

**RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS FOR THE
COLORADO RIVER FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

August 13, 2024

Station 64 775 Castle Valley Blvd. New Castle, CO 81647

Chairperson Lambert called the regularly scheduled meeting to order at 6:58 p.m.

ROLL CALL:

Board Members Present:

Alan Lambert, President

Dick Miller, Secretary

Adria Milton-Baker, Treasurer

Paige Haderlie, Director

Addy Bristol, Vice President (Via Conference Call)

Others Present:

Leif Sackett, Fire Chief

Orrin Moon, Prevention Division Chief

Scott Van Slyke, EMS/Training Division Chief

John Gredig, IT Director

PJ Tillman, Administrative Director

Dino Ross, Legal Counsel for the District (Via Conference Call)

Eric Davis, Facilities Manager (Via Conference Call)

ADDITIONS/DELETIONS/CHANGES TO THE AGENDA:

Attorney Ross requested the addition of a second item to the executive session agenda: the Fire Chief Performance Review.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Secretary Miller made a motion to approve the consent agenda. Director Haderlie seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

None.

LEGAL COUNSEL UPDATE:

Attorney Ross reported that over the past month his partner, Michelle Ferguson, and Chief Staff have worked on revising the handbook and policies, which will be presented to the Board in groups. Attorney Ross drafted a resolution urging a "no" vote on Initiatives 50 and 108, which is now ready for Board review.

FIRE CHIEF REPORT:

Chief Sackett provided a brief update, noting that this month the Board will review a resolution for a grant to replace asphalt at Station 41 and consider a resolution opposing Initiatives 50 and 108. The agenda includes discussing the District Board's bylaws and an executive session on station property replacement. The District has received a \$333,072 FEMA grant for climate vent exhaust systems, a major improvement for work conditions. The budgeting process for 2025 is underway, with initial numbers expected soon and health insurance renewals under review. Fire season is active, with increased incidents and ongoing Stage 1 fire restrictions.

NEW BUSINESS/ACTION ITEMS:

a. Fire Chief/Administration: Review and Consider Resolution supporting FMLD grant to replace Station 41 Training Ground Asphalt (No. CRFPD-2024-08-01)

The Board and Chief Staff discussed the need to replace the asphalt at Station 41's training ground, considering a resolution to support an FMLD Grant for this project. Concerns were raised about the exclusions in higher bids, the need for a detailed construction agreement, and bonding requirements. It was agreed that, while both companies under consideration are reputable, additional review and refinement are necessary. The consensus was to postpone further action until Spring, with a focus on preparing a comprehensive proposal and reviewing all details thoroughly before moving forward.

b. Fire Chief/Administration: Review and Consider adopting Resolution No. CRFPD-2024-08-02 opposing Initiative 50 and Initiative 108

The Board and Chief Sackett discussed a resolution opposing Initiatives 50 and 108, which could adversely affect the District's budget. Initiative 108 proposes reducing property assessment rates, which would decrease the District's funding, while Initiative 50 would cap annual revenue growth, further limiting financial resources. Chief Sackett highlighted that both initiatives would impact the District's ability to manage service levels and replace equipment. Following further discussion, Treasurer Milton-Baker made a motion to approve the Resolution CRFPD-2024-08-02. President Lambert seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS/DISCUSSION ITEMS/FOLLOW-UP ITEMS:

a. Fire Chief/Prevention/Administration: Review and Consider Adopting New Board Bylaws

The Board reviewed and considered adopting the Board Bylaws. Following discussion, Secretary Miller made a motion to adopt Board Bylaws. Director Haderlie seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

b. Fire Chief/Prevention/Administration: Review and Consider Adopting New Pension Board Bylaws

OPERATIONS/WILDLAND UPDATES:

Chief Sackett stated that Chief Pigati has been on deployment. Mods have been extremely busy this fire season. Additionally, the recent deployment team had a brief respite before heading back out, and they are currently stationed near Roseberg, Oregon.

EMS/TRAINING UPDATES:

EMS/Training Division Chief Van Slyke highlighted the successful completion of state-written exams at Station 41, where many personnel achieved significant certifications. Captain Carol and Lieutenant Olson received their live fire facility instructor certifications, while several others earned various levels of fire and emergency services certifications. Notably, new recruits have been advancing their qualifications, with all successfully completing the Firefighter I exam. The Board commended these achievements as vital contributions to the District's ongoing development and excellence.

PREVENTION/FLEET/FACILITIES UPDATES:

Prevention Division Chief Moon highlighted the completion of the new 34,500 square foot building at Garfield County's Atlantic Aviation facility, a significant development at the airport. This new structure is part of a larger expansion plan, with additional buildings planned in the future. He also highlighted ongoing public education efforts, including various community events and activities, with commendation for the crews involved.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY/DATA UPDATES:

IT Director Gredig noted that a power outage in Rifle led to some updates in the network infrastructure, but there was no data loss. The discussion shifted to planning for future

growth, emphasizing the need to track population increases and their impact on the budget.

ADMINISTRATION/FINANCE UPDATES:

Administrative Director Tillman reported she has been busy on deployment and working on wildland billing. She mentioned that everyone has been busy keeping up with the certifications and personal action forms.

DEPARTMENT GOOD NEWS:

Chief Sackett presented several recent accomplishments and recognitions. First, the South Canyon 30-Year Planning Committee sent a “thank you” card for the District’s support during their anniversary event. Next, a commendation was given for a crew’s exceptional service: during an EMS call, they not only transported a patient to the hospital but also filled his vehicle with gas and drove it to the hospital, paying for it out of their own pockets. Additionally, an email praised the Burning Mountain module for their excellent work on the Spears fire, noting their hard work and positive attitude. The email concluded with high praise for the District, recommending their team for future deployments.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS:

Vice President Bristol thanked the Board, staff, and crews for staying on top of everything and providing advocacy. She stated the staff always goes above and beyond and she appreciates it.

Treasurer Milton-Baker stated that she is very impressed with the District and wants to support it in any way possible.

Director Haderlie expressed her sincere gratitude for the crews' quick response to a property she manages, highlighting her admiration for the crew's efficiency. She also supported Vice President Bristol's remarks, adding her thanks to the Board, staff, and crews for their ongoing efforts and dedication.

Secretary Miller stated that he has been pleased with everyone at the District and thanked them for putting on the Ropes Course.

President Lambert reflected on historical challenges of balancing budgets and essential services. He praised the current Board and Chief Staff for their ongoing efforts to manage similar difficult decisions and provide necessary services to the community.

BREAK:

President Lambert called for a five-minute break.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Secretary Miller made a motion to go into executive session to discuss the potential acquisition of real property for the replacement of Station 61 pursuant to C.R.S 40-6-402(a) and (e) and regarding the Fire Chief's performance evaluation pursuant to C.R.S. 24-6-402 (4)(f). Treasurer Milton-Baker seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.


The Board went into executive session at 8:31 p.m. The Board came out of executive session at 9:50 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT:

With no other business to come before the Board, Chairperson Lambert adjourned the meeting at 9: 50 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: 9/10/2024 
Date: 10 Sept 2024 