

MINUTES

REGULAR MEETING OF VERDE VALLEY FIRE DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORS, HELD FEBRUARY 22, 2011, AT STATION 32, 1120 SOUTH PAGE SPRINGS ROAD, CORNVILLE, AZ.

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER: 10:00 AM

PRESENT:

Dick Dobbin
Ken Bishop
Matt Robertson
Bob Eddingfield
Gerald Shanks

STAFF:

Chief Jerry Doerksen
Debbie Lewis

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: **Motion** was made by Bob Eddingfield to approve the agenda as presented. 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 on January 25, 2011 with changes to minutes regarding Camp Verde. Second was made by Matt Robertson. **Motion** carried unanimously.

SCHEDULED PUBLIC APPEARANCES: Donation for car seats and helmets from Verde Valley Fire District Charities presented by President Doug Longfellow.

CALL TO PUBLIC: NONE

REPORTS: Chief Doerksen reviewed Financial, Chief's, Assistant Chief's, Administration, Training, Captain's and PIO's reports. Gerald Shanks asked about the purchase of the property on Tissaw Road. Bob Eddingfield asked if VVFD has signed a contract yet for the purchase of the property on Tissaw Road. Chief Doerksen stated that we have not signed a contract yet. **Motion** was made by Matt Robertson to approve the reports. Second was made by Bob Eddingfield. **Motion** carried unanimously. Matt Robertson asked if it was appropriate to approve the reports. Staff was directed to research the question.

CURRENT EVENTS: Bob Eddingfield complemented staff in sending out Legislative updates from AFDA. Bob Eddingfield also thanked Dick Dobbin for his efforts on keeping everyone informed on the Verde Santa Fe meetings. Bob Eddingfield would like to have a short executive session for Chief's evaluation in March. Dick Dobbin reviewed the handout that was sent out by City of Cottonwood in their water bill. It was recommended that a special meeting be held to discuss the purchase of the property on Tissaw Road.

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION:

- A. **Legislative Review** – Gerald Shanks stated HR 2250 was approved, this will change the commercial property tax assessed ratio however, and this will have little effect on VVFD because we have very little commercial property. Gerald Shanks review the Joint Power Authority bill. Gerald Shanks reviewed the possible cuts to the Federal Budget eliminating of the homeland grant program. Chief Doerksen stated that the Legislature is looking at sweeping the state shared revenues to help balance the State Budget. Chief Doerksen stated that AFDA is also looking at the Fireworks Bill and the Sprinkler System Bill.

- B. **Update on Merger and Consolidation Discussions with Neighboring Departments.** Matt Robertson had an informal meeting with the Mayor and City Manager of the City of Cottonwood to discuss the theory of the consolidation process. Matt Robertson gave an overview of this meeting. Gerald Shanks addressed Clarkdale Fire Board at their Board meeting regarding Fire Authority. Dick Dobbin stated that just the fact that the Mayor and the City Manager met with Matt Robertson is a step in the right direction. Chief Doerksen stated that he will be doing a research paper on Fire Authority and that we can use this information in the future.
- C. **Proposed Fire Service Consolidation Article-** Gerald Shanks went over draft letter and asked the Board Members how they felt about this letter. Matt Robertson asked what direction we are heading. Mark Dixon stated that the relationship with Cottonwood Fire is not as strong as in the past, but on emergency scenes we still perform seamlessly. Mark Dixon feels that much of the negative feelings are just perceptions. Ivan Anderson stated that he views them as being brother firefighters and that the new guys will have the perception from what they hear from their leadership. Merry Shanks stated that there is no animosity in the LAFS origination, there goal is to educate the children. Dick Dobbin stated that a message showing that VVFD does support consolidation with other fire and EMS agencies should be published after it is properly written and editorialized by the Board; he feels that it might have a good result. Jacob Haney stated that the big problem is protecting our own and protecting our originations and our jobs. Jacob Haney stated that both groups should be involved in the plans and understand that the plan is for integration. Chief Doerksen stated that he is in favor of showing that VVFD supports consolidation. Ken Bishop and Bob Eddingfield agree with this letter. Matt Robertson would like to see this being sent out in a different timeframe and maybe could be a joint effort with the City of Cottonwood. **Motion** was made by Ken Bishop to approve article with the recommended changes. **Motion** died with lack of second. **Motion** was made by Bob Eddingfield to postpone this article for 30 days. Second was made by Dick Dobbin. **Motion** carried unanimously.
- D. **FY 11/12 Budget Information Update-** Gerald Shanks reviewed how the District might be affected in future years and that we need to look at how we will survive and still provide the services. Chief Doerksen gave a presentation on information that will impact the 2011/2012 VVFD Budget. Gerald Shanks would like to see a bare bones budget and to see what we need to operate. Ken Bishop would like to see a conservative budget and need to keep the safety of the personnel and the public in mind.

ADJOURNMENT: 12:23 PM

BOARD CLERK: _____ **DATE:** _____