



## Basalt & Rural Fire Protection District

“Protecting Our Community Since 1970”

### RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

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#### **BASALT & RURAL FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT REGULAR BOARD MEETING April 18, 2023**

##### **Roll:**

President Ed Van Walraven called the meeting to order at 5:04 p.m. Other Board members present were John Young (via Lifesize), Vonda Williams, Chief Scott Thompson, Deputy Chiefs Richard Cornelius and Kevin Issel, HR Director Renee Thomas (Lifesize), Finance Director Jennifer Thompson, Director Elect Michael Foster, Leroy Duroux (5:12) and Executive Assistant Jennifer Diamond

##### **Minutes of February 21, 2023**

President Van Walraven made a motion to accept the minutes as presented. Director Williams made motion to accept. The motion was seconded by Director Young. All were in favor and the motion carried 4 – 0.

##### **Chief’s Report:**

May 10 is the closing on the River Park Condos. Still in negotiation to sell the office space to CMC, it’s a slow-moving process with CMC.

In 2021 we ordered a new tender. We will see a chase this summer, and they will finish the truck in January of next year.

The board signed two resolutions in the RFFR meeting. The first resolution was to purchase the River Park Condos. The second resolution was to update the Pitkin County Hazard Mitigation Plan (HMP). We need this plan with Eagle County as well to get FEMA funds. The HMP Pitkin County resolution has been signed and sent to Pitkin County, and Eagle County is just starting theirs. RFFR is now beginning updates on the Community Wildfire Protection Plan with Pitkin County. This plan is key to funding some cross-boundary mitigation work that

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RFFR is doing. Director Williams asked what happened to the subdivision across the road? Chief Thompson answers. They pulled their application; so they could submit another one or make changes, but they didn't get a no-vote, so our housing is off the table for that. We would have had to ask the voters for a bond anyway.

Next month David Detwiler has been helping us look at what we need to upgrade Station 42. This remodel includes adding the training facility and housing units, adding a vehicle maintenance space, and figuring out what each will cost. It makes sense to go to the voters this year. After they get their taxes next year, the voters may not tolerate increasing taxes. I have told both boards we do not have to take every bit of our mills. We also know we have an increase in our services and cannot fund more firefighters in the master plan, so this may be our avenue. We could do it incrementally. We don't have to take the full mills we currently do, but we will decide when we get our assessed values in May.

**Finance Report:**

Finance Director Jennifer Thompson stated that we finally closed out the grant from Station 46 and received the \$50,000.00 from DOLA. We have now automated the impact fees, so citizens can pay by check and if they pay by credit card, it will go straight into the bank. We got our first one today. We have been moving money into Roaring Fork monthly because the bills have been high, and we need the money there. It's standard operating procedure.

A special meeting is needed in May to swear in the new Board members. We need a quick meeting before the Roaring Fork meeting for both Basalt and Snowmass to come to session to swear them in, go out of session, do another swearing-in as statutory, and they need to be sworn in within 30 days. We will do this at 9:00 AM on May 16, 2023, at Station 42.

**Attorney's Report: (not present)**

President Van Walraven advised us that the Attorney report from this morning was on the resolution for the purchase of the River Park Condos.

**Public Comments:**

None

**Board Comments:**

Introduction to new Basalt Fire Department Elect Board member Michael Foster, who goes by Hutch.

**Staff Comments:**

Renee said she is working on job offers for four temporary seasonal Wild Fire Severity Crew Members.

Chief Thompson said another thing Jenn brought up was in 2022, year in review, that we made \$276,000 in wildfire revenue by having crews ready to go. We met about how we can house the severity crew. We have one local person and three people we will bring in from out of state. We have one 2-bed room, and one studio, for the summer that we will make available to them. They will each pay \$562.00. We will take about a 60-dollar hit for each person in the two-bedroom unit. This rent will be a steal for them coming in from out of state with housing under \$600.00 per month. We are waiting on the guy from California to finish his National Registry and find housing.

**Old Business:**

Director Williams asked if RFFR was doing any special get-togethers for the members this summer; she believes it was a great success last year and helped people get to know each other and bring them together as a team. Deputy Chief Cornelius and Finance Director Jenn stated that something would be in the works soon; they have an idea.

**New Business:**

None

**Non-Agenda Items:**

None

**Adjournment:**

President Van Walraven made a motion to adjourn the meeting, the motion was seconded by Director Young, and the motion carried 5 – 0. The meeting was adjourned at 5:16 p.m.

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

<https://youtu.be/XZef93q4vP0>