

## MINUTES

### REGULAR MEETING OF VERDE VALLEY FIRE DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORS, HELD SEPTEMBER 25, 2012, AT FIRE STATION 31, 2700 GODARD ROAD, COTTONWOOD, AZ.

**MEETING CALLED TO ORDER:** 10:00 AM

**PRESENT:**

Thomas Rhodes  
Ken Bishop  
Matt Robertson  
Bob Eddingfield

**STAFF:**

Chief Nazih Hazime  
Debbie Spingola  
Jennifer Shilling

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA:** Chairman Robertson would like to amend the agenda by moving Item 9B up to Item 7 'Unscheduled Public Appearances'. **Motion** was made by Bob Eddingfield to approve the agenda as amended. Second was made by Ken Bishop. **Motion** carried unanimously.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** **Motion** was made by Bob Eddingfield to waive the reading of and to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting held on August 28, 2012. Second was made by Matt Robertson. **Motion** carried unanimously.

**SCHEDULED PUBLIC APPEARANCES:**

Chief Hazime revealed a plaque that the District will send to Dick Dobbin to thank him for his many years of service to the District as a Board Member.

**UNSCHEDULED PUBLIC APPEARANCES:**

**9B. Appointment of a Board Member to Fill the Board Vacancy-** **Motion** was made by Bob Eddingfield to appoint Henry (Hank) Martin to the Board of Directors. Second was made by Thomas Rhodes. **Motion** carried unanimously. Hank Martin took the Oath of Office.

**CALL TO PUBLIC:** NONE

**REPORTS:**

Chief Hazime stated that VVFD is going to reinstate our cost recovery procedure with "Fire Recovery USA". This is cost recovery of incidents involving; clean-up, Helicopter landing zones, apparatus usage, extrication, etc. We have forms created and now we have the approval from the state to use them. Chairman Robertson asked who VVFD will be billing for these funds. Chief Hazime explained that this bill will go to the individual's Auto Insurance Company.

Chief Hazime attended an AFDA Meeting recently and explained that it is very important to have a good, "transparent" auditor to go over the books and turn in a report. VVFD already has this in place. Other Districts across the state are having problems with this.

Chief Hazime will be meeting with Yavapai County Supervisor Chip Davis to review annexation of a piece of property he recently purchased and to discuss the Verde Village Pond.

Chief Hazime met with YCSO Lieutenant Nate Auvenshine concerning permitting deputy's access into each station to do their reports.

VVFD has received our final 2011 Wild Land payment for the Bull Flat Fire of \$5,839.61. Through a state created policy we will be able to compensate our reserves with a higher salary during Wild Land Deployments. Chief Hazime would like to add Uniform Policy and Grooming Policy to the next Board Meeting Agenda. The Policy Review Committee will also be reviewing the Performance Review Policy.

The Governor's Office of Highway Safety has awarded VVFD a \$5,000.00 Grant. A total of \$4,700 is reserved for car seats and \$300 for flyers & publication. Jennifer Shilling is putting together a Regional Car Seat

Technician Log to keep everyone up-to-date as to which agency has car seats and who the Certified Technicians are.

Fire Marshal Mike Flummer is working with Yavapai County Attorney's office on code enforcements, on a case by case basis.

VVFD has been involved in two fires recently. The first one was assisting CFD on an electrical caused fire in a single wide trailer home on 7<sup>th</sup> Street and the second fire was in a home, in our District, on Cochise.

Physicals will be enhanced through VVMC by adding the Berkley Lipid Test. This will all be paid for through a grant. Personnel will take care of this on their own. The Treadmill Test has also changed from the Davis Test to the Gerkin Test.

A Regional Drill with Prescott Fire Agencies is set for November 7<sup>th</sup> at Steve Coury. AC Doerksen is the Verde Valley's Representative.

Verde Valley Fire Foundation will be doing a TV Presentation to promote Christmas Tree Sales and their upcoming Golf Tournament which is scheduled for October 20<sup>th</sup> at Verde Santa Fe Golf Course.

Bob Eddingfield inquired about the Solar Project. Chief Hazime explained that this project is on hold for now.

### **CURRENT EVENTS:**

Fire and Steel 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Dice Run is this Saturday, September 29<sup>th</sup>.

Verde Valley Fire Foundation Golf Tournament is Saturday, October 20<sup>th</sup>.

VVFD Open House this year is scheduled for Wednesday, October 24<sup>th</sup> at Station 32 and Thursday October 25<sup>th</sup> at Station 31. Each Station will be open from 4pm-7pm. Food, demonstrations and educational handouts will be provided. YCSO will also stop by and participate.

Matt Robertson explained that each Board Member received a copy of a Performance Evaluation to fill out for Chief Hazime. These are due back to Chairman Robertson or to the Station by October 19<sup>th</sup>.

### **DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION:**

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

- Proposition 117 – Lobbyist stated they are almost certain this will pass. Based on limited assessed property values, if someone sells their house the new owner will pay a higher tax rate. If this were to happen in 2012-13 this would be a 15% reduction on the Tax Levy. If this bill passes it will go into affective 2015. November we will know if it passes, then we will have a better idea in February of what direction the economy is going and how it will affect our budget. Our District has a lot of undeveloped land and this is why the amount of the decrease is higher than some of the other Districts. When the 12-13 budget was put together we projected a 9% increase so the 15% isn't too far off.
- Bill 2643- A lot of Districts are doing the wait and see approach. VVFD is still working with the insurance company for the numbers. Currently, they have indicated it would be about \$7,000 if this goes through. We have an Employees Liability Fund of 95% (of the Highest Salary for 4 Employees) approximately \$190,000. This can be used for employees on leave to comply with the 2643 bill. Chairman Robertson would like to see the amount that we would truly need to cover everyone if this goes into effect.
- AZ Healthcare Cost Containment System (AHCCS) - these funds are paid when a patient does not have insurance. The percentage they will pay has been lowered from 75% to 68%. Discussion regarding if it is possible to charge for a call when we respond and then the patient refuses transport. Chief Hazime will ask Bill Boler what part we charge for non transports and if AHCCS would retro Ambulance service for a

patient if the patient gets qualified for AHCCS at the time of service.

- Yavapai County Attorney's Office will start to bill for questions or help with specific situations. We have given a lot of help/discounts to the County in the past (cleaning culverts/CPR Training discounts) so it only seems fair for them not to charge us for their help once in awhile. Chief Hazime will bring this up during his meeting with Chip Davis.
- The Joint Powers of Authority Meetings are scheduled for January 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> at 6pm at Mingus Union High School. Each presentation will be about 2 hours then the rest of the time will be for questions/answers. John Flynn will be on hand to help with the questions/presentation. Chief Hazime will send out Personal Invitations to all the Chiefs and Elected Officials. The purpose of this meeting is to try to get everyone well informed. Discussion amongst the Board Members followed as to how the Question/Answer period should be handled. Chief Hazime will work the presenters to see what will work best as to handle the questions/answers.
- Ken asked if we had heard about Verde Santa Fe. No new news was reported.

**B. Check Signing Authority-** Chief Hazime explained that he is currently allowed to sign Check Request/Purchase Orders for purchases up to \$5000, and would like to simply the check signing process by allowing him to sign checks up to \$5,000. Chairman Robertson asked if this is legal and suggested that we look into this and bring back the information to the next Board Meeting. Hank Martin thinks that two signatures are required by Statute. Thomas Rhodes says it's a matter of perception and Ken Bishop agreed. Bob Eddingfield says as a Board Member he likes to be able to see the checks that the District is sending out.

Based on the dialogue Chief Hazime will be removed the item from the table. Chairman Robertson would still like to know what the law allows.

**C. Communication Agreement with Sedona Fire District-** Chief Hazime will refrain from this item because of a Conflict of Interest. AC Doerksen included in the Board Packet a draft copy of the new Sedona Fire's Communication Agreement. AC Doerksen gave a brief history on the Communication Agreements of the past. This item is for discussion only. Thomas Rhodes stated that we need viable options. Thomas Rhodes thinks Sedona is the best option for now but we need to keep in mind our budget, and need to make sure if something happens with the annexations we have a plan.

Thomas Rhodes would like to have a copy of the A.R.S.38-511 so he can review it and would like to have this information before the next Board Meeting. AC Doerksen will send this information out to the Board Members.

Chief Hazime showed a couple of quilts that Joyce Ann Whitney makes to be handed out and used on scenes. Thank you letters have been sent out.

**ADJOURNMENT: 11:42 AM**

**BOARD CLERK:** \_\_\_\_\_ **DATE:** \_\_\_\_\_

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