



**Present Fire Board of Appeals Board Members (6):**

David Hewett, Chair  
Mike Riggs, Vice Chair  
Ron Honn  
Vince Colarelli  
Jannic Ekornes  
Kyler Bush

**Industry Represented:**

Small Business  
Architecture  
Citizen At-Large  
Building  
Fire Suppression  
Large Business

**Not Present (0):**

**Industry Represented:**

**Vacant Position (1):**

**Industry Represented:**

Insurance

**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

**Representing:**

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

2. Contractor Licensing

**A. Fire Alarm Contractor A**

- i. **Business Name:** MHC Datacomm, Inc.  
**Applicant:** Mikel Foster  
**RME:** Mikel Foster

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

**Board Member Colarelli motioned to approve the application.**

**Board Member Honn seconded the motion.**

Vice Chair Riggs stated the NICET certification provided for RME shows expired.

Melissa Wutzke, Senior Administrative Assistant, stated at the time the application was processed, the NICET was not expired and is honoring that expiration. She does have a copy of the NICET. Once the license is approved, with the board's approval, she will reach out to the applicant to see if he has recertified his NICET. If he has not, no plans will be accepted from the applicant until it is done.

Chair Hewett asked if that works for the (fire) marshal.

Deputy Fire Marshal Cooper stated it works for the fire department.

Board Member Colarelli confirmed standard protocol for all licensees is similar when their certification expires.

Senior Administrative Assistant Wutzke confirmed this and explained typically she will see where the expiration date is close to being cut off but as long as it is valid at the initial review, it is accepted. This is the first time she has seen one expire before it was presented to the Fire Board. She worked with supervisors at Fire Construction Services and the customer to close the loop of communication, but if the board has other thoughts, she will come up with a different plan.

**The motion passed unanimously.**

- ii. **Business Name:** Red Rocks Fire Prevention, Inc.  
**Applicant:** Brian Kakac  
**RME:** Brian Kakac

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

**Board Member Ekornes motioned to approve the application.**

**Board Member Honn seconded the motion.**

**The motion passed unanimously.**

**B. Fire Alarm Contractor B**

- i. **Business Name:** Electric Service of Colorado, Inc.  
**Applicant:** Ephraim Barlow  
**RME:** Steven McCann

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

Vice Chair Riggs stated there is no NICET provided within this application.

Senior Administrative Assistant Wutzke replied that (PP)RBD continues to have technical difficulties. She keeps copies of the NICETs and this NICET expires November 21, 2025. There is a new IT director and she hopes they (PPRBD) get the technical difficulties resolved. In the interim, she will provide a copy of the NICETs and any necessary certificates to the board to avoid these questions in the future. She offered to pass this certificate to the board members for review.

Chair Hewett replied that it could be viewed from where they are and if there were any other questions.

Deputy Fire Marshal Cooper stated previously, that the CSFD provided all supporting documentation in the packet, and it was getting very thick. A few months back it was decided to not include those documents. Staff is making sure documents are accurate. In the interim, the required certifications will be provided in the packet until PPRBD gets its processes squared away.

Chair Hewett said thank you.

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

**C. Fire Suppression Contractor A**

- i. **Business Name:** Pye-Barker Fire & Safety, LLC  
**Applicant:** Robby Gray  
**RME:** Jason Uhrich

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

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

- ii. **Business Name:** Red Rocks Fire Prevention, Inc.  
**Applicant:** Brian Kakac  
**RME:** Bryan Echelberger

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

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

**D. Fire Suppression Contractor H**

- i. **Business Name:** Plumb Crazy Services, LLC  
**Applicant:** Austin Carter  
**RME:** Austin Carter

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

Vice Chair Riggs asked if there was a NICET.

Senior Administrative Assistant Wutzke replied that this type of license does not require a NICET. The qualifications are a letter of commitment stating that the contractor is going to keep a minimum equipment requirement for servicing and maintaining hydrants documenting that the RME has two years of experience

with private hydrants and a letter stating that the RME is a full-time employee of the company.

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

- ii. Business Name: COSCO Fire Protection, Inc.  
Applicant: Brian Dunn  
RME: Brian Dunn

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

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

## **BUSINESS**

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## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **1. Discussion of New Board Members**

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

Deputy Fire Marshal Cooper stated Connie has been diligent in following up on the status of future applicants to the board. Ayana (Garcia), a representative to the City Council has received two applications and is waiting to get clarification on their qualifications for the seat they are applying for. The next steps are Council Member Risley will review the applications and suggest interviews around May 20 to May 31, 2024. That will go before the City Council on June 11<sup>th</sup> for the recommendation for approval. Assuming the process goes well we are looking for the seats to be filled for the July or August meeting (of 2024).

Board Member Colarelli verified the large business seat was filled and if the only gap was the insurance seat.

Deputy Fire Marshal Cooper replied the open seats are building contractor A, B, or C and insurance.

Board Member Colarelli asked if he was off the board.

Deputy Fire Marshal Cooper asked Connie Manning to the podium.

Fire Prevention Compliance Coordinator Connie Manning, replied yes, Board Member Colarelli will be off the board depending on if the applicant is qualified and is appointed. She thanked him for his service.

Board Member Colarelli asked if the other applicant would fill the insurance industry.

Deputy Fire Marshal Cooper replied yes.

## Other Business

Board Member Colarelli stated he understands Captain Valdez has moved on and is curious about the next candidate in that role. He wanted to tell the department that from the industry standpoint, he continues a long tradition of remarkable professionals doing awesome work within the industry to make sure there is an understanding of work and how the community needs it to be done. Captain Valdez did this with grace, wisdom, and charm. He will be missed by Board Member Colarelli's organization and other organizations in the community. He wanted to recognize the fine work and the long tradition. It is remarkable how the CSFD develops its staff and the work that they do.

Deputy Fire Marshal Cooper appreciates Board Member Colarelli's words and will make sure they get passed on to Captain Valdez. Captain Valdez had the opportunity to fill a vacant position in a station. The plan is to move forward with a civilian Deputy Fire Marshal. Deputy Fire Marshal Cooper provided a background of that role and for many years one captain has been retained in the division. The challenge with retaining an operational captain is the turnover. It moved from a two-year rotation to a three-year rotation. The CSFD has been fortunate to obtain individuals who have been driven and have done a great job within the workgroup. The challenge is the time it takes to get them up to speed, then they are transitioned out. It is difficult on the individual and the staff knowing every three years there will be a new supervisor. The department is moving forward with the civilian deputy fire marshal with the idea of getting a fire prevention professional and help increase the tenure within that workgroup. The department will continue to strive for excellence, which works well within the industry, and will be a good partner to the board. The position is being posted nationally and there are internal candidates that are qualified. The board will be updated on the process.

Deputy Fire Marshal Cooper provided additional staffing updates. The two vacant inspector positions have been filled and the department has posted for the vacant senior fire inspector position. In the interim, Fire Marshal Lacey and Deputy Fire Marshal Cooper are alternating overseeing the Fire Construction Services group. Jeff and Chip doing great at being the boots on the ground and keeping workgroups moving forward.

Chair Hewett asked if there were any other questions or comments.

## ADJOURN

**Board Member Colarelli motioned to adjourn.  
Board Member Honn 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