



Durango Fire Protection District

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142 Sheppard Drive, Durango, Colorado 81303

durangofire.org

Minutes of the DFPD Regular Board Meeting Tuesday, January 23, 2024, 8:10 a.m. 142 Sheppard Dr

President Karen Barger called to order the meeting of the Durango Fire Protection District Board of Directors at 8:10 a.m. Board members present for the Call to Order were Steve List, Rob Farino, Tina McCallum, Samantha Gallagher and John Dezendorf. Staff members included Fire Chief Randy Black, Deputy Chief Michael Krupa, EMS Chief Scott Sholes, Finance Director Eric Baker, Fire Marshal Karola Hanks, Fire Marshal Stephen Rinaldi, Human Resources Director Megan Kunch, Fleet and Facilities Director Howard Smith, Safety Captain Jim Anderson, and Administrative Assistant Katie Pounds.

AGENDA: Additions, Deletions, Revisions: none

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

- a. October 24, 2023 Regular Meeting Minutes
- b. November 14, 2023 Special Meeting Minutes
- c. November 15, 2023 Special Meeting Minutes
- d. December 12, 2023 Special Meeting Minutes

A motion was made by Tina McCallum to approve the October 24, 2023 Regular Meeting Minutes, November 14, 2023 Special Meeting Minutes, November 15, 2023 Special Meeting Minutes and December 12, 2023 Special Meeting Minutes, seconded by John Dezendorf. Motion carried unanimously.

ANNOUNCEMENTS/PRESENTATIONS:

- a. **Vision Session – Fire Chief, Randy Black:** Fire Chief Randy Black announced he has hired a company to help implement a strategic plan for DFPD to ensure the entire organization is on the same page moving forward. This includes doing 360 evaluations. Chief Black announced the need to secure funding for future plans, including a new station in Three Springs and staff growth. Chief Black mentioned multiple ideas on how to raise funds, including ideas from the state for special districts, property taxes, ISO rating and backfill from the City. There was discussion specifically about getting on an election ballot within the next couple of years to receive funds through property taxes.

PUBLIC COMMENT: No public comment.

REPORTS:

Chief Report: Fire Chief Randy Black introduced Fire Marshal Stephen Rinaldi, taking the place of Karola Hanks as she is retiring. Chief Black reported DFPD is getting a third party involved to continue negotiations with Durango 9-R School District on the former 9-R administration building, 201 E 12th St building. Chief Black reported DFPD's administrative staff should be moving into 103 Sheppard Dr some time mid-late February. Soon after the Prevention staff moves out of 104 Sheppard Dr it will go up for sale. Chief Black stated one of the engines purchased in 2022 has arrived. Chief Black reported the City staff who worked in River City Hall has moved out. Work on isolating electric and water in the downtown station will begin January 24, asbestos mitigation will take place on January 29 and demolition will begin in March. Chief Black, Legal Counsel Bud Smith and Finance Director Eric Baker met with a bond counsel about financing the downtown station. Finance Director Eric Baker stated an RFP has been issued but financing does not need

to begin until the fall of 2024. Chief Black reported the design documents for the station are finished. There was discussion about solar paneling for the downtown station which could happen in the future with the possibility of grant money.

Finance Report: Finance Director Eric Baker presented the financial reports for November and December 2023. *A motion was made by Samantha Gallagher to approve the November and December 2023 financial statements, seconded by Tina McCallum. Motion carried unanimously.*

Fire Marshal: Fire Marshal Karola Hanks reported she and her successor, Stephen Rinaldi, have been discussing where the Prevention Department is and how it can grow its staff and the community in the future with strategic planning. As she is about to retire, Fire Marshal Hanks reported that DFPD is very different organization from when she first began. She reported that Prevention has a great team.

OLD BUSINESS

Update on 2024 Budget – New Tax Laws: Finance Director Eric Baker reported DFPD lost money from the first valuation to the last valuation. However, he expects to gain the loss from backfill. In addition, Baker stated DFPD should be receiving backfill from the City. Baker also stated he does not believe the budget needs to be changed.

NEW BUSINESS

Consideration and possible action on Resolution 2024-1: ESTABLISHING A TIME AND PLACE FOR DURANGO FIRE PROTECTIN DISTRICT REGULAR AND SPECIAL MEETINGS: *A motion was made by Samantha Gallagher to approve Resolution 2024-1: ESTABLISHING A TIME AND PLACE FOR DURANGO FIRE PROTECTIN DISTRICT REGULAR AND SPECIAL MEETINGS, seconded by Tina McCallum. Motion carried unanimously.*

President Karen Barger adjourned the meeting at 9:25 a.m.


Karen Barger, President

2/27/2024
Date

Attest:

Katie Pounds, Administrative Assistant