

**RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS FOR THE
COLORADO RIVER FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
May 14, 2024
STATION 41, 1850 Railroad Avenue, 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

Board Members Absent:

Paige Haderlie, Director (joined Via Conference Call at 7:33 pm)

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
Tim Nix, Wildland/Battalion Chief
Dino Ross, Legal Counsel for the District (Via Conference Call)
Eric Davis, Facilities Manager (Via Conference Call)
Bill Smith, (Via Conference Call)

A motion was made by Secretary Miller and seconded by Treasurer Milton-Baker to excuse Director Haderlie from the meeting.

ADDITIONS/DELETIONS/CHANGES TO THE AGENDA:

An action item needs to be inserted under agenda item 5, an update on the PERA disaffiliation. This action item will be labeled as 5f.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Vice President Bristol 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 highlighted that a lot of time was spent on the PERA affiliation project only to find that the disaffiliation study that PERA had conducted stated that the District would have to pay PERA approximately \$400,000 to disaffiliate from PERA. Obviously, the amount of money made disaffiliation financial untenable. As a result Chief Staff decided to terminate the disaffiliation process and keep the employees under PERA.

FIRE CHIEF REPORT:

Fire Chief Sackett reviewed action items, including executing a resolution for the Mini grant from the Federal Mineral Lease District, approving a purchase order for tech gear, and discussing updates to the purchasing policy. The Board members were informed about upcoming workshops held by the Special District Association (SDA) on June 11th and 12th, with locations in Clifton and Vail respectively, and were invited to attend. The discussion also addressed rearranging sections within policies, ensuring easy access to important policies such as discrimination and harassment. Furthermore, positive developments were noted, including growth within the organization and progress with the Academy and seasonal recruitment.

NEW BUSINESS/ACTION ITEMS:

a. Fire Chief/ Operations: Review and Consider FMLD Mini Grant Resolution NO 2024-05-02 Ballistic Gear

EMS/Training Division Chief Vanslyke requested that the Board assess and authorize the procurement of Ballistic Gear, with the understanding that reimbursement would follow. This proposal aims to supply each station with 8 sets of gear. Vice President Bristol made a motion to approve Resolution 2024-05-02, which Treasurer Milton-Baker seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

b. Fire Chief/Operations: Review and Consider Tech Gen Gear PO

Chief Sackett proposes a change in gear protocol, suggesting bunker gear be reserved for firefighting and introducing separate gear for other emergencies. A grant from the Division of Fire Prevention Control will pay for half the budgeted cost, with bids received from suppliers. Chief Staff recommended purchasing from Sea-Western Inc. firefighting equipment for full-time firefighters, with plans to budget for volunteers and part-timer employees next year. Chief Staff is seeking the Board's approval to purchase gear through Sea-Western. Following discussion, Secretary Miller motioned approve purchase of the Tech Gear from Sea-Western, which was seconded by Vice President Bristol. The motion passed unanimously.

c. Fire Chief/Operations: Review and Consider New Bunker Gear PO

Chief Sackett stated that Chief Staff wants to keep replenishing CRFR's bunker gear, especially with our nine new recruits coming on-board. Chief Staff received two quotes, and Sea-Western offered the best price. Following discussion, Vice President Bristol made a motion to approve the purchase of new bunker gear from Sea-Western, which was seconded by Secretary Miller. The motion passed unanimously.

d. Fire Chief/Administration: Review and Consider Updated District Purchasing and P-Card Policies

Chief Sackett requested the Board consider increasing the Staff purchasing limits on P-Cards due to the rising costs of goods. Sometimes, equipment, parts, or other items need to be ordered immediately instead of going through the approval process. Vice President Bristol suggested there be more funding, finances, and spending training. Chief Sackett asked the Board for authority to update the Purchasing and P-Card policy. The consensus of the Board was for Chief Staff to prepare proposed updated Purchasing and P-Card policy for consideration by the Board.

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

Attorney Ross reviewed the proposed Updated Board Bylaws and answered the Board's questions. Following discussion, the consensus of the Board to continue this matter to the June Board meeting.

f. Fire Chief/Administration: Review Resolution 2024-05-01 to terminate disaffiliation of PERA.

Chief Sackett stated that Chief Staff is recommending that the disaffiliation process be terminated because it does not make fiscal sense to pay \$411,000 to disaffiliate. Vice President Bristol made a motion to adopt Resolution 2024-05-01, which was seconded by Secretary Miller. The motion passed unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS/DISCUSSION ITEMS/FOLLOW-UP ITEMS:

Fire Chief/Administration: Review and Consider adopting the strategic plan.

Fire Chief Sackett reviewed the strategic plan with the Board's which incorporates the Board's changes from the previous meeting and asked if there were any other changes they wanted to make. There were no additional changes. Chief Sackett asked the Board to approve the strategic plan. Secretary Miller made a motion to approve the 2024 - 2029 Colorado Fire Rescue Strategic Plan. Vice President Bristol seconded it. The motion passed unanimously.

OPERATIONS/WILDLAND UPDATES:

Chief Sackett reviewed Operations/Wildland Division Chief Pigati's report. He reported that CRFR has been awarded the title of Wildland Fire Module 2, joining just two other agencies with that prestigious title. This year's wildland program is progressing with nineteen members dedicated to wildland operations. They are prepared for spring and summer fire season.

EMS/TRAINING UPDATES:

EMS/Training Division Chief Van Slyke recognized all the achievements this month, both academically within CRFR Staff and by the recruits. He stated that the Academy graduation is scheduled for June 28th, reminding everyone to mark their calendars for the important event.

PREVENTION/FLEET/FACILITIES UPDATES:

Prevention Division Chief Moon reviewed his report. He stated that the airport continues to be a focal point, with plans for additional hangars in progress, anticipating two to three more installations sometime this summer. Inspector Kurt Lundin is conducting restaurant inspections in Rifle after starting in Newcastle, marking a return to pre-COVID routines. Community Risk Reduction Specialist Maria Nechkash remains busy coordinating crew efforts, which was highlighted by a successful child safety fair. Maintenance efforts, particularly at the airport station, are being addressed, with Facilities Maintenance Technician Eric Davis overseeing necessary repairs and improvements. Fleet Mechanic Kreig Kasten remains busy addressing ongoing maintenance needs.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY/DATA UPDATES:

IT Director Gredig reviewed various projects underway, including collaborations with wildland teams and advancements in online mapping and communication systems. Efforts are also directed towards upgrading the outdated Fire Incident reporting system by January 1st, 2026. Meetings with software vendors are ongoing to facilitate this transition. Additionally, there is an 8.8% increase in call volume compared to the previous year, signaling a growing demand for services.

ADMINISTRATION/FINANCE UPDATES:

Administrative Director Tillman stated that the finance department has been busy with administrative duties, such as bill payments and onboarding seasonal staff. She added that an audit report on the District's 2023 financial statements is expected soon, prompting preparations for an amended budget for 2023. A final audit review is scheduled for July, pending Board approval.

DEPARTMENT GOOD NEWS:

Chief Sackett emphasized the diverse activities within the organization, acknowledging personnel's busy schedules and numerous ongoing projects. Key highlights included the Field Training Officer program and collaborative meetings at the station. Notably, the organization's social media presence, especially on Instagram, has been influential, with videos of competency drills garnering millions of views. The success is credited to the collective effort of everyone involved.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS:

Secretary Miller stated that he had a conversation with Captain Carol, and he acknowledged what a great job she was doing with the Academy.

Treasurer Milton-Baker expressed gratitude to Chief Van Slyke for his assistance in securing a grant for a defibrillator at the River Center in New Castle. They are all very thankful.

Vice President Bristol thanked everyone for the collective efforts put into all the recent activities.

President Lambert commended the crews; he knows how tough some of the calls are daily, and they keep going to the next one.

ADJOURNMENT:

With no other business to come before the Board, Chairperson Lambert adjourned the meeting at 8:18 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: 6/11/2024

John M. Lambert

Date: 6/11/24

Chadwick