

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

May 19, 2020

Authority Board President Ed Van Walraven called the meeting to order at 8:31 a.m. Board members present were Ed Van Walraven, Leroy Duroux, John Young, Bill Boineau, and Irene Greiser. Others present were Chief Scott Thompson, Deputy Chiefs Pete Bradshaw, Kevin Issel and John Mele, 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.

Guest: Dave Heivly

Minutes of April 21, 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 5 – 0.

Public Comments:

None

Attorney's Report:

None

Chief's Report:

Chief Scott Thompson stated that the well permit for the West Sopris Creek Road fire station has been denied. There are too many wells in the area pulling water from the aquifer. You need a 35-acre parcel of land in order to put a well. The State considers Station 46 to be a commercial structure. We need to hire a water attorney and water engineer to work on a water diversion. Water law is ancient and very complex. We have spent \$41,000 of the money reserved for the fire station in 2020 on plans, agreements, etc. We will need to spend approximately \$40,000 for the well permit, water attorney and water engineer. Pitkin County won't approve our plans without water. Attorney Bob Cole stated that we would have almost a 100% approval with the use of a water attorney. We need to find an augmentation water supply source. Discussion. Attorney Bob Cole stated that a temporary supply plan would let us move forward while the augmentation plan is going through court. Finance Director Jennifer Thompson stated that we might have to file for an extension on the grant. Director Young made a motion to approve the expenditure of up to \$40,000 for the water attorney and water engineer. Director Van Walraven amended the motion to include "after we find out from Pitkin County about approving a temporary substitute supply is accessible". Director Duroux seconded the motion and the motion was approved 5 – 0.

Chief Scott Thompson stated that he wanted to speak to the Board regarding our Capital expenditure plan for 2020 and find out what their comfort level was with it. The only thing he would really like to purchase for the remainder of the year is the light rescue truck for \$100,000 - \$150,000. The rest of the approved and budgeted capital expenditures can be put off. The consensus of the Board was to approve the light rescue truck.

Deputy Chief of Administration Report:

Deputy Chief Pete Bradshaw stated that applications for the housing grant program are still coming in. The volunteer 2020 group will be brought back together to discuss more integration of the volunteers and the risk to them and the Authority.

Deputy Chief of Operations Report:

Deputy Chief Kevin Issel stated that call volume is down. We are preparing for wildfire season with training and prepping the brush trucks. We are still staffing at eight personnel per day (4 at Station 45, 2 at Station 41, and 2 at Station 42). We are keeping an eye on the COVID-19 stats to determine staffing. Engine 43 from Thomasville will be sold next. Rescue 41 and Ladder 41 will be sold later on this summer.

Deputy Chief/Fire Marshal Report:

Fire Marshal John Mele stated the Prevention Division was beginning to perform inspections again. Construction has not slowed down at all. There will be a small wildfire mitigation project happening in Basalt on Tuesday and Wednesday around the water plant.

Division Chief of EMS:

Division Chief Richard Cornelius explained the status of COVID-19 PCR in the Roaring Fork Valley. COVID-19 testing in Eagle and Pitkin Counties was explained. 25% of patients that test positive are asymptomatic.

Division Chief of Training:

None

HR Report:

Human Resources Director Renee Thomas stated that the housing assistance grant program has been the most utilized. The other programs have not been used yet. She filed a report with our worker's compensation insurance carrier for a rebate on our premium due to the decrease we've had in payroll.

Finance Report:

Finance Director Jennifer Thompson explained the letter from Pitkin County regarding property tax abatements. At this time, we are slightly under budget for the year. All of the draft audits have been received. The only issue for RFFRA is that we need to complete a capital asset inventory. Lots of audit adjustments have been requested and will be done today. The Board approved the draft of the audit.

Information Technology:

None

Board Comments:

Chief Thompson's annual report was nicely done. Director Young asked about election results. Jennifer Thompson stated that the election had been cancelled because no one ran against the incumbents. Directors will be sworn in at their next Board meeting. If a COVID-19 vaccine becomes available, how can our first responders get it. Director Young stated that the lack of COVID-19 testing in Pitkin County is still an issue. How is our supply of PPE? Division Chief Cornelius stated that we have an ample supply of PPE. Our first responders are prioritized for PCR testing should they become symptomatic.

Staff Comments:

Chief Thompson stated that we will be reinstating the severity wildland patrol. This patrol will be manned by part-time personnel and volunteers. We want to become more visible in our community and it will provide a faster to anything that comes up.

Unfinished Business:

None

New Business:

Director Boineau stated that it was time for Chief Thompson's annual review. Director Van Walraven stated that we would talk about this at the next Board meeting. He asked that any comments for the review be sent to either himself or Director Boineau for review.

The next SWFPD Board meeting will be held on June 16 at 8:30 a.m. The next RFFRA Board meeting will be held on June 16 at 9:00 a.m.

Volunteer Meeting:

We will have a virtual meeting on June 2, 2020 at 6:00 p.m. We have requested that questions be submitted ahead of time. Director Ed Van Walraven stated that he would attend this meeting. Chief Thompson asked Attorney Bob Cole if more than two Board members listened in on the meeting, were we in violation of the Sunshine Law. Attorney Bob Cole stated that we wouldn't be in violation if they were just listening in. If they were asked to make any decisions, then we would be.

Adjournment:

Director Greiser made a motion to adjourn the meeting, it was seconded by Director Boineau. All were in favor and the motion passed 5 – 0. The meeting was adjourned at 9:35 a.m.

To watch this meeting in its entirety: <https://youtu.be/ylAY SQX-v4>