RECORDING OF PROCEEDINGS

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors of the Adams County Fire Protection District,
held at the District’s Station 11, 1675 W 69th Avenue, Denver, CO 80229
Wednesday, September 21st, 2022

Board Members Present

   Ken Lombardi         President/Chairman
   Michael DeMattee     Vice President
   Mario Molinaro       Secretary
   Ken Ciancio          Assistant Secretary
   Joe Domenico         Treasurer

Also Present

   Troy Patterson       Deputy Chief
   Dave Baldwin         Deputy Chief
   Christina Marchese   Administrative Assistant
   Michelle Ferguson    District Legal Counsel

Absent

   Stuart Sunderland    Fire Chief

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Secretary Molinaro at 5:00 pm. The motion passed unanimously.

Moment of Silence

President Lombardi called for a moment of silence for the 71 fallen firefighters to date in 2022.

Pledge of Allegiance

President Lombardi led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Additions or Deletions to the Agenda

Since the audit of the District’s financial statements, the year ended December 31, 2021 (2021 Audit) was not ready to be presented to the Board, and President Lombardi amended the agenda to push the audit discussion to the budget workshop on October 12, 2022. President Lombardi stated that the Board needed to have a discussion regarding the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds. Assistant Secretary Ciancio made a motion to move the presentation and discussion of the 2021 Audit to the special meeting on October 12 and to add the discussion regarding the ARPA funds to the October 12 meeting’s agenda. Vice President DeMatteo seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Approval of the Previous Board Meeting Minutes

Secretary Molinaro made a motion to approve the minutes from the August 17, 2022, regular meeting, as presented in the Board Packet. Treasurer Domenico seconded the motion. The motion was passed unanimously.

Approval of August Financial Statement

Treasurer Domenico asked if the Board could see the percentages per account on the next report. Treasurer Domenico made a motion to approve the August financials as posted. Assistant Secretary Ciancio seconded the motion. The motion was passed unanimously.

Correspondence

Deputy Chief Patterson received a plaque on behalf of ACFR (Adams County Fire Rescue) at the Level Up Conference on September 15th as a sponsor for the conference. Jordan Long and Revital helped facilitate this conference for first responders to help with leadership, wellness, nutrition, fitness, and family relationships.
Public Comment (Agenda Items Only)

None

New Business

The 2021 Audit was not ready to be shared with the Board at this evening's meeting. Though it will be discussed at the October 12 work session, no action will be taken on the 2021 Audit until the regular meeting on October 19. Since there was a delay in the 2021 Audit, Finance and Accounting Associate Ciancio will work on filing the necessary forms with the Colorado State Auditor to get an extension for the 2021 Audit. The auditors will be at the workshop meeting. Treasurer Domenico made the motion to extend the approval of the 2021 Audit until the October 19 Board meeting. Assistant Secretary Ciancio seconded the motion. The motion was passed unanimously.

Old Business

The District sent an invoice to Adams County to receive the ARPA funds, which should be received by the District soon. Originally, the Board was under the impression that the administration members would get the matching funds that were from March 2020 to December 2020 if they were employed by the District during this timeframe. The Board would like the administration employees, which includes prevention, to be paid the same benefit the line members will receive from the ARPA funds, totaling a cost of $48,000 to the District. Treasurer Domenico made the motion to withdraw the previous payout option of paying employees who were here after the 2020 Covid/ARPA timeframe and move forward with paying the 18 administration employees who were here in March 2020 to December 2020 to be consistent with the ARPA funds received for line-employees. Assistant Secretary Ciancio seconded the motion. The motion was passed unanimously.

Executive Chiefs' Report

Treasurer Domenico asked Deputy Chief Patterson whether the District will need to increase or adjust the mill levy due to changes in the Residential Assessment Rate. Deputy Chief Patterson said he will pass this question to Chief Sunderland. Attorney Ferguson stated the District can adjust its mill levy pursuant to the revenue stabilization ballot question that was passed by the District’s voters whenever the mill levy changes take effect based on the recent legislation.

President Lombardi asked for an update on CAD-to-CAD. When Broomfield came online there was a problem with automatic vehicle location (AVL) and TabletCommand. The crews were having to call in over the radio when they went in route. President Lombardi asked why Broomfield was using CAD-to-CAD and Deputy Chief Baldwin stated that the District sometimes assists them with mutual aid, but North Metro Fire Rescue District covers part of Broomfield as well. It took about a day to work out the kinks and ADCOM was able to reset the system and the problem was fixed.

President Lombardi asked about the Battle of the Badges hockey game. Deputy Chief Patterson explained that it is an event hosted by Revital and all proceeds go back to them. The two teams are made up of firefighters and police officers. This year, the District has 4 members participating, and there are 9 agencies represented. The game is on Saturday, October 1 at 7 pm at the Sports Stable in Superior. It will be a lot of fun.

Deputy Chief Patterson updated the Board regarding Engine 11 repairs. Diversified has all the parts and is beginning the repair, but the Engine still has an issue at the back. Pierce will look at the engine to determine why the back end is now off by 5/8 of an inch, and provide solutions to get the engine back in service. Deputy Chief Patterson mentioned to the Board that the cost of a new engine has gone up by $200,000 compared to the one the District purchased in January. When then next engine is ordered, it will cost $1.2 million. Non-custom engines cost $30,000 less and maybe the District needs to look at other options on engines. It now takes roughly 2 years to get new engines.

President Lombardi asked Deputy Chief Patterson about the Lateral Paramedics and how that process was going. Deputy Chief Patterson stated that the District has made 3 conditional offers and 2 people have accepted the offer. They will begin the new hire process and start the lateral academy in late October.

Deputy Chief Patterson updated the Board regarding Public Safety Answers which will be helping with the next group of candidates for the spring academy in 2023. This new process costs less than COFire. So far, 18 candidates have applied. The minimum age is 21 to be hired by the District. The District is looking to hire 5-6 people who will attend the North Area Academy in March 2023.

Deputy Chief Patterson wanted to express his gratitude to the ACFR Honor Guard for their participation in the IAFF Fallen Firefighter Memorial in Colorado Springs. For the past two years, they
weren’t able to hold the ceremony due to COVID, so this year’s event encompassed three years’ worth of names to be enshrined on the memorial wall.

Treasurer Domenico was surprised to hear that Stations 12 and 13 do not have cameras. Deputy Chief Patterson is working to figure out a solution to make sure they are covered. The Prevention office has cameras and a couple of weeks ago, Adams County Sheriff’s Office (ASCO) was investigating a shooting nearby, and requested the footage from the District's cameras to help with their investigation.

Deputy Chief Baldwin mentioned to the Board that the District is reviewing the data regarding Auto Aid Given/Received and possibly thinking about going to a tiered dispatching system based on call types. Closest unit dispatching is becoming an issue and the District is looking at ALPHA/BRAVO calls for primary units unless their closest unit isn't more than 5 minutes away. This issue has been part of all the North Area Chiefs meetings (Fire Chiefs, Operations Chiefs, and Dispatch teams) to discuss what call types are dispatched based on the closest unit.

Vice President DeMattee asked Deputy Chief Baldwin if the amount of calls the District is responding to that are in South Adams County Fire Protection District (SAC)’s territory is about the same as before the closest unit dispatching. Deputy Chief Baldwin mentioned that auto aid regarding medical calls could become an issue if Platte Valley Ambulance, which provides service to SAC, cannot handle the volume of calls.

Deputy Chief Baldwin mentioned that the line staff just went through active shooter training with ACSO. Two days were at the Grizzly Rose and one day was at Runam Middle School. This training was successful for all parties involved. The ACSO Commander was with the Battalion Chiefs at the command post, while the crews worked with the deputies. Deputy Chief Baldwin acknowledged EMS Lieutenant Schwindt for developing a great training that will benefit the crews in the future. ACSO will be holding their own Active Shooter training and the District will help with it. Deputy Chief Baldwin reiterated that every engine, truck, ambulance, SAM (Safety and Medical Officer), and BC have protective gear for active shooter situations.

Deputy Chief Baldwin updated the Board about EMS Billing. APEX is doing great with the billing process and the numbers are looking good. There are still a few accounts with EMS Billing Solutions but they are starting to dwindle.

Deputy Chief Baldwin informed the Board that EMS Chief Schultz has submitted the paperwork for the Medicaid Reimbursement. EMS Chief Schultz is unsure of the exact amount the District will receive but it could be over a million dollars.

Deputy Chief Baldwin stated that the Ice Cream Social that took place at Station 11 on a B Shift Day went very well. ACSO and folks from Adams County Government Services were there to highlight what those governmental organizations could do for the residents of Adams County, including things like a trailer full of outdoor tools people can rent from the County. The station crew gave multiple tours to the community, which was great because the District couldn’t have an open house when Station 11 opened, due to COVID. There were approximately 400 people that attended this event.

Attorney’s Report

Attorney Ferguson discussed the Family and Medical Leave Insurance program, (FAML). Local governments like the District may opt out of the State-run insurance program. She has prepared the necessary documents for opting out. The Board will need to hold a public hearing on opting out, before making its final decision and, if appropriate, starting the opt-out process.

Attorney Ferguson discussed Westminster’s annexation. The District has not received any further information regarding the annexation, nor do they have a clear idea of what property or properties are in question. Attorney Ferguson stated that by statute, municipalities have the right to annex property and exclude it from a special district. She will update the Board with any information that comes in regarding this matter.

Attorney Ferguson mentioned Chief Sunderland’s third quarter check-in with the Board is scheduled for a meeting held while he will be attending the Leadership Conference in Keystone. She recommended that Chief Sunderland’s third and fourth-quarter check-ins be combined at the fourth-quarter meeting. The Board agreed.

Union Report

Firefighter Donner represented the union members at this meeting and had nothing to add to the written report.
Director's Report

President Lombardi: Stated that he learned a lot of information at the SDA Conference in Keystone.

Vice President DeMattee: Expressed thanks to District personnel who participated in Welby days at Rotello Park.

Secretary Molinaro: Nothing to report

Assistant Secretary Ciancio: Nothing to report

Treasurer Domenico Nothing to report

Adjournment

With no further business to come before the Board, on a motion by Assistant Secretary Ciancio and a second by Treasurer Domenico at 5:56 pm, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting.

Ken Lombardi, President

Mario Molinaro, Secretary