in our valley. Board Member Young said having one volunteer going part-time is highly supported to move forward and grow.

Old Business: None

New Business: Treasurer Striegler said she will volunteer to attend the next Volunteer Meeting at 6 p.m. on December 5th at Station 42.

Adjournment:

Treasurer Striegler motioned to adjourn the meeting, Board Member Duroux seconded the motion unopposed, and the meeting ended at 9:52.

To watch this meeting, please go to the following link.

<https://youtu.be/lHH7GaWXQUU>