

MINUTES

REGULAR MEETING OF VERDE VALLEY FIRE DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORS, HELD MAY 24, 2011, AT STATION 31, 2700 GODARD ROAD, COTTONWOOD, AZ.

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER: 10:02 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 by moving Item K before Item I. Second was made by Matt Robertson. **Motion** carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: **Motion** was made by Dick Dobbin to waive the reading of and to approve the minutes of the regular meeting on April 26, 2011. Second was made by Matt Robertson. **Motion** carried unanimously. **Motion** was made by Matt Robertson to waive the reading of and to approve the minutes of the Special Session on May 12, 2011. Second was made by Bob Eddingfield. **Motion** carried unanimously.

SCHEDULED PUBLIC APPEARANCES: Request to De-Annexation from VVFD- Chief Doerksen reviewed the request for De-Annexation. Bob Goodale addressed the Board with his request to De-Annex his property from the Verde Valley Fire District. Dick Dobbin asked Bob Goodale what was the price that he purchased the property for. Bob Goodale purchased the property in 2004 for \$105,000. Dick Dobbin read a portion of Statue 48.262 regarding the de-annex process. Gerald Shanks stated he would be opposed to this request because he felt that the Board needs to treat everyone the same and this would open up a flood gate in the community to want to make the same request. Gerald Shanks stated that he feels that everyone's property should have fire protection. Matt Robertson would be in favor of the de-annexation as long as we are providing the best level of service for the community. Matt Robertson stated that Bob Goodale has nothing that the District is protecting since this is vacant land only. Ken Bishop asked if that if someone living in the Verde Villages would have the same option as Mr. Goodale. Chief Doerksen stated that anyone in our District would be able to go through this process, but that it would be the Board's decision to approve or not approve their request. **Motion** was made by Bob Eddingfield to deny the de-annexation request. Second was made by Gerald Shanks. **Motion** carried 4-1. Bob Eddingfield, Gerald Shanks, Ken Bishop and Dick Dobbin voted aye. Matt Robertson voted nay.

UNSCHEDULED PUBLIC APPEARANCES: NONE

CALL TO PUBLIC: NONE

REPORTS: Board Chairman asked Board Members if they have any question regarding the Financial, Chief's, Assistant Chief's, Administration, Training, Captain's and PIO's reports. Dick Dobbin asked for a clarification on the registered warrant limits. Chief Doerksen explained the registered warrant limits. Dick Dobbin asked if there is any additional information on the Dispatch Services. Chief Doerksen stated that the committee is continuing to look at different options and they do not want to split up the system that they currently have.

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION:

- A. Request to De-Annexation from VVFD-**All discussion and comments are under item 6A above, Scheduled Public Appearances.
- B. Review of Legislation, Issues and Other Issues that may Impact Verde Valley Fire District-** Chief Doerksen stated that the fireworks bill did not get signed by the Governor. The Governor did sign the new FDAT bill, which will increase the FDAT limit to \$400,000. Fire Districts were removed from the bill to not allow Fire Agencies to charge for services. Gerald Shanks met with Pam Purcell with the assessed valuation process and reviewed the affects this has on our future budgets. Gerald Shanks stated that Yavapai County and Mingus High School Superintendents would like to come before the Board and present an option to work together on bulk purchasing.
- C. Impacts of Other Jurisdictions on Verde Valley Fire District –** Dick Dobbin stated that there is a move to oppose an annexation in Verde Santa Fe. Gerald Shanks stated that he will be having two other talks on Fire Authorities, one with Cottonwood Chamber of Commerce and one with Mingus Mountain Republican Club on Fire Authority. Chief Doerksen stated Bill Whittington is interested in attending any meetings that are held regarding Fire Authority.
- D. Options for Station in Verde Santa Fe Area –** Chief Doerksen stated that an option might be to go back to the VSF Property Association to request the approval to have a home as an interim station before selecting a home. Dick Dobbin stated that the VSF Property Association stated that it would not be a good idea to make this request at this time since the potential annexation is in process at this time. Bob Eddingfield stated that the Board should be looking at a house in VSF and he feels this might help VVFD during the potential annexation process. Matt Robertson is interested in pursuing an option that is in the best interest of VVFD and VSF residents. Gerald Shanks stated that this should be taken off the table at this time. Ken Bishop stated that if the annexation did not take place then this property would be a good option, his concern would be were the funds would come from to purchase property. **Motion** was made by Bob Eddingfield to table this item indefinitely. Second was made by Gerald Shanks. **Motion** carried unanimously.
- E. Budget Review-** Chief Doerksen reviewed the changes to the retirement plans and social security. Chief Doerksen also reviewed other changes that were made to the preliminary budget.
- F. Automatic Ambulance Rate Adjustment- Motion** was made by Dick Dobbin to apply for the automatic rate increase of 4.3% for ambulance service. Second was made by Ken Bishop. Bob Eddingfield stated that he does not want to raise the rate at this time due to the current economic situation. Dick Dobbin stated he does not have a problem with the increase. Ken Bishop stated that he agrees with the increase. **Motion** carried 4-1. Gerald Shanks, Matt Robertson, Dick Dobbin and Ken Bishop voted aye. Bob Eddingfield voted nay.

- G. Annual Earnings Scale- Motion** was made by Gerald Shanks not to approve the annual earnings scale and to put a hiring freeze on the existing position. **Motion** died for lack of second. **Motion** was made by Dick Dobbin to approve the Annual Earnings Scale with the change in the Public Information/Education Coordinator position range from \$62,021 to \$99,149 to a pay range of \$41,018 to \$65,573 when the position becomes vacant. Second was made by Bob Eddingfield. Gerald Shanks stated that if a Fire authority is put into place that this will decrease administrative positions. Gerald Shanks stated that he did not want this position to show available should a Fire Authority take place. Matt Robertson stated that at this time we are not sure if a Fire Authority will ever take place, therefore a decision can be made at a later time. **Motion** carried 3-2. Dick Dobbin, Matt Robertson, Ken Bishop voted aye. Bob Eddingfield and Gerald Shanks voted nay.
- H. Approval of Fire Fighting Testing Company-** Chief Doerksen reviewed the Fire Fighting Testing process that is currently being used by other Districts. Matt Robertson review information that he was aware of when Clarkdale used this company for their hiring process. **Motion** was made by Bob Eddingfield to approve National Testing Network to provide physical and written testing for Verde Valley Fire District. Second was made by Ken Bishop. **Motion** carried unanimously.
- K. Approve Purchase of Emergency Vehicle- Motion** was made by Ken Bishop to approve the purchase of a 3/4 ton, crew cab 4x4 pickup with the emergency light, wiring and graphics package from Sands Business Central for the state bid price of \$41,907.16. Second was made by Bob Eddingfield. Matt Robertson stated that he would like to know what vehicle is going to be replaced and have more time allowed in the future to review information provided when purchasing vehicles. **Motion** carried unanimously.
- I. Fire Chief's Annual Performance Evaluation and Compensation Plan - Executive Session – The Verde Valley Fire District Board may vote to go into Executive Session on Agenda Item J Pursuant to A.R.S. 38-431.03.A.(1)**
- J. Fire Chief's Annual Performance Evaluation and Compensation Plan- Motion** was made by Bob Eddingfield to postpone item I and item J until after the investigation committee findings and it is brought back before the entire Board. Second was made by Ken Bishop. Bob Eddingfield stated that in lieu of information that he and Matt Robertson are finding during this process, he would like to postpone these items. Matt Robertson stated that the findings from the committee will not alter his evaluation of Chief Doerksen since the evaluation is based on his past performance. **Motion** carried unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT: 1:20 PM

BOARD CLERK: _____ DATE: _____