

**RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS
ROARING FORK FIRE RESCUE AUTHORITY
VIRTUAL BOARD MEETING**

June 16, 2020

Authority Board President Ed Van Walraven called the meeting to order at 9:01 a.m. Board members present were Ed Van Walraven, Leroy Duroux, John Young, Bill Boineau, Irene Greiser and Dave Heivly. Others present were Chief Scott Thompson, Deputy Chiefs Pete Bradshaw and Kevin Issel, Division Chief Richard Cornelius, Finance Director Jennifer Thompson, Human Resources Director Renee Thomas, IT Director Erik Johnson, Attorney Bob Cole and Susan Herwick all in attendance.

Minutes of May 19, 2020 Meeting:

Director Young made a motion to accept the minutes as read, the motion was seconded by Director Greiser. All were in favor and the motion carried 6 – 0.

Public Comments:

None

Attorney's Report:

Director Van Walraven presented the renewal engagement letter with Attorney Bob Cole. There are no changes in the current agreement. Director Young made a motion to renew the agreement with Bob Cole, the motion was seconded by Director Greiser. All were in favor and the motion carried 6 – 0.

Attorney Cole stated that he was working on a couple of routine items for the District. WeCycle asked to put their bicycle rack in the snow storage area at Station 41. This was agreed to. RFFRA is listed as an additional insured on their insurance policy.

Chief's Report:

Chief Scott Thompson stated that progress is being made on obtaining the well permit for the West Sopris Creek Road fire station. Chief Thompson spoke with DOLA and they are willing to add to our grant and split the cost of the well permit and installation 50/50 with RFFRA. The cost of the well permit is estimated at \$40,000 and the cost of digging a well and running pipe will cost between \$75,000 - \$90,000. Once we obtain a well permit, we can apply for a building permit. BLM is willing to work with us by leasing us an additional 35 acres of land so that we can obtain an exempt well permit. We will not have to go to water court because no augmentation plan is needed. This should be a 1 – 2-month approval process. The well will be drilled near West Sopris Creek.

Director Young asked if Chief Thompson had any idea how deep we might have to go for water. Chief Thompson stated that he thought that we would have to go about 300' to find a good water source.

We responded to a structure fire in an 8000 square foot home on East Sopris Creek Road. The fire was difficult to find because it was located in a void space beneath the house. Neither the alarm system nor sprinkler system was activated because of the fire's location. Three of our firefighters incurring minor injuries. The home ended up with about \$4,000,000 in damage. The insurance company is going to bring in a forensics investigator to determine the cause. The investigation will take place on 6/20/2020. We are 99.9% sure that the cause was lightning. There is nothing suspicious about the fire.

Our call volume has started to increase. We have instituted a severity patrol for wild fire season. It will be in affect for the next couple of months.

Deputy Chief of Administration Report:

Deputy Chief Pete Bradshaw stated that the first week of July he will head to Pierce to perform a final inspection on the second ladder truck. It should be delivered during the second week in August.

We have lots of small group training scheduled for this summer.

Deputy Chief of Operations Report:

Deputy Chief Kevin Issel stated that we received a \$4,000 credit from Holy Cross for Station 45 in 2019. We spent \$41,000 on electricity for Station 45 in 2019.

Engine 43 has been listed for sale nationally. Rescue 41 will be the next truck that gets sold. We are going to repurpose one of the small older brush trucks into the small rescue truck that was budgeted for this year.

We have increased our daily staffing to nine. We haven't had anyone sick with COVID-19 yet.

Deputy Chief/Fire Marshal Report:

Chief Thompson stated that Fire Marshal Mele has been involved remotely with Brooke while he is on vacation. He should be back this week.

Division Chief of EMS:

Division Chief Richard Cornelius explained the status of COVID-19 in the Roaring Fork Valley. Both Pitkin and Eagle Counties are starting to open back up again. Div. Chief Cornelius explained the reopening stages to the Board. The State will soon be going to the "Protect Our Neighbor" phase of reopening.

Division Chief of Training:

None

HR Report:

None

Finance Report:

Finance Director Jennifer Thompson stated that we have spent 38% of our budget so far this year. We are under budget because of how slow we've been because of COVID-19.

Information Technology:

None

Board Comments:

Dave Hively was welcomed as the newly appointed Director. Dave introduced himself to the Board and explained his background.

Director Young stated that everyone is somewhat concerned about a surge in COVID-19 cases now that things are opening up again. Division Chief Cornelius stated that PCR testing has decreased. The County Health Departments do not want to see 10% or more of positive cases in the individuals who are being tested. The local healthcare system and hospital infrastructure are also looked at. The County Health Officials have weekly meetings with the hospitals. As long as things remain stable, they are going to proceed with changes to the public health order.

Staff Comments:

None

Unfinished Business:

Chief Thompson stated that we needed to vote each month on keeping the Emergency Disaster Declaration active. Director Young made a motion to continue the Emergency Disaster Declaration for another month; Director Greiser seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion carried 6 – 0. Jennifer Thompson stated that we have spent about \$13,000 out of the \$100,000 allotted by this declaration.

New Business:

None

Volunteer Meeting:

We will have a virtual meeting on July 2, 2020 at 6:00 p.m. We have requested that questions be submitted ahead of time. Director Boineau stated that he would attend this meeting.

Adjournment:

Director Duroux made a motion to adjourn the meeting, it was seconded by Director Greiser. All were in favor and the motion passed 6 – 0. The meeting was adjourned at 9:36 a.m.