

MINUTES
NORTH ROUTT FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT
Board of Directors Meeting
61915 County Road 129, Clark, Colorado

August 8, 2023

The regular meeting of the Board of Directors of the North Routt Fire Protection District was called to order by President Warnke at 7:05p.m.

ROLL CALL

Directors Present:

Steve Warnke, President
Larry Williams, Vice President
Jim Standish, Secretary/Treasurer

Directors Excused:

Paul Slivon, Director
Todd Zvorak, Director

Also Present:

Matt Mathisen, Fire Chief
Lisa Lancaster, District Administrator
John Twitchell, Colorado State Forest Service – District Forester
Dave Peregoy, Community member

ADDITIONS TO AGENDA

None

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

EXTERNAL CORRESPONDENCE

None.

APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES

Sec/Treas Standish moved to approve the minutes from July 11, 2023, Vice President Williams seconded, motion carried.

DIRECTOR REPORTS

Statutory/Regulatory/General Business

- Backflow preventer relocation matter – still looking for a licensed plumber that is willing to do the work for both the State Park and the Fire District.
- Second floor, Station 2 – President Warnke spoke with Julie Arington at the State Park regarding the allowance of staff to spend 2 nights rather than one upstairs in living quarters. President Warnke drafted a Memo of Understanding to place in the file stating same and sent to Julie.
- A drafting site at Steamboat Lake is still in process. Drafting site is now 55 feet from the parking lot, and we can only draft 40 feet from the parking lot. The convenience has gone away because the water has dropped.
- Dry hydrant follow-up – postponed for feedback from Kent Foster.
- Regarding the condominium agreement with Routt County – President Warnke reviewed the file regarding the condominium agreement. Jay Harrington, County Manager, has agreed to reimburse the fire district for 16.79% of property insurance for Station 2 as well as building maintenance (i.e. siding, roofing). Regarding roof replacement, we have received one bid and are in the process of getting another.

- John Twitchell attended the board meeting to give the board an update on North Routt fire mitigation. He brought a map showing recent fires in the area; current treatment (mastication) efforts are ongoing on the other side of Pearl Lake, and there are 700 acres that have been defined on the other side of Willow Creek Pass (East side). There are also two major projects further north – one behind Columbine Cabins and another at 490 – around 300 acres each – all designed around protecting the infrastructures on both sides of the road. Private homeowners are being supportive and cooperative in allowing access to the land. Intent is to mitigate and create breaks in the landscape, which would keep the fire from spreading as quickly.
 - John shared a couple of suggestions in regards to grant money that might be available. He mentioned that the N. Routt subdivisions would be eligible because they are larger entities whereas individuals are not. The state can help with the grant, but cannot write the grant. Routt County Fire Council just received \$500,000 which is supposed to be allocated to fire districts. He believes these next few years are good timing to take advantage of some of the funds that are available out there. These grants are match grants but the match doesn't necessarily have to be cash – it can be in services/sweat equity. Colorado State Forest Service's website has a list of grants available. John also suggested looking at community assisted grants from BLM.
- Regarding a drone and whether the district could benefit from having one, Chief Mathisen said the County Emergency Management Team has two that are free to the district and could be here. Chief Mathisen said he also has MMA, a free flight service that will fly over areas struck by lightning and map locations.
- Website updates – President Warnke suggested that Vladan Chase could potentially help Sec/Treas Standish update the website. Standish has not had time to devote to the issue as no one is available for technical support except during regular work hours.

Financial

- The transaction list was reviewed. There are two additional checks to Failsafe Testing, LLC for \$1,100 and Napa Auto Parts for \$363.99. Vice President Williams moved to approve the transaction list with the additional checks, Sec/Treas Standish seconded, motion carried.
- Grants – Kent Foster could not make it to the meeting this evening. He and Chief Mathisen have a meeting next week to get sizing for wildland fire gear. The ones received last year through a grant are not size specific, and boots aren't conducive to wildland fires. He is in contact with the Chief at West Routt fire regarding radio funding as well to try and combine the need.
- Treasury bonds – none maturing in the next month.
- Property tax revenue – President Warnke is not sure how the extra property tax revenue will ultimately affect us, and he is not beyond reducing the mill levy IF WE DON'T NEED IT. Vice President Williams asked if the district could pay down the bond – President Warnke said he's not sure if he wants to go there.

FIRE CHIEF REPORT

Call volume –

79 calls for 2023 (vs 64 for 2022) – one structure fire, 27 EMS, 5 MVA, 5 illegal burns, 2 service calls, 5 rescues and 13 false alarms.

Equipment status-

1. Still looking for certified plumber to install/raise backflow valve to State Park regulations along with installing new booster water pump in mechanical room at Station 2. Staying in touch with Steamboat Lake State Park – if they get a plumber, we will tag team and get both done.
2. LIIFEPAK15's – Received annual inspection/tune up on July 24th. Paid for by Routt County EMS Council.
3. 2014 Polaris 6x6 Ranger UTV–CanAm Defender 1000 was its replacement. Sold to Mrs. Mikkol Ruiz for \$8,500. The money will be used to purchase other rescue equipment the department needs and other equipment for the Can-Am Defender UTV and Polaris Razor 900.
Equipment ordered: New replacement fog lights for Ambulance 3-2, (4) tool holders for mounting

Pulaski Tool and Comi-Tool to the roof rack on Brush 3-7 Can-Am Defender, (2) new replacement tie-down straps for Can-Am Defender.

4. Reached out to Revelation Roofing Company, Steamboat Springs – Giselle Cazares – August 7th scheduled site visit to do cost estimate for Station 2 roof replacement. Other roofing contractors have been contacted via phone call but have failed to call back to respond to Chief's request for bids: Berlet Roofing, Ski Town Roofing, High Point Roofing and Tin Man Roofing,

General News Matter:

1. Drafting operations near old boat ramp at Sage Flats is now not working due to lower lake water level that have taken the water's edge more than 45ft from parking lot. Park Service possible to install gate in the parking lot so at low water level NRFPD apparatus can get closer to the edge of the lake. This will entail State Park removing some permanent 8" timbers in Sage Flat parking lot to install access gate. In contact with Park to get gate installed so Brush Truck 3-1 and 3-6 can get closer to draft.
2. 20KW propane powered generator is at Station 2. Electrical: Central Electric LLC – ordered the proper auto transfer switch – waiting for delivery and then will set appointment to install at Station 2. Propane will be done by Ferrellgas of Steamboat Springs. Nate Margason (Vista Verde) will bring skid steer from ranch and unload and move generator around to back of Station 2.
3. Working with Kent Foster on the NEW 2023 DFPC Grant – looking at getting new wildland fire shelters (new generation), PPE Wildland pants, shirts, etc. New grants for New 800MTZ radios ongoing with Chief Guire from West Routt Fire.
4. NRFPD will be helping with the Wednesday August 9th Mass Casualty Exercise at YVRA put on by David DeMorat, Regional 2 Emergency Manager for Routt County. Crew of two EMT-B's and Ambulance will be paged out by RCC 922 Dispatch Center for the exercise. NRFPD ambulance/crew will drive to YVRA near Hayden, load a patient, and deliver to mock hospital, then return to NRFPD. Off duty full-time crew will handle exercise – no volunteer members available during the day to help.
5. Classic Air Medical Helicopter flew to Station 2 on Wednesday, August 2nd to help with "NRFPD 2023 Annual Safety & Procedures Operations for Helicopters." Steamboat Lake State Park rangers also participated in the training. Crews did hands on loading/unloading of patients into aircraft while it was running (hot load), practiced radio air operations air to ground with pilot during each NRFPD members' & state rangers' 5-minute flights around the surrounding areas. Learned how to shut down helicopter in case it crashed, and crew needed to be rescued. Big thanks to Classic Air 6 Crew – great training – everyone had a positive experience.

Personnel:

1. New employee #4 – still looking to fill position. Have re-listed job application on Colorado Division of Fire Prevention and Control website, Routt County website, Jeremy Hockely CMC, etc.
2. Total volunteer members for NRFPD – down to 6 members. Two members in training still undecided on whether to continue training.
 - a. Linas Viatkus – Captain EMT-B – moved to Steamboat (family) – available for limited response to calls & trainings. Total calls made in 2023 – 9 out of 79.
 - b. Nate Margason – Lieutenant EMT-B – available for limited calls – Vista Verde Guest Ranch employee. Total calls made in 2023 – 5 out of 79.
 - c. Otto Kucera – First Responder/Driver – available for limited calls – job – gone 5 days/week. Total calls made in 2023 – 6 out of 79.
 - d. Steve "Mole" Flanigan – First Responder/Driver – available for limited calls. Total calls made in 2023 – 5 out of 79.
 - e. Eric Young – First Responder/Driver – available for most calls. Total calls made in 2023 – 11 out of 79.
 - f. Mike Munn – First Responder/Driver/Wildland – available for limited calls when staying at home in Hahn's Peak Village. Total calls made in 2023 – 3 out of 79.

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

District Administrator Lancaster will be out of the country from October 6th through the 16th. The regularly scheduled meeting would normally be on October 10th. President Warnke stated we could have the meeting on October 24th. Next meeting will be on September 12, 2023.

OTHER ITEMS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD

None

ADJOURNMENT OF REGULAR BOARD MEETING

President Warnke moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:30pm.

The foregoing minutes, which have been approved by the affirmative majority vote of the Board of the North Rountt Fire Protection District, are a true and accurate record of the meeting held on the date first stated above.

Steve Warnke

Steve Warnke, President

September 12, 2023

Date

Jim Standish

Jim Standish, Secretary/Treasurer

September 12, 2023

Date