

**RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS FOR THE
COLORADO RIVER FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
MAY 9, 2023
STATION 41, 1850 RAILROAD AVENUE, RIFLE, CO 81650**

The regularly scheduled meeting was called to order by Chairperson Lambert at 6:30 pm.

ROLL CALL:

Board Members Present:

Alan Lambert, President/Chairperson
Matt Weisbrod, Vice President
Dick Miller, Director
Levy Burris, Treasurer
Addy Marantino, Secretary

Others Present:

Leif Sackett, Fire Chief
Scott Van Slyke, EMS/Training Division Chief
Orrin Moon, Prevention Division Chief
John Gredig, IT Director
PJ Tillman, Administrative Director
Dino Ross, Legal Counsel for the District
Eric Davis (Via Online)
Bill Smith, Lieutenant (Via Online)
Grant Stewart, Lieutenant (Via Online)
Kevin Carlson, Lieutenant (Via Online)
Matt Messner, Battalion Chief (Via Online)

ADDITIONS/DELETIONS/CHANGES TO THE AGENDA:

None.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Treasurer Burris made a motion to accept the Consent Agenda as presented. Director Miller seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Curtis Patterson stated that he was with the Burning Mountains Fire Protection District since its inception, as well as the Silt and New Castle Fire Protection District. He stated that he retired from Burning Mountains Fire Protection District and was later retained by the Colorado River Fire Protection District (District) as a Volunteer Lieutenant. He stated that he is speaking today in regard to a LOSAP (Length of Service Award Plan) that was

provided for District volunteers. He stated that no one really knew how to get into it. With some investigation, it turns out that LOSAP has not been funded since 2016. He explained the criteria that must be met by volunteers to qualify for the LOSAP, including 288 hours of on-duty time as well as 36 hours of training time. Curtis Patterson stated that he is requesting information on the status of the District's LOSAP.

LEGAL COUNSEL UPDATE:

Attorney Ross stated that he assisted with putting together a LOSAP Resolution, which will be discussed later in the Board meeting. Attorney Ross stated that he also drafted a Resolution terminating the Board's prior Resolution making a declaration of a local disaster emergency related to the COVID pandemic. Attorney Ross stated that the Colorado Legislative Session ended last night. Attorney Ross briefly went over important Bills that were passed this Legislative Session. Attorney Ross stated that he will be fully briefing the Board in the upcoming months on significant Bills that have become law in 2023.

FIRE CHIEF REPORT:

Fire Chief Sackett reviewed his report with the Board and stated there was a New Business Action Item to (a) review and consider a Resolution to execute the FMLD Apparatus Lift Jacks Mini-Grant and (b) review and consider a Resolution regarding the District's LOSAP. Fire Chief Sackett stated that there were Old Business Items to (a) update the Board on rebuilding/replacing Station 61; and, (b) consider a Resolution terminating the Declaration of Local Disaster Emergency related to the pandemic, and (c) administer oaths to Adria Milton-Baker and Paige Haderlie, each of whom will be a four-year term through May 2027.

Fire Chief Sackett stated that he and Administrative Director Tillman have been working with CPS HR on completing the District's 2023 Wage Compensation Study. He stated the District is on pace to have results sometime at the end of June or the beginning of July 2023. Fire Chief Sackett stated there have been difficulties getting similar fire departments to participate in the Wage Compensation Study.

Fire Chief Sackett stated that with the closure of the 2023 Colorado Legislative Session nearing, he would like to communicate with the Garfield County representatives on SB 23-303. Fire Chief Sackett stated that this Bill was introduced late Monday night without any prior communication. Fire Chief Sackett stated that the Colorado State Fire Chiefs (CSFC) and the Special District Association (SDA) have been working tirelessly since the Bill's release to get as much information out as possible. Fire Chief Sackett stated that both entities have been communicating property tax options to the Governor's office since the beginning of this session.

Fire Chief Sackett stated that the Bill was a complete surprise to SDA and CSFC, as no indication was given that a Bill would be introduced. Chief Staff has been working diligently to figure out the negative effects the Bill will have on the District's future budgets. Fire Chief Sackett stated that the Garfield County 2022 Abstract used for budget preparations shows residential is down by 0.09%, vacant land is down by 3.9%, and agriculture land is

down by 1.5%. Fire Chief Sackett stated that the County's overall assessed valuation increased by 36.6% due to oil and gas having an 89% increase. This is significant because the District will not be eligible for any backfill during the timeframe outlined in the Bill.

Fire Chief Sackett stated he is thankful, appreciative, and grateful for the leadership and guidance Director Burris and Director Weisbrod provided to the District during their tenure as Board members.

NEW BUSINESS/ACTION ITEMS:

a. Fire Chief/Prevention: Review and Consider Resolution No. CRFPD 2023-05-01, FMLD Mini-Grant for Apparatus Lift Jacks

Fire Chief Sackett stated Resolution No. CRFPD 2023-05-01 is part of the process to execute a mini-grant that was awarded to the District from the Federal Mineral Lease District (FMLD). The District was awarded \$25,000 that would go towards the purchase of apparatus lift jacks. The Resolution states the District will work with the FMLD, own the apparatus lift jacks over the next 25 years or the useful life of the equipment, as well as maintain the equipment.

Vice President Weisbrod made a motion to approve Resolution No. CRFPD 2023-05-01. Director Miller seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

b. Fire Chief/Administration: Review and Consider Resolution No. CRFPD 2023-05-02, District Status of LOSAP Program

Fire Chief Sackett stated that Resolution No. CRFPD 2023-05-02 would approve and ratify the Board's decision not to make LOSAP contributions for calendar years 2014 through 2023.

Attorney Ross explained to the Board that the plan document expressly gives the Board sole discretion on whether to make a contribution to the LOSAP in a given year. Being eligible to participate in the LOSAP is very different from the Board's decision to contribute funds in a given year. The LOSAP does not require the Board to take any particular action in determining whether to make a contribution to the LOSAP. The Board's adopting a budget each year without approving a contribution to the LOSAP was an appropriate way for the Board to determine not to make a contribution to the LOSAP from 2014 through 2023.

Secretary Marantino made a motion to not approve Resolution No. CRFPD 2023-05-02. Vice President Weisbrod seconded the motion. Further Board discussion ensued. The motion failed.

Treasurer Burris made a motion to approve Resolution No. CRFPD 2023-05-02. Vice President Weisbrod seconded the motion. Further Board discussion ensued. The motion passed, with Secretary Marantino voting against the Motion.

c. Fire Chief/Administration: Administer Oaths to elected Board Members for the 05/2023 – 05/2027 Term

President Lambert administered the oath of office to Adria Milton-Baker for the term of May 2023 through May 2027.

President Lambert administered the oath of office to Paige Haderlie for the term of May 2023 through May 2027.

OLD BUSINESS/DISCUSSION ITEMS/FOLLOW-UP ITEMS:

a. Fire Chief/Operations/Prevention/Administration: Update on Station 61 Rebuild/Replacement Options

Fire Chief Sackett stated that Chief Staff met with the Town of Silt's Staff and had great conversations regarding the possibility of a public safety facility for both the District and the police. Board discussion followed. Chief Staff will present more information on the potential public safety facility at a future Board meeting.

b. Fire Chief/Administration Resolution No. CRFPD 2023-05-03, Resolution Ordering the Termination of the Declaration of Local Disaster Emergency

Attorney Ross stated that in March of 2020, the Board adopted a Resolution declaring a local disaster emergency due to COVID. Both the Biden Administration and Governor Polis have stated that they will end their respective declarations of a state of emergency due to COVID in June. As a consequence, there is no reason for the District to keep its declaration of local disaster emergency in place.

Following discussion, Vice President Weisbrod made a motion to adopt Resolution No. CRFPD 2023-05-03. Director Miller seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

OPERATIONS/WILDLAND UPDATES:

Fire Chief Sackett reviewed the highlights of Operations/Wildland Division Chief Pigati's monthly report, answering the Board's questions. A copy of the report is included in the Board packet.

EMS/TRAINING UPDATES:

EMS/Training Division Chief Van Slyke presented updates to his report. A copy of the report is included in the Board packet.

EMS Updates:

- He attended a Regional Medical Director Conference with Dr. Nichols, and various internal and external meetings.
- The application period for the Paramedic promotional process has closed. The District received two letters of interest from internal candidates. The Assessment Center will occur on May 26, 2023.
- Thanks to Ken McCracken for completing OB, Neonatal, and Geriatric training with all three District shifts.
- Paramedic Peters has been working with vendors to demo prehospital ultrasound capabilities.
- The District has requested an extension through CDPHE for the District's FY2023 ambulance grant. Currently, there are still over 800 ambulances ahead of the District, and the estimated completion is at least 12 months out.

Training Updates:

- Congratulations to Battalion Chief Messner and Lieutenant Stewart for obtaining their Fire Instructor II certification. Congratulations to Firefighter/Paramedic McKinnon for obtaining his Fire Officer I certification.
- The District crews logged 558 hours of training during the month of April.
- He continues developing a New Hire Orientation Academy with Lieutenant Hill and Engineer Werner.
- The District's Training Team has been instrumental. Thanks to Lieutenant Carlson for developing the hose deployment and live fire training that the crews will complete this month.
- He set up a Firefighter/DO Proctor course for Garfield and Pitkin Counties that will occur at the end of the month.
- He, Fire Chief Sackett, and Operations/Wildland Division Chief Pigati had conversations with Eagle River Fire Protection District about their potentially using the District's CPAT.

Director Miller asked when the new hires will start. Training/EMS Division Chief Van Slyke stated the new hires will start on June 5, 2023.

Treasurer Burris asked if the delay with the District's ambulance would affect the grant process. Training/EMS Division Chief Van Slyke stated that he completed a grant extension to help with the ambulance delay.

PREVENTION/FLEET/FACILITIES UPDATES:

Prevention Division Chief Moon presented the following updates to his report:

Prevention Projects:

Prevention Division Chief Moon received plans for the following projects:

- a new 30,000-square-foot airplane hangar for Atlantic Aviation Hangar at the airport.
- A fire sprinkler system in a new private five (5) bay hangar at the Garfield County Rifle Airport.
- Maverik fuel station at West Rifle I-70 Exit and Hwy 6. He submitted comments for the site plan and building permit.
- A proposed special event permit in the Town of Silt for the Risland Developer and Defiance Rafting to provide lunch and dinners for people who complete river rafting trips on the Colorado River.
- A commercial/residential subdivision in Silt, Colorado. There is more to come as plans evolve.
- A Land Use application to allow a Tesla charging station in the Sonic Fast food restaurant parking lot. They are proposing 12 electric vehicle charge stations on the south side of the parking lot..
- Conditional Use permit for a preschool to increase their number of students from 15 to 20 children. He is still reviewing this proposal.

Prevention Division Chief Moon and Kurt Lundin conducted a fire hydrant flow test for a fire sprinkler system on Airport Road. This flow test is for the new Tractor Supply Store. While conducting the test, they found that the fire hydrant's underground street valve was partially closed, so they had to get the City's Water Department to help get the valve open. He assisted the Town of Silt with a building occupancy issue of people living in an auto repair shop. The District helped the Town determine the fire code issues with the occupancy.

Inspections last month:

Prevention Division Chief Moon and Kurt Lundin completed the following inspections:

- A sprinkler system in the new Wapiti Commons on Smith Street in Rifle, Colorado.

- A. sprinkler system at the Eagle Ridge Town Homes in New Castle, Colorado. Prevention Division Chief Moon completed the fire alarm inspection on the same units two weeks ago.

Community Risk Reduction:

Community Risk Reduction Specialist Pina and the District crews covered the following activities since the last Board meeting:

- April 11, 2023 - Community Risk Reduction Specialist Pina conducted a skills verification for eight (8) personnel from the VA Hospital.
- April 17, 2023 – Station 64’s crews changed smoke detector batteries at a residence in New Castle, Colorado.
- April 20, 2023 – Eighty (80) kindergarteners from Cactus Valley Elementary came to Station 61 for a fire safety talk with Community Risk Reduction Specialist Pina and touch-a-truck with the crews.
- April 20, 2023 - Community Risk Reduction Specialist Pina conducted a skills verification for eight (8) personnel from the VA Hospital.
- April 22, 2023 - Community Risk Reduction Specialist Pina attended an Earth Day event at New Castle, Colorado, and gave away ‘Ready, Set, Go’ materials.
- April 24, 2023 - Community Risk Reduction Specialist Pina taught CPR to five (5) personnel from the VA Hospital.
- April 27, 2023 - Community Risk Reduction Specialist Pina taught CPR to nine (9) personnel from Interagency Fire.
- May 1, 2023 – Community Risk Reduction Specialist Pina went to Cactus Valley Elementary and did a fire safety talk. The crews conducted touch-a-truck with forty-eight (48) preschoolers.
- May 4, 2023 - Forty-two (42) Kathryn Senor Elementary kindergarteners visited Station 64 for a fire safety talk and a station tour with the crews.

Stations, Buildings, and Grounds:

Eric Davis has been working on the following:

- Completing outside chores.
- Helping the crews clean out the storage shed tent at Station 41.
- Preparing the confined space prop by pumping water and drying the space for the upcoming class in the middle of May.
- Conducting maintenance on dryer vents in the District’s stations.

- Changing batteries on card reader entrance doors at the District's stations.
- Servicing bay doors at Stations 64 and 42.
- Servicing lights and replacing old, stained ceiling tiles at the District's stations.
- Installing a new garden hose reel at Station 61.
- Completing electrical work at Station 41.

Prevention Division Chief Moon thanked Cody Lister, Kevin Carlson, Chris MacGregor, and Eric Davis for working on the Confined Space Prop. He was able to survey the condition of the underground pipe and compartment system. He will work throughout the summer to make the confined space more usable.

Apparatus Service and Maintenance:

- Kreig Kasten has been busy flushing the coolant system on Tender 61 from an oil leak that was repaired. He completed the DOT inspection. He is keeping busy with small, daily repairs on ambulances and engines.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY/DATA UPDATES:

IT Director Gredig provided an update on the prior month's activities:

- IT Director Gredig continues to work on the mapping project within the County. He is working with the 5-mile travel distances from each station and loading call volumes for each area.
- He is working on ImageTrend data capturing, data validity, and data presentation.
- He is working on the District's new Preplans and Inspection program. He is setting up inspection types and scheduling.
- He completed setting up the new seasonal personnel and assisted with their onboarding.
- He is working on proposals for a new phone system.
- The District's April 2023 Summary:
 - The District's monthly 911 call volume for 2022 was 229 compared to 186 in 2023, representing an 18.8% decrease. The District's total 911 call volume year-to-date (YTD) for 2022 was 800 compared to 816 in 2023, representing a YTD increase of 2.0%.
 - The District's total call volume for April 2022 was 238 compared to 199 in March 2023, representing a 16.4% decrease. The District's total call volume YTD for 2022 was 874 compared to 855 in 2023, representing a YTD increase of 2.8%. In both cases, for April and YTD total call volume, decreases were seen in almost all call types.

ADMINISTRATION/FINANCE UPDATES:

Administrative Director Tillman reviewed her monthly report and answered Board questions. A copy of her monthly report of activities is included in the Board packet.

DEPARTMENT GOOD NEWS:

Fire Chief Sackett went over a letter from the Town of New Castle and Environment Commission addressed to the Community Risk Reduction Specialist Pina. The letter thanked Community Risk Reduction Specialist Pina for the District's participation in the 2023 Earth Day event.

Fire Chief Sackett showcased thank you letters to both Operations/Wildland Division Chief Pigati and Administrative Director Tillman from the Fire Management Board, National Multi-Agency Coordinating Group, and National Wildfire Coordinating Group Executive Board for their participation in the Complex Incident Management pilot program during the 2022 fire season.

Fire Chief Sackett presented the District's Good News/Recognition notes to the Board:

- Chief Alvey, Lieutenant Hill, Lieutenant Koronkiewicz, Lieutenant Smith, Firefighter/EMT Richards, and Firefighter/EMT Archuleta performed admirably on a difficult call. The District was dispatched to a CPR in progress. Although the District's crew worked the call as trained, there was not a positive outcome. The District's crew members acted with empathy and compassion. They should be commended for their professionalism and care.
- Firefighter/Paramedic McKinnon, Firefighter/Paramedic Crow, Engineer Cahalan, and Firefighter/EMT Billing were proactive in their recertification process and completed all required training for their JPRs before the renewal period opened. Their dedication to training and assuring their records are up to date should be commended.
- IT Director Gredig, Firefighter/EMT Richards, Engineer Lister, Firefighter/EMT Costanzo, and Firefighter/EMT Archuleta came in or stayed after to provide coverage for the District during a wildland fire. The sacrifice of their time off to ensure the District remained covered should be commended.
- A citizen, Art Riddile, thanked Lieutenant Carlson and Engineer Lister for their quick response on Thursday, March 16, 2023, at Elk Creek Elementary. They stopped an anaphylaxis episode from getting worse.

Fire Chief Sackett presented a thank you card that was addressed to the crews that responded to a recent vehicle accident. The patients from the vehicle accident were very thankful for the support and care received from the District's crews.

Fire chief Sackett presented a thank you letter that he received for assisting citizens on the side of the road.

Fire Chief Sackett presented an appreciation plaque to both Treasurer Burris and Vice President Weisbrod for their years of service. He stated that the District is extremely appreciative of their leadership and guidance.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS:

Director Miller stated that he appreciates being a Board member of the District and having the opportunity to work with Treasurer Burris and Vice President Weisbrod. He appreciates being a part of the Board and knows it will be a tough act to follow with their departure.

Secretary Marantino thanked Treasurer Burris and Vice President Weisbrod for their service. It was nice working with them. She is excited to work with Paige Haderlie and Adria Milton-Baker next month. She thanked the District and the crews for their continued hard work and efforts.

President Lambert thanked Treasurer Burris and Vice President Weisbrod for their mentorship and efforts during their time as District Board members. He thanked them both for their years of service and stated that he was going to miss them dearly. The County's Sheriff's Department will be holding a first annual national police week flag ceremony on Monday, May 15, 2023, at 8:00 am. He extended invitations to the current Board, the future Board, and the District to attend that event.

Treasurer Burris stated that it has truly been an honor to work with both the Burning Mountains Fire Protection District and the Colorado River Fire Protection District. He has had the benefit of having a unique perspective, being out on the line and being with all the members of this District and the previous agencies. His experience has helped provide some insight for him to know where the District needed to be and what the Board needed to be doing. The District has gone through tough times with many transitions. He is proud of where the District is at this time, which is one of the only reasons he is willing to step down. He believes the District is in good hands and is really pleased with the Board and with the new members of the Board. He advised all to be safe and that he will see the District members out on the line.

Vice President Weisbrod thanked the District for its incredible service when responding to a Rifle High School Junior Varsity track meet. It was an unfortunate event with a hurdler. He commended the District's crews for showing up quickly and being extremely professional. He also thanked the District for their fast service during a bike accident last week with one of his neighbors. The District has gone through many changes throughout the years. The District has great people. He can step down now because the District is in a great position, and he knows the District will continue to move to bigger and better things.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no other business to come before the Board, Chairperson Lambert adjourned the meeting at 7:42 p.m.

APPROVAL:

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

Date: 13 June 23



Date: 13 June 2023

