

**RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS FOR THE
COLORADO RIVER FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT
PUBLIC HEARING ON 2023 BUDGET**

OCTOBER 11, 2022

STATION 64, 775 CASTLE VALLEY BLVD., NEW CASTLE, CO 81647

The Public Hearing on the proposed 2023 Budget was called to order by Chairperson Lambert at 6:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL:

Board Members Present:

Alan Lambert, President/Chairperson
Addy Marantino, Secretary (Via Conference Call)
Dick Miller, Director
Levy Burris, Treasurer

Board Members Absent:

Matt Weisbrod, Vice President (Excused)

Others Present:

Leif Sackett, Fire Chief
Zach Pigati, Operations/Wildland Division Chief (Via Conference Call)
Scott Van Slyke, EMS/Training Division Chief
Orrin Moon, Prevention Division Chief
John Gredig, IT Director
Dino Ross, Legal Counsel for the District
Sarah Abbott, Legal Counsel for the District
Bill Smith, Lieutenant (Via Conference Call)
Matt Messner, Battalion Chief (Via Conference Call)

PUBLIC HEARING AGENDA:

a. Approach to Preparing Proposed 2023 Budget

Fire Chief Sackett reviewed the philosophy behind the District's approach in preparing the proposed 2023 Budget. He stated that the District's assessed valuations for this year are greater than expected. Chief Staff is working to determine what is the best approach for meeting the District's current and future needs. He informed the Board that Colorado has seen an approximately 8.2% rise in inflation from August of last year to August of this year. The highest rate of inflation has occurred for Colorado families, including transportation and housing costs. The proposed 2023 budget includes a cost-of-living adjustment (COLA), which would increase wages for District personnel by 15%. Chief staff also would like to hire additional three additional line personnel, a Fire Inspector to assist Division Chief Moon, and a Wildland Battalion Chief.

Fire Chief Sackett stated the last time the District conducted a wage survey was in 2018 - 2019. The goal was to get all personnel to the 75th percentile of wages being paid by comparable fire agencies. Chief Staff considered conducting another wage survey to receive up-to-date information; however, the costs associated with conducting another wage survey is above the Fire Chief's spending authority, so the Board would have to approve conducting another wage survey. An Ambulance Fee Schedule is not included in the proposed 2023 Budget because the Board has not yet approved a Fee Schedule. Another factor Chief Staff is reviewing is the District's capital replacement program. The District is expected to receive an ambulance in 24 months and the District is also looking to acquire an engine in about 30 months.

Director Burriss asked several questions regarding the COLA increase, as well as hiring additional personnel. Operations/Wildland Division Chief Pigati clarified the duties and responsibilities for the proposed Wildland Battalion Chief position.

Further Board discussion ensued.

b. Review of Proposed 2023 Budget

The Board reviewed several items included in the proposed 2023 Budget. Fire Chief Sackett explained that the goal is to put around \$450,000 into reserves, however, the figure is subject to change, depending on what the Board decides to incorporate into the proposed 2023 Budget. IT Director Gredig clarified some figures regarding the IT budget. The Board also discussed an increase in Board stipends.

Fire Chief Sackett briefly discussed the Burning Mountain Volunteer Firefighter Pension Fund. The goal is to fund that Pension Fund to a level that will ensure past volunteers are receiving appropriate benefits that align with cost-of-living adjustments. He stated more information will be presented at the meeting of the Pension Boards next month.

Fire Chief Sackett and the Board discussed the importance of including a holiday party in the 2023 Budget to continue comradery for District personnel and their families. Fire Chief Sackett discussed the significant increase in purchases that are included in the proposed 2023 Budget. The Board also discussed the District's Honor Guard and Volunteer Fire Academy Program.

Fire Chief Sackett asked if the Board had any further questions. He mentioned that he planned on meeting with Vice President Weisbrod and Secretary Marantino to discuss the proposed 2023 Budget as they were not able to attend the meeting tonight.

Attorney Ross stated the Public Notice of Hearing on the proposed 2023 Budget was published in the Post Independent and Rifle Citizen Telegram accordingly. He also informed the Board that there were no public comments submitted.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

None.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no other business to come before the Board, Chairperson Lambert adjourned the Public Hearing on the proposed 2023 Budget at 6:29 p.m.

APPROVAL:

The foregoing Minutes, which has been approved by the affirmative majority vote of the Board of Directors of the Colorado River Fire Protection District, is a true and accurate record of the meeting held on the date stated above.

Date: Nov. 8, 2022



Date: 8 NOV 22

