

Roaring Fork Fire Rescue Final Minutes 8/20/2024

Call to order: 8:59 a.m.

Roll Call: President Van Walraven, Vice President Arthur, Treasurer Striegler, Board Member Young, Board Member Heivly, Attorney Cole, Chief Thompson, Finance Director Thompson, HR Director Thomas, Deputy Chief Fire Marshal Mele, Deputy Chief of Operations Cornelius, Executive Assistant Diamond.

Approval of minutes from July 16, 2024:

Treasurer Striegler motioned to accept the minutes from July 16, 2024. Board Member Heivly seconded the motion. There was no discussion, and the motion passed to accept the meeting minutes from July 16, 2024.

Attorney Report: Attorney Cole told the Board he is working on contracts with the MW Golden construction projects, insurance coverage, and standard level of insurance.

Attorney Cole is working on an M O U with Habitat for Humanity for the L3 Glenwood Springs employee housing units.

Attorney Cole reminded the Board that the SDA conference in Keystone will be on September 10-12. Attorney Cole said you are welcome to attend a reception on Monday, September 9; if you attend the conference, let him know.

Chief Report: Chief Thompson explained the timeline for constructing the maintenance building, beginning in September/October. Chief Thompson said we may need to move Station 42 administration to another location due to construction noise.

Chief Thompson told the Board about a significant house fire on Bear Ridge Road last night. The Chief expects the straw bale house to be a total loss; he thinks it was from a lightning strike, and it is still under investigation, but there were no injuries or equipment damage. Chief Thompson said there were two hits on the PANO AI camera and people calling to report the fire on the ridge. Chief Thompson said the PANO's AI Camera helped narrow the location of the fire; dispatch paged a wildfire, and it ended up a structure fire.

Chief Thompson reminded the Board of the Rodeo's last day, and Jass Aspen is coming up.

Finance report: Finance Director Thompson reviewed the budgets overall, telling the Board, including the capital, that we are running at about 50%, which is about 54% operationally.

Finance Director Thompson said we had gone out on three separate fires, with an additional \$225,000 - \$275,000 additional income. Finance Director Thompson said she will have better numbers in September.

Finance Director Thompson reviewed revenue income with the Board.

Finance Director Thompson said she started working on the budget with the 5% cost of living adjustment.

Treasurer Striegler asked if the budget committee is meeting again this year. Finance Director Thompson said she would better understand where the budget is in September and she will reach out to Treasurer Striegler to arrange a budget committee meeting.

HR Report: HR Director Thomas wanted to thank the staff who helped each other during last Friday's power outage; the team did a fantastic job going from call to call.

HR Director Thomas said she has posted for the HR / Finance Assistant position.

HR Director Thomas said she would post for ten part-time staff members. HR Director Thomas said she plans to start all of them with the new Volunteers at the end of October.

HR Director Thomas told the Board that data collection for compensation is coming in September.

HR Director Thomas told the Board she is looking at benefit insurance rates and new insurance plans like Cobra, which is paid health insurance if you are retiring.

HR Director Thomas said she made a job offer to Aaron Luttrell for Division Chief of EMS starting August 26. Chief Thompson said we are in a good staffing place, moving into the winter season.

Board Member Young would like an introduction at a Board Meeting with new team members.

HR Director Thomas said the assessors from the Division Chief of EMS interviews gave out kudos to HR as they provided the packets to the assessors beforehand to review before the interviews.

Fire Marshal Report: Deputy Chief Fire Marshal Mele said Labor Day will be active for prevention setting up tents and equipment storage, plus 12,000 people for the Jass Aspen Concert.

Deputy Chief Fire Marshal Mele said construction is wrapping up, but our population of permanent occupants is increasing.

Deputy Chief Cornelius Report: Deputy Chief Cornelius reviewed:

July Volunteer Hours

62 total volunteer hours

Incidents

July 2024

253 Total Incidents

103 EMS-related incidents

July 2023

255 Total Incidents

104 EMS-related incidents

Decrease of 2 incidents

-0.8%

2024 Year to Date

1607 Total Incidents

60 EMS-related incidents

2023 Year to Date

1555 Total Incidents

720 EMS-related incidents

Increase of 52 incidents

+3.3%

Deputy Chief Cornelius told the Board the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment is now responsible for licensing ground ambulance services. Deputy Chief Cornelius said we have a license and associated vehicle permits for Authority ambulances valid until July 01, 2026. Deputy Chief Cornelius said the CDPHE did a consultative visit on August 14, 2024, to provide information on the next steps for our ground ambulance license initial application. Deputy Chief Cornelius said this would require multiple steps, including identifying the "Ground Ambulance Owner/Operator." Deputy Chief Cornelius told the Board the Authority will be reviewed and expected to meet all requirements outlined in the Ground Ambulance Licensing Rules by July 01, 2026.

Deputy Chief Cornelius congratulated Aaron Luttrell on his promotion to Division Chief of EMS. Deputy Chief Cornelius said he will officially transition to his new role on Monday and complete an orientation and onboarding process for several weeks.

Deputy Chief Cornelius said Firefighter/Paramedic Austin Childers will transition from Temporary to Regular Full-time Firefighter/Paramedic next week. Congratulations Austin.

Deputy Chief Cornelius said we completed our federal assignment on the Telephone Fire near Burns, Oregon. Deputy Chief Cornelius told the Board this was a 21-day assignment where the crew gained valuable experience. Deputy Chief Cornelius said the crew safely arrived at El Jebel on Saturday.

Deputy Chief Cornelius told the Board that the Authority had assisted with a Colorado Mutual Aid System (CMAS) request and had responded to the Alexander Mountain Fire in Larimer County; this was a 72-hour mutual aid assignment.

Deputy Chief Cornelius informed the Board that another crew was rostered for federal assignments on the cooperater rotation. Deputy Chief Cornelius said that we anticipate a resource order soon due to the National Preparedness Level 5 indicating total commitment to national resources.

Deputy Chief Cornelius told the Board that Nick Braun started the Colorado Mountain College Paramedic Education Program yesterday. Deputy Chief Cornelius said this is a twelve-month program, with the didactic portion held at the CMC Edwards Campus. Deputy Chief Cornelius said Tyler Yoder is nearing

completion of the Denver Health Paramedic Education Program with anticipated certification in September.

Deputy Chief Cornelius told the Board that Single Role Paramedics Peter Whitlock, Leslie Palestina, and EMT Jacob Cader started today's CMC Fire Academy.

Deputy Chief Cornelius gave a recap on the Bear Ridge structure fire as it was paged out as a wildfire, and we responded with wildland crew mutual aid from Aspen Fire Department and Carbondale Fire Department and provided coverage while Roaring Fork Fire Rescue worked on the fire.

Deputy Chief Cornelius said the state took over July 2024 County authorization to operate emergency vehicles if an agency outside wants to come in and operate. Deputy Chief Cornelius explained that every staff car with lights needs a permit for an emergency vehicle; this needs to be on ambulances and any vehicles with lights.

Deputy Chief Cornelius said he is working with Lutrell as he is transitioning to Division Chief of EMS on Monday.

Deputy Chief Issel Report: Chief Thompson told the Board that Deputy Chief Issel is out of town. Chief Thompson said Thomasville is getting new garage doors; ladder testing was done last week, and we passed. Chief Thompson said we have one ambulance out of service, but we brought out the old one while it is being repaired. Chief Thompson said we filled our two-bedroom unit with another 1-bed room available.

Master Plan: Chief Thompson said after the power failure on Friday, getting a UPS and generator at the building to keep everything running is essential.

Public Comments: None

Board Member Comments: Board Member Young said National Night Out was successful; thanks for showing up and spending time with new people and the Pitkin County Sheriff; it was a great event!

Board Member Young said he was very impressed with the Honor Guard passing out fire hats to kids at the Farmers Market in Aspen over the weekend.

Treasurer Striegler thanked RFFR for helping remove a rope swing where a girl was injured at Dinkle Lake. Chief Thompson said they removed the platform and got the rope up as high as possible, making it unusable.

President Van Walraven reminded the board members of the SDA conference in Keystone September 10-12, which you can attend in person or virtually.

Staff Comments: None

Old Business: None

New Business: The next volunteer meeting will be on September 3 at 6 p.m. Board Member Heivly will attend.

Adjournment: Vice President Arthur motioned to adjourn the meeting. Board Member Heivly seconded the motion, and the meeting ended at 9:54 a.m.

