

MINUTES

REGULAR MEETING OF VERDE VALLEY FIRE DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORS, HELD MAY 27, 2014, AT FIRE STATION 31, 2700 GODARD ROAD, COTTONWOOD, AZ.

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER: 10:04 AM

PRESENT:

Bob Eddingfield (absent but will be available for budget)
Ken Bishop
Matt Robertson
Thomas Rhodes
Henry Martin

STAFF:

Fire Chief Hazime
AC Doerksen
Lisa Elliott

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: **Motion** was made by Matt Robertson to approve the agenda as presented with the exception of moving Item 10b before Item 10a due to Bob Eddingfield being on teleconference call. Second was made by Henry Martin. **Motion** carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: **Motion** was made by Matt Robertson to waive the reading of and to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting held on April 22, 2014. Second was made by Henry Martin. **Motion** carried unanimously.

Motion was made by Henry Martin to waive the reading of and to approve the minutes of the Budget Workshop held on May 6, 2014. Second was made by Thomas Rhodes. Motion passed with 3 ayes. Matt Robertson abstained because he was not at the meeting.

SCHEDULED PUBLIC APPEARANCES:

6A. Verde Rural Fire Department Reunion- Charlie Wright wasn't able to attend the meeting so Chief Hazime explained the reunion plans and read the letter submitted by Mr. Wright. The reunion is tentatively set for Saturday, June 21, 2014. They would like the District to fund the gathering. Mark Dixon explained the Verde Valley Manor will be donating the building to have the reunion and attendees will be bringing pot luck dishes so the expense would be minimal.

UNSCHEDULED PUBLIC APPEARANCES: NONE

CALL TO PUBLIC: NONE

FINANCIAL REPORTS:

Chief Hazime presented and reviewed the Financial Reports.

Motion was made by Thomas Rhodes to accept the Financial Reports as presented. Second was made by Matt Robertson. **Motion** carried unanimously.

CHIEF REPORTS:

DDB Elementary School held its Annual Volunteer Ice Cream Social to recognize those who support them. They presented VVFD a Certificate of Appreciation.

Yavapai College Fire Science Program recognized VVFD with an Appreciation Plaque for our support of their program by allowing students to ride-along.

Chief Hazime gave a LODD update.

Chief Hazime attended a Historic Event at the Up the Creek Restaurant marking the Page Family's anniversary of settling in the area.

Grants have been awarded to other agencies but we are still waiting for approval for the Video Conferencing Grant and the Exhaust System Grant as well as the Car Seat Grant.

Chief Hazime explained the call volume is increasing regarding neighborhoods that need to be cleaned up to meet defensible space regulations.

Chief Hazime met with representatives from Urgent Care/Nextcare regarding fitness program. They presented their programs and what they are working on. Chief Hazime is continuing to work with VVMC who is ready to proceed with department physicals in July. A questionnaire will be coming around regarding pricing so they can meet our budget restraints.

The house on Anderson Place will be used for Ventilation Training soon.

Out of Africa will be utilized for training using their zip line. Chief Hazime explained VVFD would like to partner with Camp Verde Fire District with this training. In return for using their zip line, VVFD will provide CCR training for Out of Africa Staff.

AZ Fire Institute set aside \$100,000 to be put into the Training Budget to cover the overall cost for all agencies who train at the state level.

Kudos to our valley for training together, the Statewide Mutual Aid System wants to use our template.

CURRENT EVENTS:

The Verde Valley Fire Foundation had the Pancake Feed/Open House, Saturday, May 17th at Station 31. This (3) hr event raised \$700 and was well received by the community. Clarkdale Fire and VVAC helped with the event.

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION:

B. Possible Adoption of Preliminary Budget for FY 2014-2015-Bob Eddingfield is now available on teleconference. Chief Hazime gave a PowerPoint presentation on the budget.

After some discussion Bob Eddingfield had to go due to too much background noise from teleconference call. He will abstain from voting on this item but would like to state that he prefers Option 7 which would increase the Mil Rate to 3.25 and give employees step increases.

Chief Hazime explained from a Fire Chief's perspective, he also would go with Option 7.

Lisa Elliott handed out a Budget Summary Example of Option 7 so Board Members could see what the numbers would look like. Board Members discussed the current step system and the history of merit increases. Matt Robertson recommended reviewing the step system.

Motion was made by Matt Robertson to approve the Preliminary Budget for FY 2014-2015 as presented with figures from Option 7 in the amount of \$6,129,991.00 with a Mil Rate of \$3.25, setting in place the (20) twenty day review period for public comment and set the hearing date of June 24, 2014 at 10 a.m. Second was made by Thomas Rhodes.

Thomas Rhodes would like to give a step increase and doesn't mind giving it out of the contingency fund this time but would not like that to continue. Ken Bishop stated he is inclined to agree with Option 7 also.

Henry Martin didn't have too much to say because there is only about a \$21,000 difference between options.

Board Clerk Ken Bishop called for the vote to accept the Preliminary Budget utilizing Option #7.

Motion carried unanimously.

Thomas Rhodes would like to see a write up in the paper (Facts from the Chief Article) explaining to the public what has been done, and it to be very transparent during the preliminary stage. This way the public has time to give their comments if they don't like something. Henry Martin also would like to show to the public that the budget has been reduced by \$50,000 through the diligence of staff and decrease in spending. Thomas Rhodes would like to also include that the staff voluntarily did not receive merit increases during the recession.

A. Resolution Opposing the Legalization of Marijuana- Resolution 2014-03- Chief Hazime explained this was brought to our attention by Cottonwood Administration and their MATForce involvement. MATForce would like support opposing the legalization of marijuana in the State of Arizona. Chief Hazime introduced Fire Fighter Ivan Anderson, who is also a representative of MATForce, and gave a presentation.

Motion was made by Henry Martin to adopt Resolution 2014-03 opposing the legalization of marijuana. Second was made by Thomas Rhodes. Matt Robertson thanked FF Ivan Anderson for his effort and involvement with MATFORCE. However, Matt does not believe he is prepared to pass judgment as a government elected official one way or another as it doesn't pertain financially to VVFD. Ken Bishop also wanted to thank FF Anderson for his effort. Thomas Rhodes asked when does the District have to decide if they want to sign the resolution. FF Anderson explained this is an ongoing effort. Thomas explained he isn't so sure he'd like to vote on this today. **Motion** made by Thomas Rhodes to table the topic until the next Board Meeting so he can do further research. Second was made by Henry Martin. FF Anderson gave the Board Members two websites to compare, to be able to get information they need to make a decision. marijuanaharmlessthinkagain.org/ or www.mpp.org/ (**Marijuana Policy Project**) **Motion** carried unanimously.

C. Policy Change Adoption- Chief Hazime reviewed the policy and explained that it was sent to the attorney to review.

Motion was made by Matt Robertson to approve the Drug and Alcohol Policy as presented. Second was made by Thomas Rhodes.

Henry Martin stated he would like to see changes to several of the paragraphs. He stated he has zero tolerance for drugs and alcohol in the work place. While Thomas Rhodes appreciates that Henry wants black/white rules in the work place, we live with a lot of gray in this line of work. Several gray area examples were discussed amongst Board Members and Fire Personnel attending the meeting.

Board Clerk Ken Bishop called for the vote. **Motion** carried with 3 ayes and 1 nay Henry Martin.

D. Annexation Requests – Resolution 2014-04, Resolution 2014-05, Resolution 2014-06, Resolution 2014-07. Motion was made by Henry Martin, to approve the adoption of Resolution 2014-04, Resolution 2014-05, Resolution 2014-06, and Resolution 2014-07 annexing them into the District as written. Second was made by Matt Robertson. **Motion** carried unanimously.

E. 2014 Board Elections– Resolution 2014-08- Chief Hazime explained there are two Board positions up for election in November. The increased cost for elections is \$44,445.00. We have the option to cancel the election if only two individuals submit petitions for these openings. **Motion** was made by Matt Robertson to adopt Resolution 2014-08 as presented and waive the reading of. Second was made by Henry Martin. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion was made by Henry Martin to adjourn. Second was made by Matt Robertson. **Motion** carried unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT: 11:45PM

BOARD CLERK: _____ **DATE:** _____

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