

MINUTES

REGULAR MEETING OF VERDE VALLEY FIRE DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORS, HELD MARCH 26, 2013, AT FIRE STATION 31, 2700 GODARD ROAD, COTTONWOOD, AZ.

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER: 10:00 AM

PRESENT:

Thomas Rhodes (absent)
Ken Bishop
Matt Robertson
Bob Eddingfield
Henry Martin (absent)

STAFF:

Chief Nazih Hazime
Debbie Spingola
AC Doerksen

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: **Motion** was made by Matt Robertson to approve the agenda as presented. Second was made by Ken Bishop. **Motion** carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: **Motion** was made by Ken Bishop to waive the reading of and to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting held on February 26, 2013. Second was made by Matt Robertson. **Motion** carried unanimously.

SCHEDULED PUBLIC APPEARANCES: NONE

UNSCHEDULED PUBLIC APPEARANCES: NONE

CALL TO PUBLIC: NONE

REPORTS:

Verde Valley Fire District crews will be participating in a Mutual Aid Drill, Friday, March 29th with Prescott Area Agencies.

Chief Hazime recognized the crews at Station 32 for their work helping out the Cornville Mission on a regular basis.

A legislation topic that is rumored to come up is removing the Mil Rate Cap. This will help out districts throughout the state. AC Doerksen explained how the current cap works. AC Doerksen explained more information will be available after the April AFDA Board Meeting.

VVFD has received approximately \$7,000.00 for past Wildland Deployment Reimbursements, but is still waiting for approximately \$39,000.00.

The Policy Review Committee will be looking at the Performance Evaluation Policy in April, and then it will go to the Board for the final approval.

A Car Seat Grant has been successfully submitted.

Chief Hazime is still working with VVMC and our Healthcare Broker in putting together the Wellness Program. He is working to get physicals funded through our healthcare provider instead of the District paying for them. If we are successful this will be a big cost savings for the District.

CURRENT EVENTS:

Verde Valley Fire Foundation's Golf Tournament is coming up, April 13th at Pine Shadows Golf Course. We encourage all to attend.

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION:

A. Review of Legislation, Issues and Other Organizations or Agencies that may impact Verde Valley Fire District-

Chief Hazime gave the Board some “language” from the International Association of Fire Chief’s (IAFC). It lists some short falls on money coming down from the Feds to the Fire Service. Some topics that will affect the Fire Service:

- Wildland Management Account; \$38 Million is going to be cut out and will probably affect all who respond to wildland assignments.
- There will be a 2% reduction in Medicare payments starting April 1st.
- Prop 117 with 5% cap on tax levy.

B. Discussion of Impacts of Other Jurisdictions with Verde Valley Fire District- Chief Hazime is still working from the Amante Group in the Verde Santa Fe Area, in a new Fire Station placement. Chief Hazime also received a call from Cottonwood Fire Chief, Mike Kuykendall, wanting to set a meeting along with the City of Cottonwood, City Manager to discuss a fire station in the Verde Santa Fe area. Chief Kuykendall also invited any of the Board Members to attend the meeting. Matt Robertson stated that we should go and at least listen to what they have to say, Ken Bishop also agreed. Bob Eddingfield spoke with Board Member Thomas Rhodes earlier and Mr. Rhodes likes the idea of the Open Door approach. Chief Hazime will let all Board Members know when the meeting is set. Board Chair Eddingfield gave the support of the Board for Chief Hazime to proceed. Chairman Eddingfield will let VVFD Administration know when the meeting is scheduled so a Quorum Notice can be posted.

C. FY 13/14 Budget Information Update- Chief Hazime explained how the budget options were created. He gave a power point presentation that showed budget history and four potential budget options. Board Members would like copies of the options and review them before directing Chief Hazime as to which option they like. Matt Robertson would like to see how the numbers change if the Board approved a merit increase but let the employee absorb the increase in PSPRS/ASRS. Bob Eddingfield and Ken Bishop agreed they would also like to see the additional figures. The Board directed Chief Hazime to put together these numbers and send them to each Board Member for their review.

D. C311 2007 GMC Yukon XL for Possible Replacement- Chief Hazime listed the advantages/reasons for selling this vehicle on the Item 9D page in the Board Books. Chief Hazime would like something more efficient and still be able to provide the services needed for operations. . This vehicle was already scheduled for replacement in the next FY but Chief Hazime would like to take the money out of this FY Capital Purchases. The budgeted amount for new vehicle is \$40,000.

Motion was made by Bob Eddingfield for Chief Hazime to make arrangements to sell the 2007 GMC Yukon XL, research a replacement vehicle and bring that information back to the Board for final approval. Second was made by Matt Robertson. **Motion** carried unanimously.

E. Hiring of 3 New Full Time Fire Fighters- Chief Hazime listed his ideas supporting the hiring of 3 New Full Time Fire Fighters on the Item 9E page in the Board Books. Chief Hazime explained that with the hiring of the new firefighters, we would be able to use the 2nd out ambulance or utilize other vehicles that would be needed on scene. Bob Eddingfield inquired how much revenue VVFD would bring in if the 2nd out Ambulance was put into service. The figures were not available at this time. Ken Bishop asked if we would use the new firefighters to cover the new Verde Santa Fe Station if and when that comes to fruition. Chief Hazime would like to utilize new hires in the current staffing. This would give the flexibility to staff the current stations adequately and a new station if it is built.

Motion was made by Bob Eddingfield to table the issue, because not all Board Members were present and also wait until after the conversation with the City of Cottonwood took place. Second was made by Matt Robertson. **Motion** carried unanimously.

Motion was made by Bob Eddingfield to adjourn. Second was made by Ken Bishop. **Motion** carried unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT: 11:15 AM

BOARD CLERK: _____ **DATE:** _____

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