

MINUTES

REGULAR MEETING OF VERDE VALLEY FIRE DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORS, HELD MARCH 23, 2010, AT STATION 31, 2700 GODARD ROAD, COTTONWOOD, AZ.

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER: 10:00 AM

PRESENT:

Dick Dobbin
Ken Bishop
Matt Robertson
Bob Eddingfield
Gerald Shanks (absent)

STAFF:

Chief Jerry Doerksen
Assistant Chief Flummer (absent)
Debbie Lewis

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: **Motion** was made Matt Robertson to move Item 9D to be moved up after unscheduled public appearances. 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 on February 23, 2010 as amended, and the Budget Committee Work Sessions on February 23, 2010 and March 9, 2010. Second was made by Dick Dobbin. **Motion** carried unanimously.

SCHEDULED PUBLIC APPEARANCES:

- A. Amanda Sipes – Motorcycle Injury Recovery Presentation. Amanda Sipes was not able to attend the meeting.
- B. Continues Compress Resuscitation Program Manager and Instructors Recognition. Chief presented certificate awards to Skip Heyer, Ron Balatore, JR Kleven, Michael Clonts and Kristen Currence who was unable to attend the meeting.

CALL TO PUBLIC: NONE

9 D. PRELIMINARY PLAN PROPOSAL FOR THE ADDITION TO STATION 31: After a presentation from Eric Seitz this item will be placed on the Agenda for the April 27th Board Meeting.

Motion was made by Matt Robertson, to place this item on the Agenda for the April 27th Board Meeting and to have a Special Meeting on April 9th at 10:00 station 31. Second was made by Ken Bishop. **Motion** carried unanimously.

REPORTS: Chief Doerksen reviews Financial Reports and correspondence. Dick Dobbin noted that the quarterly accountant process will be addressed at the April meeting. Dick Dobbin stated that we should continue to attend the National Fire Academy and continue to encourage staff to attend.

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION:

A. TAX REVOLT / LEGISLATIVE REVIEW: Chief Doerksen stated that the lobbyists are working together with the legislators. Chief Doerksen continues to send out updates to the Board Members as he receives them.

B. W-2 ERROR AND POSSIBLE EMPLOYEE COMPENSATION: **Motion** was made by Ken Bishop to approve the compensation for the employees for any additional expenses accrued due to the W-2 error upon receipt of documentation. Second was made by Matt Robertson. **Motion** carried unanimously.

C. AUGUST BOARD MEETING CHANGE: **Motion** was made by Ken Bishop, to move the August meeting from Station 32 to Verde Valley Property Owners Association Clubhouse. Second was made by Matt Robertson. **Motion** carried unanimously.

E. BUDGET PRESENTATION: Chief Doerksen presented an overview of a Concept FY 10/11 Budget from the Budget Committee. Discussion and recommendations from the Board regarding the concept budget for the 10/11 Fiscal Year. Dick stated that we should not only look into purchasing SCBA's but also continue to have a plan to purchase them. Matt Robertson stated that before we consider hiring additional line crew that there would be a defined process of what minimum staffing is and what the requirements will be for additional staff. Chief Doerksen stated that this process will have to be all laid out. Right now they have a good start by just having an idea, but we have a lot of work to do. Dick Dobbin asked if it is cheaper to pay an existing employee overtime verses to hire on additional staff. Chief Doerksen responded that this would have to be researched. Matt Robertson stated that adding \$130,000 for SCBA's should be a top priority in the Budget and not just to be considered. Matt Robertson stated that the safety of our Firefighters should be our biggest concern. Matt Robertson stated that we should be testing all SCBA's from different vendors at this time to determine what the line crew would prefer to purchase and has had time to test different models. Dick Dobbin asked when we would be mandated by NFPA to make changes. Chief Doerksen stated that ours SCBA's do meet NFPA, however we still have problems with them. Dick Dobbin stated that we need to have a plan to replace the SCBA's in the future for the protection of our firefighters. Further discussion with Board Members regarding the safety of the SCBA's that are currently being used. Dick Dobbin stated that he felt a 2.5% merit increase is a good thing to do since we have done our due diligence in the past. Dick Dobbin felt we need to give raises this year since we will have a big drop in assessed valuation in the coming year. Ken Bishop agrees and thinks we will not be able to afford it the following fiscal year. Dick Dobbin stated that we were responsible in previous budgets and would be able to back it up should it be questioned by the public. Bob Eddingfield stated that he is still on the fence as far as giving a merit increase or not. Bob Eddingfield stated that there are additional monies being put into the PSPRS is kind of like giving the line crew a raise. Bob Eddingfield stated that it bothers him that the line personnel are going to receive this and that the Administration staff is not. Bob Eddingfield thinks somehow we should equalize this. Bob Eddingfield stated that if we did the meet and confer process, then Administration will not receive any benefits from this. Bob Eddingfield stated that this Board needs to address this issue. Dick Dobbin stated that the 2.5% increase would affect all personnel. Dick Dobbin did not want Administrative Staff to have to pay out of their pocket to cover the increase in ASRS. Matt Robertson stated he would like to show his support for the 2.5% increase this year. Matt Robertson stated he would not have a problem answering any questions from the public to justify the 2.5% increase.

F. APPROVAL TO ACCEPT THE OFF ROAD AMBULANCE: **Motion** was made by Matt Robertson, to approve the acceptance of the ATV and responsibility to maintain it in service and matching funds up to \$2,000. Second was made by Ken Bishop. **Motion** carried unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT: 1:03 PM

BOARD CLERK: _____ DATE: _____