

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

**June 11, 2024**

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

Chairperson Lambert called the regularly scheduled meeting to order at 6:45 p.m.

**ROLL CALL:**

**Board Members Present:**

Alan Lambert, President  
Dick Miller, Secretary  
Adria Milton-Baker, Treasurer  
Paige Haderlie, Director

**Board Members Absent:**

Addy Bristol, Vice President

**Others Present:**

Leif Sackett, Fire Chief  
Zach Pigati, Operations/Wildland Division Chief  
Orrin Moon, Prevention Division Chief  
John Gredig, IT Director  
PJ Tillman, Administrative Director  
Colin Mason, FF/Medic  
Dino Ross, Legal Counsel for the District (Via Video Conference)

**ADDITIONS/DELETIONS/CHANGES TO THE AGENDA:**

NONE

**CONSENT AGENDA:**

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

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

None.

**LEGAL COUNSEL UPDATE:**

Attorney Ross provided a detailed discussion of the property tax reduction provisions in SB24-233, which Governor Polis has signed into law. SB24-233 will not take effect if either

Proposition 50 or Proposition 108 pass at the November 2024 statewide election. As a result, Chief Staff will probably need to prepare two budgets because it will not be known which law applies until after the election.

#### **FIRE CHIEF REPORT:**

Fire Chief Sackett reviewed new and old action items to be discussed. The Chief also shared that Holy Cross presented plans to work with local fire departments in Garfield, Pitkin, and Eagle Counties on potential power grid shutdowns during high wind and fire danger periods. They plan to discuss it at the next Regional Chiefs meeting. Discussions also began about a proposed road expansion at Garfield County Airport, impacting current facilities and parking. Initial steps include talks with agencies like the Forest Service and BLM for environmental and legal considerations. With increasing dryness, fire activity is rising in the District, prompting readiness measures.

#### **NEW BUSINESS/ACTION ITEMS:**

**a. Fire Chief/Administration: Review and Consider Approval of 2023 Supplemental Budget and Resolution No. CRFPD-2024-06-01**

Fire Chief Sackett stated that this resolution ensures the proper allocation of these funds within the budget framework. Secretary Miller made a motion to approve CRFPD 2024-06-01, which Director Paige Haderlie seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

**b. Fire Chief/Operations/Administration: Review and Consider adopting a Wildland Fire Module Captain**

Chief Pigati presented the proposal to the Board for adopting a Wildland Fire Module Captain. He highlighted the significance and advantages that appointing a Wildland Fire Module Captain would bring to Colorado River Fire Rescue. Director Haderlie motioned to approve the establishment of the position, which was seconded by Secretary Miller. The motion passed unanimously.

#### **OLD BUSINESS/DISCUSSION ITEMS/FOLLOW-UP ITEMS:**

**a. Fire Chief/Administration: Review and Consider Updated District Board Bylaws.**

These matters were discussed last month, and Vice President Bristol requested additional time for review and questions. Since she is absent today, Chief Sackett proposed deferring the discussion to the August Board meeting, when the meetings

of the Pension Boards will also occur. Secretary Miller made the motion to table until the August Board meeting review and consideration of the updated District Bylaws, which was seconded by Treasurer Milton Baker. The motion passed unanimously.

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

Chief Sackett provided updates regarding Station 61 and potential new fire station locations. It was noted that Station 61's current design is inadequate for a full-time response model due to its origins as a volunteer station. Chief Sackett presented two other possible locations for a new facility: Cactus Valley and 1st St, and Highway 6 and 16th St. Considerations included proximity to schools and noise levels from nearby railroad tracks. Funding options and timing were also discussed. Additionally, there was deliberation on the project's priority level, with considerations for current environmental and operational challenges.

**OPERATIONS/WILDLAND UPDATES:**

Operations/Wildland Division Chief Pigati reported the current deployment of teams to assist with wildfires in New Mexico and West Texas. The District's team has been performing exceptionally despite challenging conditions. There was also mention of discussions with Broward County regarding funding opportunities for mitigation efforts.

**EMS/TRAINING UPDATES:**

Chief Sackett stated that EMS/Training Division, Chief VanSlyke was not present. Chief Sackett congratulated Robert Fields on obtaining his Fire 1 Instructor certification. The Chief Sackett noted that the FLD ballistic grant was approved, and Battalion Chief Merriam already ordered the equipment, which arrived recently. The Fire Academy is nearing completion, with Graduation scheduled for June 28th, pending confirmation of specific timing details to be communicated to the Board of Directors shortly.

**PREVENTION/FLEET/FACILITIES UPDATES:**

Prevention Division Chief Moon presented his report, focusing on upcoming initiatives. He discussed plans for a new 63,000-square-foot Habitat for Humanity facility near the sewer plant, where they plan to construct modular homes despite a recent grant denial. Additionally, he highlighted ongoing efforts in fire safety education and public safety, led by Maria Nechkash and Kurt Lundin in collaboration with local organizations.

**INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY/DATA UPDATES:**

IT Director Gredig reviewed updates on transitioning to the National Emergency Response Information System. Vendors received information about their implementation to start submitting data by January 1, 2025, aiming for a full transition by January 2026. Director Gredig mentioned he changed incident reporting, focusing on year-to-date comparisons rather than month-to-month changes. Year-to-date statistics show a 4.1% increase in 911 calls and a 7.1% rise overall, driven by increased wildland mitigation projects and improved tracking efforts.

**ADMINISTRATION/FINANCE UPDATES:**

Administrative Director Tillman mentioned her recent focus on preparing the 2023 Supplemental Budget. She also reviewed the audit findings with the auditors and submitted the annual firefighter trust renewal roster.

**DEPARTMENT GOOD NEWS:**

Chief Sackett highlighted a recent badge-pinning ceremony celebrating promotions and new organizational roles. He told of an email from an individual at Glenwood Springs Fire Department expressing gratitude for CRFR's assistance during an incident on County Road 137, emphasizing the positive impact on the patient's wife.

**OTHER BUSINESS:**

Secretary Miller made a motion to excuse Vice President Bristol from the meeting. Director Haderlie seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS:**

Secretary Miller expressed how he enjoyed yesterday's pinning ceremony presentation. He also said he stopped by Station 43 and received a tour from a top-notch young man.

Treasurer Milton-Baker expressed her admiration for the pinning ceremony and was delighted to see all the families present to show their support.

Director Haderlie conveyed appreciation to everyone for keeping everyone informed and sharing updates on the priority status of Station 61. Additionally, she expressed her satisfaction with the progress and achievements at the academy.

President Lambert acknowledged the privilege of working with such a professional team. He thanked everyone for their contributions to the organization.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

With no other business to come before the Board, Chairperson Lambert adjourned the meeting at 8:17 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: July 9, 2024

Stacy Lambert

Date: July 9 2024

Richard Smith