



ROARING FORK FIRE RESCUE AUTHORITY

Final Minutes 2/18/2025

Call to Order: February 18, 2025, RFFRA Meeting 9:00

Roll Call:(In person attendants) Board Member Young, Board Member Duroux, President Van Walraven, Finance Specialist Herrera, Human Resource Director Thomas, Chief Thompson, Finance Director Thompson, Deputy Chief of Operations Cornelius, Secretary Diamond (Lifesize attendants) Treasurer Striegler, IT Director Johnson, Firefighter /Paramedic Klebes, Deputy Fire Marshal Stott, Fire Marshal Mele, Board Member Heivly, Vice President Arthur, Attorney Cole.

Approval of Minutes for 1/21/20025: Board Member Duroux motioned to approve the meeting minutes from 1/21/2025. Treasurer Young seconded the motion. All were in favor of accepting the meeting notes. None opposed, and no discussion.

Attorney Report: Attorney Cole told the Board he is working on easement issues with the Town of Basalt.

- Attorney Cole told the Board he is working on the IGA with Dispatch; he said it should be ready for the Board by the next meeting.

- Attorney Cole told the Board he is working on the W2's and on-call requirements that must be reported as taxable income.

-Attorney Cole said he is working on an inclusion for the district. Chief Thompson said two out of 12 properties are in limbo. Attorney Cole said the next step will be to schedule a hearing and present the petitions to the Board. Attorney Cole explained that once the Board makes a finding, we can show the inclusion to the District Court, then record the inclusions with the County Clerk and get the property taxes; another form goes to DOLA. Chief Thompson said the last inclusions did not get to the County Clerk; for example, we get taxes from Two Shoes Ranch, and they have been receiving services, so we offered to pay for the inclusion.

-Board Member Heivly asked for future clarification and expectations regarding a termination or resignation from a high-level position. Chief Thompson said he had advised both presidents, but there was a timeframe he was working with. Attorney Cole said there is a process with confidentiality, but there is a balance to ensure the Board is informed so there are no surprises. Discussion

-The Board discussed 24-10 91 wildfire resilience housing materials.

-Chief Thompson said the next meeting calls for an executive session to talk about the water tanks at Station 46.



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Chief Report: Chief Thompson said the ISO was submitted and is waiting to see what else is needed.

-Chief Thompson said construction at Station 42 is ahead of schedule; hoping to pour walls next week. Chief Thompson told the Board that a trailer house had been ordered for the crew to use during the renovation, which is coming on April 1, 2025. Chief Thompson said the administrative crew will move out on the second week of April from Station 42. Chief Thompson said we are having trouble getting reasonable bids for plumbing. Chief Thompson said we are waiting on some Eagle County Permits. Chief Thompson said the final training tower design has been ordered. Chief Thompson said we are 6 weeks out on the steel maintenance building. Chief Thompson said the last bid we need should be concrete for the training tower.

-Chief Thompson said he is working with Gail Swartz from Habitat for Humanity to build box homes for our employees outside Station 42. Chief Thompson said the houses are built in Rifle. Chief Thompson said we are expecting two-bedroom units in hopes of having unit's employees can buy or rent.

-Chief Thompson said so far there are no takers on the Glenwood Springs L3 housing.

Finance Report: Finance Director Thompson said the builders are billing out to become two separate bills eventually for Pitkin County and Roaring Fork Fire rescue for the 911 portion of the building.

- Finance Director Thompson brought up the L3 investment in Glenwood Springs. Finance Director Thompson reminds the Board that the money is tied up. Secretary Diamond will do a last call for the L3 housing which gives them 30 more days to see if anyone is interested in the housing opportunity.

- Finance Director Thompson reviewed issues with pinnacle. Finance Director Thompson said we added three employees last year, but they never adjusted to our numbers, it should even out at the end of the year.

- Finance Director Thompson said she is more unsatisfied with our ambulance billing as they are not communitive. Finance Director Thompson said we may need to request a proposal for a new ambulance billing provider.

HR Report: HR Director Thomas told the Board that last week they did an assessment center for two fulltime firefighters/ EMS. HR Director Thomas said the seasonal wildland and facilities director positions closed. HR Director Thomas said we also posted for a Lieutenant.



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Fire Marshal Report: None

Richard Cornelius Report: Deputy Chief Cornelius told the Board that January was busy with 350 incidents, a 31% increase. Deputy Chief Cornelius said EMS was down, but our false incident type was 49%, and good intent was an 80% increase due to power incidents.

- Deputy Chief Cornelius advised him and Cody are going to Creswell's as the first Wildland 3 truck is nearly completed; the final inspection is on March 4, followed by delivery. Deputy Chief Cornelius said the second and third, coming in April, will be moved to the production floor when we get the first one; we will get it in mid-2025 via freight delivery. Deputy Chief Cornelius said the mini pumper will arrive in 2025, and the new Ambulance chassis was prepaid so we received a discount; we are expecting delivery in September or October.

- Deputy Chief Cornelius said the 25-10 88 bills will impact group ambulance services and will eliminate balance billing. Deputy Chief Cornelius said if it passes, it will eliminate balance billing for anything over 325% Medicare. Deputy Chief Cornelius told the Board we are very close to the Medicare amount, and if they do change, we will be classified as super rural, our rates are close to what they allow.

Discussion

Board Member Comments: Finance Director told the Board we should have wildfire money due to us by March.

Public Comments: None

Master Plan: None

Staff Comments: None

Old Business: Chief Thompson told the Board there are no more volunteer meetings. Chief Thompson said the Volunteers have restructured to have small, short meetings followed by training, and work shifts. Chief Thompson said the change is a work in progress. Chief Thompson said they are having a Hope Center meeting tonight with the crew.

Adjournment: Board Member Duroux motioned to end the meeting. Board Member Young seconded the motion and the meeting ended at 10:13 all in favor none opposed.

To watch in full: https://youtu.be/lxcjN_HTZco