

**Arrowhead Fire Protection District
Meeting Agenda
April 9, 2021
1:00 p.m. @ the Firehouse
2069 Spruce Road**

AGENDA

- 1. Call to Order**
- 2. Determination of Quorum**
- 3. Approval of Minutes from March 12th meeting**
- 4. Treasurer's Report**
- 5. Fire Chief's Report**
- 6. Old Business**
 - a. COVID-19 Issues**
 - b. Communications update**
 - c. Polaris Ranger Purchase**
 - d. Review of By-Laws**
 - e. Evacuation Plan**
 - f. AVFD Auxiliary**
- 7. New Business**
 - a. Helicopter LZ**
- 8. Adjourn – Next Meeting – June 11, 2021**

**Conference Dial-in Number 1-712-770-5569
Participant Code: 478279#**

**ARROWHEAD FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT
BOARD REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

Date: April 9, 2021

Time: 1:00 P.M. (MDT)

Location: AVFD Firehouse, 2069 Spruce Rd

Purpose: Regular Meeting

Attendees: Darrell Wagner [Chair/Phone]; Steve Gauthier [Vice Chair/Present]; Stephen Isle [Secretary/Phone]; Al Hale [Treasurer/Phone]; Ken Harbert [Board Member/Present]; Jim Gelsomini [AVFD Fire Chief/Phone].

Absent: None.

Guests: None.

- 1. Call to Order:** Chair, Darrell Wagner, called the April 9, 2021 Regular Meeting of the Arrowhead Fire Protection District to order at 1:00 PM, Mountain Daylight Time.

2. **Determination of Quorum:** A quorum requirement was satisfied with all five board members present (two at the fire house; three and Chief Gelsomini on the conference call line), for the meeting.
3. **Approval of Minutes for the March 12, 2021 AFPD Regular Board Meeting:** Chair Darrell Wagner asked for any additions or corrections. There being none, Steve G. made a motion to accept the minutes as presented and Al Hale seconded the motion. Chair Wagner put the motion to a vote and it passed unanimously.
4. **Treasurer's Report:** All have the March financials distributed by Treasurer, Al Hale. Steve G. asked about the check written to Diana Soong. Al Hale explained that was the cost of the Gunnison hotel where she stayed while attending the medical training for the AVFD. Chair Wagner declared that the treasurer's report stands as presented.
5. **April 9, 2021 Fire Chief's Report:**

Highlights: (A) **Building:** Many roof screws have come loose or are missing on the roof of the fire department building. This is particularly noticeable on the perimeter edge on the west side above the windows on the two sections of metal roof panels. Chief Gelsomini has some lower profile replacement screws with rubber insulators like a cap screw with a torx inset which he believes will not leak and will hold a bit better than the higher profile screws now missing or coming loose. Chief Gelsomini said the replacement screws come in a box of 250 and will cost \$30-\$40 plus some shipping. He will order the replacement screws and expects them in about 10 days. Chief Gelsomini will pick up a 100 foot section of rope for the roof harness at Home Depot tomorrow to provide 'fall protection' mitigating the risk. The east side of the roof facing Spruce has a steeper incline so snow falls off it faster without the layers of ice that build up on the west side. So the roof on the east side is in much better shape. The ridge of the roof is 60 feet going from north to south. The rope will be used again for this purpose as Chief Gelsomini believes tightening and replacing roof screws will be an annual, recurring problem.

(B) **Apparatus:** The blue brush truck front end issue is being fixed by Drew Broughton for under \$200. After completion, the truck will be taken to a tire shop for alignment before it is brought back up to Arrowhead for the summer.

(C) **Medical:** (1) **Insurance coverage for different AVFD scenarios for calls.** When Gunnison Dispatch calls and asks us to respond in or outside of the Arrowhead Fire Protection District, our insurance will cover us (personnel and equipment), throughout the United States, Canada and Puerto Rico. (2) **Covid-19 cases continue to rise in Gunnison but not as severe and not resulting in hospitalizations.** (3) **Gunnison Valley Health's EMS Chief, CJ Malcolm continues to work on the mutual aid agreement with Montrose Emergency Services to cover Highway 50 Construction contingencies.** If blockages on the east side of the Highway 50 construction between mile markers 123 and 126 prevent the Gunnison ambulance from arriving in a timely manner then Gunnison Dispatch will arrange for response from Montrose. If both the east and west sides are blocked, then Life Flight will be coordinated, weather permitting. We have been fortunate at Arrowhead that for the most serious cases requiring medical evacuation, the weather has been cooperative. However, if weather doesn't permit Life Flight, one alternative course of action would be for our BLS medical first responders to transport the individual down the Alpine Plateau Road to Highway 50 and await arrival of ALS services. (**ALS** means Advance Life Support and **BLS** means Basic life Support. A **BLS** unit will have two Emergency Medical Technicians/EMT's. On the other hand, an **ALS** unit will have a Paramedic apart from the Emergency Medical Technician. A **BLS** provider cannot use needles or other devices that makes cuts **in the** skin). **The State Patrol as well as all of the contiguous agencies including Log Hill, Ouray, Hinsdale, Gunnison and Montrose EMS are on the same 800 MHz radios.** We just need the frequencies assigned for a particular mission.

(D) Supplies: Currently we have four (4) MSA G1 back packs and two (2) SCBA tanks per back pack. Our long term goal is to have six (6) MSA G1 back packs and three (3) tanks per back pack. Chief Gelsomini has an opportunity to purchase two new MSA G1 backpacks with masks for approximately \$8,000. He is awaiting a quote for just the SCBA cylinders. New spare SCBA cylinders will facilitate training with the MSA G1 backpacks. ROI is willing to sweeten the deal by donating four (4) 4500 psi/45 minute SCBA cylinders if we purchase the two MSA G1 backpacks. ROI says the four 4500 psi/45 minute SCBA cylinders will have between 3-4 years remaining before their required 5 year cylinder hydro check. So if we purchase the two new MSA G1 back packs with masks new from ROI we will get the four 4500 psi/45 minute SCBA air cylinders for free. Chief Gelsomini added that he is pursuing the idea of obtaining a 'single bottle refill station' by speaking with two bottle servicing facilities/refill stations (Eagle Air Services is one), with the idea that one might be upgrading from a single bottle refill station that we could obtain at a fraction of what it might cost to purchase new.

(E) Highway 50 Construction: Detours and closures are planned to begin next week on April 19th. We'll just have to wait and see what happens.

(F) Steve Isle asked about the source we are using for surplus fire equipment. Don Distefano is the SE Regional Training Officer, Colorado Division of Fire Prevention and Control, and both Chief Gelsomini and Chair Wagner have picked up surplus property that has saved our AVFD a great deal of money while helping us move more quickly towards achieving long term goals for purchasing otherwise cost prohibitive equipment. Chief Gelsomini discussed the subject briefly. Don Distefano has been a great resource for re-homing surplus equipment needed by smaller fire departments like ours.

(G) Red Flag Warnings: Two this week already!

(H) Refer to the attached Fire Chief's Report.

6. **Old Business:**

A. **COVID-19 Issues:** . Chief Gelsomini reported that although the numbers were increasing the cases were reportedly less severe.

B. **Communications Update:** Steve Gauthier, Communications Manager, is doing a great job on our Facebook page and website, but had nothing to report.

C. **Polaris Ranger:** Chief Gelsomini reported that he has completed the paperwork, new title and registration information needed to transfer the Polaris Ranger and showing the AFD as the owner. The paperwork is at the fire house. He will obtain, at no cost, the OHV sticker and in September, the next winter sticker.

D. **Review of By-Laws:** Chair Wagner asked if any board member had any further changes they would like to propose to the by-laws as revised by Steve G.

Section 9 (c): Notice of Budgets. Al addressed the fact the budget availability must be publicized in the newspaper if the budget exceeds \$50,000 beyond the by-law note regarding posting it on our own Facebook and web page. Steve G. likes the idea of the budget being available for inspection by the public on the AFD web site rather than available for inspection at the AVFD office. Steve G. highlighted that the statutes are the guideline covering the newspaper publication requirement and the by-laws are only items 'in addition to' the requirements already found in the statutes and do not need to be repeated. Al agreed along with all board members present.

Section 10: Corporate Seal. Chair Wagner said he contacted former Board Chair, Don Koeltzow regarding the 'seal.' Don said he has no knowledge of a 'seal.' Chair Wagner suggested we remove Section X. Steve G. said he would review the manual and then remove it

if there is no more to be found regarding requirements for a seal. All agreed this was the proper resolution.

Section 6 (f) 1: Meetings. Calling of an Executive Session. An affirmative vote of two-thirds (2/3) of the quorum present shall be required to go into executive session. 24-6-402 (4) C.R.S. Since the manual and statutes say 2/3, it has to stay as 2/3 rather than just requiring a majority which would be easier with our 5 members on the AFD Board.

Chair Wagner highlighted that we need to insert a provision showing that the meetings shall be held at the business office and/or via phone. Steve G. will work on that.

Additionally, Chair Wagner noted that the word "meeting" was a mix of singular and plural on subtopics (a) Regular Meetings, (b) Public Meeting, (c) Notice of Regular Meetings, (d) Special Meetings, and (e) Emergency Meeting. Steve G. took a note and will fix it.

Section 8: Directors, Officers and Personnel. In two different location it refers to elections in even years. However, in a couple years we'll change this to odd. Steve G. reminded everyone that we have to review these by-laws annually. So he prefers to err on not changing it any more than he needed until the anticipated statute change occurs making it odd years. Steve G. also agreed to work on the punctuation in Section 8 (a) regarding director compensation/conflict of interest which was a concern expressed by Chair Wagner.

Steve G. took notes and will apply the changes and corrections to the by-laws suggested and return them prior to the next meeting in June. At the June 11th Regular Meeting the changes to the by-laws can be approved effective on that date. All appreciated the great job done by Steve G.

E. **Evacuation Plan:** Chief Gelsomini will continue to work with the AIA Board and convincing them of the need to improve the condition of 'Three Fish Road' as part of our preparation needed to improve the readiness of the Arrowhead community for a safe evacuation of personnel and cars/trucks if emergency vehicles and other factors preclude the use of the Alpine Plateau Road. Currently the AIA Board is concerned about liability if they improve 'Three Fish Road.' However, even their own attorney, Jacob With, Law of the Rockies, advised them they could be sued for improving the road and for not improving the road. The Arrowhead Fire Prevention District Board and AVFD Fire Chief urge the AIA to select the course of action best for the safety of our community: Improve Three Fish Road.

Egress in an emergency situation where fire or emergency vehicles of first responders block the Alpine Plateau Road would have to be 'Three Fish Road.' The AIA approved a driveway from two lots on Hazel Lake to connect to 'Three Fish Road' three to four years ago. So Chief Gelsomini noted the AIA has an assumed obligation to maintain that portion of the road already. To date the owner of the two lots has not camped or built a home on the lots, but has plans to do so in the future. The road beyond Arrowhead property all used to be owned by the Squirrell family, but was sold. Donny Squirrell continues to enjoy access to Arrowhead on the road through the private property to the west of the end of Arrowhead property going to Highway 50. Chief Gelsomini will continue discussions with Ron Slocomb, the foreman of the ranch across which the road passes. Currently Ron is recovering from some health issues. Many scenarios illustrated by the Russell Fire a few years ago will exist during pre-evacuation of Arrowhead. For example, there will be home owners wanting to come up and save certain items before an evacuation. Historically, Three Fish Road used to be one of the ways to get to Arrowhead in the early 1980's when the Squirrell family still owned the property to the west. Chief Gelsomini will continue working with the AIA Board on this issue.

F. **AVFD Auxiliary**: Chief Gelsomini: Donated food stuffs began appearing at the fire house in spite of several combination changes to the door. Although it's a worthy cause, people began leaving the food on the floor rather than in the designated trash can. This contributes to the chances for another rodent infestation problem. There have been cases where glass bottles have broken and the liquid has leaked through holes in the bottom of the garbage can used and spread out onto the floor. Chief Gelsomini is taking in the material donated to the designated Ministry located in Montrose. The Auxiliary will discuss the issue at their next meeting.

Chair Darrell clarified that the Auxiliary issue he intended to discuss was the role of the Auxiliary. All agreed that we should invite representatives to a meeting to discuss their role with everyone at the table. Steve G. said there was some discussion within the Auxiliary about ways to revitalize their organization. A number of very dynamic members have left the mountain. Finding volunteers for any worthwhile cause in today's world is a challenge. All agreed that the summer season would be the best time to get the most participation. Chair Wagner tabled this subject until perhaps July or August.

7. **New Business**

A. **New Helicopter LZ**: Chair Wagner turned the meeting over to Chief Gelsomini to discuss his proposed new helicopter landing zone (LZ). Chief Gelsomini began looking for an alternative site to our present helicopter LZ in 2018 and selected a site about half way between the Alpine Plateau Road and Timber Road on Lake west of the Arrowhead sign. After looking at the site the life flight crew asked that we move the wind sock and stabilize the ground in the area of the helipad. Fast forward to this year (2021), and a recent incident where three vehicles were found parked in the helipad area. Two of the vehicles were left unattended and the occupants had off loaded snowmobiles and gone riding up country. A third vehicle was an individual with a powered paraglider/paramotor. That individual stated he believed he was in a parking area for the helicopter LZ. Chief Gelsomini met with Mike Fuller, USFS law enforcement officer, yesterday. Mike explained it was not within his scope of authority to have anyone towed. He can ticket but not tow a vehicle. The Gunnison County Sheriff's office said that because this involves USFS property they don't have the authority to have a vehicle towed. The Gunnison County Sheriff did recently have a vehicle towed off the Alpine Road below the Beaver Slide, but that was a special case. Chief Gelsomini would like to move the official helicopter landing zone to this site on Lake and move the wind sock to the AIA property on the north side of Lake. Controlling vehicular traffic by closing Lake between Timber and the Alpine is doable. The nearby property owners with whom Chief Gelsomini has spoken are good with the helipad location. CJ White, owner of the second house on Timber, had no problem with the helipad. Mr. Martinez and his sister, owners of the first home on Lake, also had no objection. Jim and Sally Burrister, now gone, had no objection. Brad and Milly Fowler have no objection. Brad Fowler is an AIA Board Member and has agreed to add the topic to the agenda for the Executive Session of the AIA BOD. Chief Gelsomini will speak further with the members of the AIA Board about their assuming the responsibility for moving the wind sock and maintaining the road to the helipad all year so that a Gunnison ambulance with the capability for ALS can stay with the patient in the ambulance right up until the patient is loaded onto the life flight helicopter. Some additional signage at the Arrowhead sign and at Timber will be required. Other helicopter landing areas that have been looked at over the years but are no longer being considered for use include a site at the fire department and one at the salt flat, an open space near the intersection of Crest and Rim.

Chair Wagner asked if there was any other new business. There being none, he proceeded to adjourn.

8. **Adjourn – Next Meeting – June 11, 2021.**

Respectfully submitted,
 Stephen Isle
 Secretary, Arrowhead Fire Protection District

Attachment:
 Fire Chief's Report for April 9, 2021

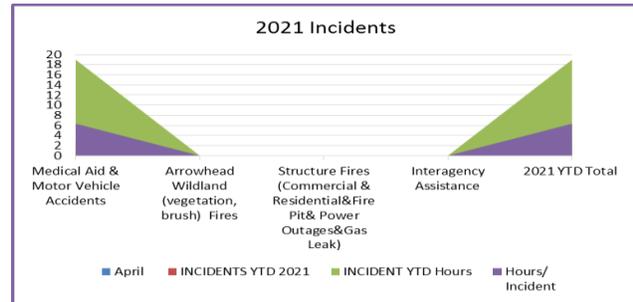
Arrowhead Fire Chief Report

Date of Report: **April 09, 2021**

Wildland Fire Level Status: **low**

Part-I Emergency Incidents

	April	INCIDENTS YTD 2021	INCIDENT YTD Hours	Hours/ Incident
Medical Aid & Motor Vehicle Accidents	1	3	19.00	6
Arrowhead Wildland (vegetation, brush) Fires	0	0		
Structure Fires (Commercial & Residential & Fire Pit & Power Outages & Gas Leak)	0	0		
Interagency Assistance	0	0		
2021 YTD Total		3	19.00	6.33



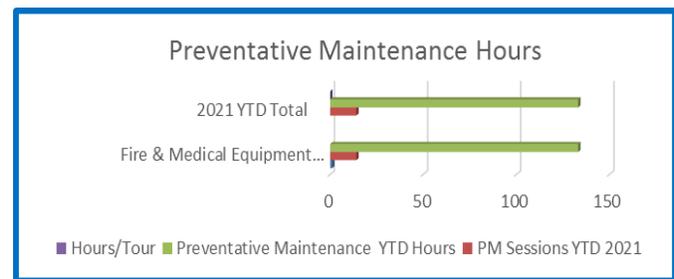
Part-II Department Training

2021 Training			
Groups	Resources	YTD Training Hours	YTD Training Sessions
Patrol	4	13.00	2
Awhd Dispatch	6	14.75	2
First Responder	8	124.15	6
Firefighters	14	40.50	6
AVFD Combined	32	192.4	16



Part-III Preventative Maintenance

Description	PM Sessions YTD 2021	Preventative Maintenance YTD Hours	Hours/Tour
Fire & Medical Equipment Preventative Maintenance	14	133.15	
2021 YTD Total	14	133.15	0.00



Part-IV Incident Overview – 2021 (YTD)

YTD Medical – 3
 YTD Fire – 0
 YTD Commercial Power Loss - 0

Part-V Training overview – April//2021

Medical – Pit Crew CPR, Patient Assessment System (PAS)
 Firefighting –

Jim continuing fire education, weekly training with Gunnison Fire. Join training will cease with start of Hwy-50

- project, unable to return during nighttime hours.
 - MVA – 15 hours (fifth, three-hour session-school bus extrication)
- Dispatch – joint training with medical & firefighter

Part-VI Personnel: (staffing): **23 (FF-FR-Dispatch)**

- Fire Fighters = (9)
- Arrowhead Dispatch = (6)
- First Responders = (8)

Part-VII Grounds - Building Inspections:

- 1. Fire House – no new updates

Part-VIII Fire Apparatus, Tools & Equipment:

- 1. Tools – operational
 - a. Laminated window cutter operational, saws all
- 2. Firefighting structure gear: - operational
- 3. Hoses:
 - a. Fully operational
- 4. Mobile Response Unit (MRU) – operational
- 5. Fire Trucks:
 - a. Red Type 3 – winter storage - firehouse
 - b. White Fire Truck – off mountain winter storage
 - c. Blue Brush Truck – off mountain winter storage
 - i. Front end repair in progress, estimated cost \$200.00
 - d. Blue First Responder – on mountain winter storage
- 6. Snow Cat:
 - a. operational
- 7. Polaris-Ranger – operational
 - a. Medical equipment sled – operational
 - b. Patient sled – operational
 - c. MVA tool sled - operational
- 8. Snowmobiles:
 - i. Black/Gray snow mobile – storage on mountain
 - ii. Red snow mobile – storage on mountain

Part-IX Interagency & County & Association Meetings:

- 1. Gunnison OEM training – zoom meeting sessions

Part-X Communications:

- 1. No new updates
- 2. Researching possible additional antenna locations, with objective improve communications with north and south boundaries of AFD.

Part-XI Medical:

- 1. COVID-19 Updates
 - a. Covid-19 PPE gear bag staged in Ranger Interior
 - b. Gunnison County Situation Report a/o 04/08/2021
 - i. Positive – 1,536
 - ii. Negative – 19,919
 - iii. Deaths – 5
- 2. Ranger Equipped with two portable 50 gal containers with all medical response gear
- 3. Monthly AED checks completed YTD 2021
 - a. All AED's operational

Part-XII Budget:

1. No new updates

Part-XIII Miscellaneous:

1. Hwy-50 Update
 - a. Detours and closures delayed until week of 4/19/21
2. Landing Zone Relocation
 - a. Lake Road approximately halfway between Lake Road/Timber and Alpine Road (see attachment)
 - i. Reason for move, vehicle parked in existing landing zone on Alpine Road
 - ii. Gunnison Sheriff will not tow vehicles from LZ
 - iii. Forest Service will not tow vehicles from LZ
 - iv. Met with Mike Fuller USFS Law Enforcement – Thursday 4/8 10A, he will ticket if during the week. Weekend he is on call, response will be delayed.
 - v. Relocating to Lake Road allows improved traffic control, excellent visibility approach/departure
 - vi. Originally identified in 2018, received approval for use from AIA at that time
 - vii. Open issues:
 1. Present same request to current AIA BOD's
 2. Seeking permanent approval, not annually
 3. Will need assistance from AIA BOD's to groom Lake Road between Alpine and LZ
 4. Cost – purchase A-Frame with Road Closed Signs Landing Zone – Lake/Alpine
3. Second Fire Station update:
 - a. No new updates