

**RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS FOR THE
COLORADO RIVER FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
July 9, 2024
Station 41, 1850 Railroad Ave, Rifle, CO 81650**

Chairperson Lambert called the regularly scheduled meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

ROLL CALL:

Board Members Present:

Alan Lambert, President
Dick Miller, Secretary
Adria Milton-Baker, Treasurer
Addy Bristol, Vice President
Paige Haderlie, Director (Via Conference Call)

Others Present:

Leif Sackett, Fire Chief (Via Conference Call)
Orrin Moon, Prevention Division Chief
Scott Van Slyke, EMS/Training Division Chief
John Gredig, IT Director
PJ Tillman, Administrative Director (Via Conference Call)
Dino Ross, Legal Counsel for the District (Via Conference Call)
Eric Davis, Facilities Manager (Via Conference Call)
Jonathan Baker, Lieutenant (Via Conference Call)
Johanna Remster, Senior Audit Associate (Via Conference Call)
Kortnie Valencia, Administrative Support Assistant

ADDITIONS/DELETIONS/CHANGES TO THE AGENDA:

Director Tillman requested that item C on the Consent Agenda regarding the June 2024 Financial Reports be pulled from the Consent Agenda and moved to the Board meeting on August 13, 2024.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Secretary Miller made a motion to approve the consent agenda as modified. Treasurer Milton-Baker seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

None.

LEGAL COUNSEL UPDATE:

Attorney Ross reported that there were no legal matters during the last 30 days that need to be brought to the Board's attention.

FIRE CHIEF REPORT:

Chief Sackett provided a brief update on Station 61. He stated that an executive session on the matter was not needed for tonight's meeting; however, executive sessions on the Station 67 matter will be necessary in the future. Chief Sackett highlighted the Fire District successful first firefighter Academy, which started with nine recruits in April and concluded with all nine recruits graduating. Chief Sackett thanked the Board for their immense support of the Academy. He also reported progress on the District's application for the Assistance to Firefighters Grant. The District made it through the peer reviews. Now, the District needs to complete an environmental and historic preservation screening. Regarding fire management, Chief Sackett, Chief Moon, and Chief Pigatti have started participating in weekly fire restriction calls with the Upper Colorado River Fire Agencies to keep up on fire restrictions. The report closed with optimism about Colorado River Fire Rescue's future and excitement for the new Academy graduates.

NEW BUSINESS/ACTION ITEMS:

a. Fire Chief/Administration: Review of Audit of 2023 Financial Statements (Haynie and Company)

Johanna Remster reported that their audit of the District's 2023 financial statements is substantially completed, pending receipt of the signed management representation letter and a letter from the District's legal counsel. She informed the Board that an email had been sent regarding the letters. Ms. Remster then presented highlights from the audited 2023 financial statements. Following the presentation, Treasurer Milton-Baker motioned to approve the 2023 Financial Audit Report presented by Haynie and Company. Secretary Miller seconded the motion. The motion passed.

OLD BUSINESS/DISCUSSION ITEMS/FOLLOW-UP ITEMS:

a. Fire Chief/Prevention/Administration: Review and update on the replacement of Station 61

Chief Sackett provided a general update on the evaluation of potential properties for Station 61. An executive session will be needed at the August Board meeting to discuss property appraisals and receive advice of legal counsel. Appraisals for two key properties have been completed, and Station 61's appraisal is in progress. The Board will receive updates on these appraisals and the recommended next steps.

OPERATIONS/WILDLAND UPDATES:

EMS/Training Division Chief Van Slyke provided an update on the current fires in the area and the deployment status of the Wildland Division crew on behalf of Operations/Wildland Chief Pigati, who is currently at the Jewell Lane fire.

EMS/TRAINING UPDATES:

EMS/Training Division Chief Van Slyke provided updates on EMS and training. He mentioned that Firefighter/MEDIC Chelsea Johnson earned his Fire Officer 1 certification, and Firefighter/EMT James Noah achieved his Driver/Operator/Pumper certification. The recruit academy, which concluded with graduation on June 28th, was a significant success, featuring strong participation and support from recruits and their families. Captain Carroll and Engineer Lister received commendations for their exceptional efforts throughout the 13 weeks.

PREVENTION/FLEET/FACILITIES UPDATES:

Prevention Division Chief Moon provided an update on various matters. Significant new projects include the development of the Big O Tire facility on Airport Rd, which is progressing with underground sprinkler lines installed and parking lot preparation underway. The project will feature a two-story building with employee housing. Plans are also under review for a new hotel and commercial units on Highway 335 in New Castle. The team has been actively conducting food truck inspections and participating in senior citizen barbecues throughout the valley. Additionally, Facility Manager Eric Davis has addressed weed issues around Station 41. The Wildland crew is developing new specifications for a Type 6 engine to replace a malfunctioning unit.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY/DATA UPDATES:

IT Director Gredig reported that he is working with a company called Pano AI and Xcel Energy, which installs cameras at strategic locations to check potential wildfires. He and Chief Sackett also attended a Newcastle Town Council meeting to present mapping information related to mitigation efforts. Additionally, he reported that call volumes remain consistent with last year, showing only a slight decrease in 911 calls.

ADMINISTRATION/FINANCE UPDATES:

Administrative Director Tillman reported her deployment as Finance Section Chief to both Twin Lakes and Alaska Fire. She also noted that she and Administrative Support Assistant Valencia will be busy preparing personnel action forms for the recruits transitioning into their new positions.

DEPARTMENT GOOD NEWS:

Chief Sackett presented a letter from the Garfield County Library expressing gratitude to Orin Moon and Kurt Lundin for their training efforts. He also noted that KKCO news

channel from Grand Junction featured photos shared on social media of CRFR's Wildland Division team at the Alaska fire.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS:

Vice President Bristol thanked everyone for their flexibility for the Board meeting, acknowledging the high demands of the ongoing local fires. She also thanked Captain Carroll and Engineer Lister for the thank you card, although she should have given them a thank you card.

Treasurer Milton-Baker seconded what Vice President Bristol had to say.

Secretary Miller thanked the crew at Station 64 for recently helping him with his fire alarms that were acting up.

President Lambert acknowledged that we have an amazing crew at Colorado River Fire Rescue and thanked everyone for all their work.

ADJOURNMENT:

With no other business to come before the Board, Chairperson Lambert adjourned the meeting at 7:33 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: August 13, 2024



Date: 8/13/ 2024

