



Present Fire Board of Appeals Board Members (6):

David Hewett, Chair
Mike Riggs, Vice Chair
Vince Colarelli
Ron Honn
Jannic Ekornes
Laurie Olson

Industry Represented:

Small Business
Architecture
Building
Citizen At-Large
Fire Suppression
Insurance

Not Present (0):

Industry Represented:

Vacant Position (1):

Industry Represented:

Large Business

Present Fire Board of Appeals Secretary

Kris Cooper, Deputy Fire Marshal

Representing:

Colorado Springs Fire Department

Additional Attendee(s):

Connie Manning, Compliance Coordinator
Mellisa Wutzke, Administrative Assistant Senior
Chip Taylor, Senior Fire Protection Engineer
Jeff Hanenberg, Senior Fire Code Inspector

Representing:

Colorado Springs Fire Department
Colorado Springs Fire Department
Colorado Springs Fire Department
Colorado Springs Fire Department

CALL TO ORDER

1. **Board Chair Hewett called the meeting to order at 8:30 A.M. and promptly conducted a roll call.**

ADMINISTRATIVE

1. **Approval of Meeting Minutes**

**Board Member Colarelli motioned to approve the meeting minutes.
Board Member Ekornes seconded the motion.
The motion passed unanimously.**

2. **Contractor Licensing**

- A. **Fire Alarm Contractor B**

- i. Business Name: AT4 Fire, LLC
Applicant: Leonard Haubert
RME: Morgan Wotkyns

Deputy Fire Marshal Cooper stated applicant meets the necessary requirements and recommended approval.

**Board Member Colarelli motioned to approve the application.
Board Member Olson seconded the motion.
The motion passed unanimously.**

B. Fire Suppression Contractor A

- i. Business Name: Victory Fire Protection, LLC
Applicant: Nicholas Crawford
RME: Matthew Hall

Deputy Fire Marshal Cooper stated applicant meets the necessary requirements and recommended approval.

**Board Member Riggs motioned to approve the application.
Board Member Ekornes seconded the motion.
The motion passed unanimously.**

- ii. Business Name: Johnson Controls Fire Protection LP
Applicant: Scott Santos
RME: Scott Santos

Deputy Fire Marshal Cooper stated applicant meets the necessary requirements and recommended approval.

**Board Member Colarelli motioned to approve the application.
Board Member Olson seconded the motion.
The motion passed unanimously.**

C. Fire Suppression Contractor H

- i. Business Name: Johnson Controls Fire Protections LP
Applicant: Brian Wagner
RME: Brian Wagner

Deputy Fire Marshal Cooper stated applicant meets the necessary requirements and recommended approval.

**Vice Chair Riggs motioned to approve the application.
Board Member Colarelli seconded the motion.
The motion passed unanimously.**

BUSINESS

1. Proposed Updated Language in the Colorado Springs Fire Department "Ignition Resistant Construction Design Manual"
Presenter: Kris Cooper, Deputy Fire Marshal, Colorado Springs Fire Department

DFM Cooper provided background information on clarifying language in Appendix K 103.3. The code is not able to be amended due to the implications from the energy code, but he

proposes it to be updated in the "Ignition Resistance Construction Design Manual". DFM Cooper read the proposed language to the board (page 52 of the packet).

"Brush patches or vegetation clusters, that do not contain vegetation such as junipers, conifers, or similar species of high resin content, may be left within the first 15 feet of a home if approved by a fire code official. These patches may not exceed 100 square feet and be no longer than 15 linear feet in any direction. The vegetation groups must also be separated by clear areas of at least 10 feet or more of non-combustible materials and/or grass mowed to that less than or equal to 4 inches in height. This vegetation typically consists of existing, natural vegetation such as oak brush, mountain mahogany, three-leaf sumac, and character trees to assist with erosion control measures, preserve wildlife habitat, and to make sure that no clear-cutting is occurring to maintain the Hillside/WUI aesthetics. The Wildfire Mitigation Section will determine this vegetation on the front end with a discussion and formally document all items necessary."

DFM Cooper asked Board Member Colarelli if that was satisfactory.

Board Member Colarelli responded it does a great job.

DFM Cooper stated it will be put in WUI design manual ("Ignition Resistant Construction Design Manual"). He asked if there were any questions.

Vice Chair Riggs clarified that this tackling existing vegetation on site, not new vegetation.

DFM Cooper responded yes, this is to maintain existing elements that were discussed, such as soil stabilization, wildlife habitat, and character trees.

Board Member Colarelli asked if the guideline addresses mulches.

DFM Cooper responded that it does and recommends using noncombustible mulches such as rocks. If you have vinyl gutters, that can melt and drip down it does require the mulch around the house to be non-combustible. It does not speak to in much more detail.

Board Member Colarelli asked if mulch bought at Pioneer Sand is treated.

DFM Cooper replied no.

Board Member Colarelli asked if colored mulch is treated.

DFM Cooper stated this is not treated, it is stained.

Board Member Colarelli thanked him.

DFM Cooper stated that much of the mulch sold in the area comes from the CSFD's chipping program.

Chair Hewett appreciates the time and effort put into this.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Service Recognition of Laurie Olson

Presenter: Kris Cooper, Deputy Fire Marshal, Colorado Springs Fire Department

DFM Cooper presented a certificate of appreciation signed by Fire Chief Randy Royal and a Colorado Springs Fire Department challenge coin to Board Member Olson.

Board Member Olson thanked the board and the Colorado Springs Fire Department. She stated it was an incredible experience and learning opportunity and appreciated her fellow board members. She recently experienced a home fire in her subdivision and the quickness of the CSFD and it was wonderful to see the collaboration. She has a great appreciation of all who serve in the CSFD.

Chair Hewett thanked her for her service.

Other Business

1. Board Member Replacement

Board Member Colarelli asked if there is a replacement for Ms. Olson's position.

DFM Cooper stated a replacement had not been identified yet and introduced Connie Manning on her way to the podium.

Connie Manning, Fire Prevention Compliance Coordinator, stated the legislative office with the city council will be posting the open positions on the city's website and they will be doing the recruitment for appointments. That will be posted at the end of this month.

Chair Hewett asked if Kyler Bush had been appointed.

Compliance Coordinator Connie Manning stated that he has.

Chair Hewett asked Kyler Bush to the podium.

Kyler Bush provided the board with his background and stated he is excited to be on this board. He is a new resident of Colorado Springs. He is an electrical engineer with Lockheed Martin working on missile defense systems. He is not an expert on fire suppression systems but hopes to bring his knowledge in engineering to the board.

Chair Hewett stated he is happy Kyler Bush is here and excited to have him part of the team.

2. Local contractor licenses expiring

Presenter: DFM Cooper, Deputy Fire Marshal Colorado Springs Fire Department

DFM Cooper advised the board that recently there has been a rash of local fire protection contractors' licenses expiring. The Division of the Fire Marshal (DFM) is communicating with them on the importance of maintaining that license. The

DFM has had to issue cease and desist orders to several companies until their licensing gets resolved. There have been allowances to existing permit work to continue, but all inspection, testing, and maintenance work has stopped until they get the licensing resolved. We are trying to balance that depending on the reason for the lapse of license to minimize impact on current projects. He wanted to make the board aware of this and will bring any challenges to the board.

Chair Hewett stated that item two (contractor licensing) of the agenda may get very long for the next few meetings.

DFM Cooper stated two of the applicants today were due to their licenses expiring.

Board Member Colarelli asked if there is a trend.

DFM Cooper replied that some of it is their insurance has lapsed or companies lost their RME. He asked Mellisa Wutzke to the podium.

Mellisa Wutzke, Senior Administrative Assistant introduced herself. She stated the RMEs are moving to various companies or moving out of state. Another impact is that RBD (Pikes Peak Regional Building Department) licensing is enforcing a code that has been in place for quite a while. The liability and challenges that these contractors have are their insurance providers are not willing or able to provide the coverage that RBD is enforcing. They will go into a suspended or expired status that can sit for 180 days and then the licenses are revoked. They are also seeing that notices are being sent to emails that no longer exist and the companies are not receiving the notifications. Fire Construction Services is running a weekly list of contractors with expired licenses and reaching out to them. Sarah DeCosta is able to stop at the forefront during inspections and pass on the information to the technicians.

Chair Hewett stated insurance is becoming impossible to get the right type of insurance to cover properties and it is not going to get any better for a while.

Board Member Colarelli inquired how the change in staffing is going in Fire Construction Services.

DFM Cooper replied that Fire Construction Services has added a couple of positions, Steve Wiseman, in the audience, is a new inspector. DFM Cooper asked Jeff Hanenburg to the podium.

Jeff Hanenburg, Senior Fire Code Inspector stated two more individuals starting at the end of the month as inspectors. One is coming from the fire protection industry and one is from a former fire district.

Board Member Colarelli asked about staffing on the plan review side.

Chip Taylor, Senior Fire Protection Engineer replied that Roland Peterson has filled Dee's (Withee) position of Fire Protection Engineer II and Gilbert Luis started in October to fill one of the senior inspector positions. Sr. Fire Protection Engineer Taylor is still looking to fill the last senior inspector position and it should be posted by the end of this month.

Board Member Colarelli asked if positions are posted nationally.

Sr. Fire Protection Engineer Taylor replied that HR (human resources) takes care of posting the positions. The position is also posted at OSU's (Oklahoma State University) alumni list server and with the Fire Marshal Association of Colorado. It is a struggle to find qualified candidates.

Chair Hewett thanked him.

DFM Cooper stated he had nothing further.

ADJOURN

**Board Member Colarelli motioned to adjourn.
Vice Chair Riggs seconded the motion.
The motion passed unanimously.**

Meeting adjourned at 8:50 A.M.

Respectfully submitted by,



Kris Cooper
Deputy Fire Marshal and Secretary to Fire Board of Appeals

KC/cm