

MINUTES

REGULAR MEETING OF VERDE VALLEY FIRE DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORS, HELD MARCH 24, 2009, AT STATION 31, 2700 GODARD ROAD, COTTONWOOD, AZ.

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER: 10:00 AM

PRESENT:

Bob Eddingfield
Matt Robertson
Dick Dobbin
Ken Bishop
Gerald Shanks

STAFF:

Chief Jerry Doerksen
Assistant Chief Flummer
Debbie Lewis

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: **Motion** was made by Bob Eddingfield to approve the agenda. 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 February 24, 2009 and Budget Meetings on March 5, 2009 and March 13, 2009. Second was made by Dick Dobbin. **Motion** carried unanimously.

SCHEDULED PUBLIC APPEARANCES: NONE

CALL TO PUBLIC: Chief Moore addresses the Board and states that Verde Valley Fire District has a lot of great people. Chief Moore presented an award to Dustin Chambliss for being an outstanding person and helping and thinking through the hiring process. Dustin helped on his days off and went above and beyond the call of duty. Joyce Driscoll gave an award to Debbie Lewis for willingness to share her knowledge and helping others even on her days off. Clarkdale Fire Board Chairman Jim Elmer gave an award to Verde Valley Fire District for their help too in making Clarkdale Fire District successful. Matt Robertson states that they are aware of the quality and the caliber of both line and admin. staff that Verde Valley District has and we are proud of them. Bob Eddingfield stated that he appreciated that Clarkdale recognizes our staff and the relationship between the two departments has been a good one and hopes it continues. Ken Bishop states that it is great being able to help somebody that needs it and appreciates it. Dick Dobbin thanks Clarkdale Fire for everything they have done for VVFD, which includes what they have done for him personally. Dick Dobbin told Clarkdale Fire that VVFD will be there for them when they need us and looks forward to getting together with them down the road. Gerald Shanks states that VVFD has good people and that Clarkdale are good people as well. Chief Doerksen thanks Clarkdale Fire and Chief Moore for meeting with him during these financial times in which we need to plan ahead. Chief Doerksen says it is nice to see the two organizations work so well together. Hopefully we can get together sometime to merge, operationally we are already there. Chief Moore states that it is so far and between that we recognize people as we should. It is an opportunity to keep the momentum going. Chief Moore again thanks our District for their support.

REPORTS: Chief Doerksen reviewed the Financial Statements. Matt Robertson asks what was sent to the Wildland Fire to get this revenue in. Ivan Anderson explained that an Engine and 5 line crew went to help with the Fire. Dick Dobbin asks why the ambulance billing is up for January and February. Chief Doerksen explained that it fluctuates up and down. **Motion** was made by Bob Eddingfield, to approve the financial statement as presented. Second was made by Gerald Shanks. **Motion** carried unanimously.

Chief Doerksen gives recognition to Ivan Anderson for his dedication to MAT Force, Jennifer Shilling for obtaining her EMT certification and Mike Rauton for being selected as Firefighter of the year. Gerald Shanks

talks about the new station. Chief Doerksen reviews meeting at Verde Santa Fe. Discussion with Board Members regarding the design of the new Fire Station.

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION:

A. TAX REVOLT / LEGISLATIVE REVIEW: Gerald Shanks indicates that the State is still tied up on the Budget and no legislative items will be looked at right now. Chief Doerksen gives an update on the report that he is working on for the National Fire Academy. Chief Doerksen also reviews what information the County Assessor gave at the Cornville meeting.

B. BUDGET PRESENTATION: Chief Doerksen reviews the Budget Concept that the Budget Committee has put together. Chief Doerksen reviews the changes that have been made to the Concept Budget since the last time the Budget Committee had met. Chief Doerksen states that the Finance Director from Sedona Fire attended the Fire Chiefs meeting this month to review the dispatching fees. Matt Robertson asks why we are scared to give staff merit increases. Gerald Shanks states that it is due to the political climate within the District. Gerald Shanks asks questions regarding the PEHP contributions. Gerald Shanks would like to see the monies in Account #5350 Insurance contingencies be placed into Account #5530 Administrative contingency.

C. PROPOSED CHANGE IN AMBULANCE BILLING RATE: Chief Doerksen reviews changes for the Ambulance Billing rate. Our ambulance calls are approximately 60% of our call volume and ambulance income is about 10% of our income, we also have a decrease in assessed values projected for next year so an increase in ambulance rates is justified. Other than cost of living increases we have not had an adjustment in our ambulance rates since March 2007. **Motion** was made by Ken Bishop, to apply to Arizona Department of Health Services for a rate increase from \$807.85 base rate, \$9.32 mileage, and \$201.96 standby to \$960.75 base rate, \$16.01 mileage and \$240.19 standby. Second was made by Bob Eddingfield. Gerald Shanks states that he would like to see the rate increase to \$1,135.00. Ken Bishop amends motion to increase Ambulance billing rate to \$1,135.00. Second was made by Bob Eddingfield. **Motion** carried unanimously.

D. ANNEXATION REQUEST – RESOLUTIONS 2009-01: An annexation request was made by Ray and Alex Griswold for the annexation of their property located at 2555 South Painted Mesa Trail. After the resolution was read by title, **Motion** was made by Dick Dobbin, to approve the adoption of Resolution 2009-01, annexing Parcel ID 406-15-460S into the District. Second was made by Gerald Shanks, **Motion** carried unanimously.

E. PURCHASE OF STAFF VEHICLE: We budgeted \$30,000 for the purchase of a staff vehicle. We have been researching prices for the budgeted staff vehicle. As in the past we are looking at a used SUV with low miles. New vehicles on State Contract started at \$31,771.00. Steve Coury has a used Yukon with low miles for \$28,000.00 total cost. They are in our District and this is the best price for a low mileage SUV that we have found so far. **Motion** was made by Bob Eddingfield, to approve the purchase of the GMC Yukon from Steve Coury in the amount of 28,000.00. Second was made by Ken Bishop. Bob Eddingfield and Ken Bishop voted aye. Gerald Shanks, Dick Dobbin, and Matt Robertson voted nay. **Motion** died. **Motion** was made by Dick Dobbin to approve the purchase of the 2009 Chevy Tahoe from Courtesy Chevrolet in the amount of \$31,771.56. Second was made by Matt Robertson. Ken Bishop states that he would like to see us purchase a vehicle within the District. Ivan Anderson states that we should buy locally. **Motion** died. 5 nays.

Motion was made by Ken Bishop to approve the purchase of the GMC Yukon from Steve Coury in the amount of 28,000.00. Second was made by Bob Eddingfield. Dick Dobbin states that after further discussion it comes with more equipment and would be a greater benefit to the District because it is loaded and would cost the

District less money than having to upgrade one of the State Bid vehicles with the same options that the GMC Yukon comes with. Ken Bishop, Bob Eddingfield, Dick Dobbin and Matt Robertson voted aye. Gerald Shanks voted nay. Motion carried 4-1.

F. AWARD OF ATV PURCHASE: This year we budgeted \$20,000 for an ATV for off road rescues, which we have multiple times a year from injuries from off road vehicles, horse riders, and hikers, and for access during flooding to areas like Oak Creek Ranch School. It will give us better access to patients and reduce wear and tear on our larger vehicles. The average cost for the ATV we are looking for is approximately \$12,000 plus tax and license. A patient transport insert and trailer will also be needed for the unit after the ATV is purchased, which will cost an additional \$5,000. We received only one bid which is a dealer in our District and his bid was \$10,749.71 including tax. **Motion** was made by Bob Eddingfield, to approve the purchase of the 2009 Polaris Ranger XP as presented in their bid for the total price of \$10,749.71 to Cottonwood Motorsports. Second was made by Ken Bishop. Matt Robertson states his concerns regarding manning this piece of equipment. Dick Dobbin's concern is that VVAC is not helping with the purchase of this as originally thought. Ken Bishop states we do have a lot of ridge terrain and it would be an asset and it was in the budget. He also would like to see VVAC still purchase this with us. Bob Eddingfield comments that this is perceived as toy by the public. Bob asks the line crew what they thought. Bob Eddingfield and Ken Bishop voted aye. Matt Robertson and Gerald Shanks voted nay. Dick Dobbin abstained. **Motion** died.

G. AWARD OF WELL PUMP SYSTEM AT STATION 31: **Motion** was made by Gerald Shanks, to approve the purchase of a well and pump system for Station 31 as presented in their bid for the total price of \$ 17,750.65 to KP Ventures Well Drilling. Second was made by Bob Eddingfield. **Motion** carried unanimously.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS: Dick Dobbin wants to know if we can send a letter of appreciation to Clarkdale Fire. Dick Dobbin would like to thank everyone involved in putting the Board book together. Gerald Shanks wants to see the layoff policy move forward and to complete pre-layoff procedures that are taken before laying off employees.

ADJOURNMENT: 12:59 PM

BOARD CLERK: _____ **DATE:** _____