

**Black Canyon Fire District  
Regular Board Meeting  
February 26<sup>th</sup> 2015  
Minutes**

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Board Chair J . Coslett-Muirhead called the Fire Board Meeting to order on Thursday, February 26, 2014, at 6:01 p.m. at the Fire District Administration Office, 35050 S. Old Black Canyon Highway, Black Canyon City, Arizona.

**II. ROLL CALL OF BOARD MEMBERS / AFFIRMATION OF QUORUM**

Members Present: Board Chairman Jeri Coslett-Muirhead, Board Clerk Diana Kenson, Board Member Dan Brett, Board Member William (Bill) Davis,  
Members Absent: Board Member Jim Spear

*Board Chair affirms quorum is present.*

Administrative Staff Present: Chief Birch and Elaine Caldwell.

**III. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA: Led by Richard Carter**

**IV. CALL TO THE PUBLIC**

There was no response to the Call to the Public

**V. MINUTES**

A. Discussion & Possible Action - Regular Board Meeting – January 29th, 2015

**Board Member W. Davis motions to approve the minutes of the January 29th, Regular Board meeting, D. Kenson seconds the motion.**

After discussion and learning of a duplicated title in front of her name by J. Coslett-Muirhead, [remove Board Clerk title] **W. Davis amends motion to approve as corrected, D. Kenson seconds the motion**

Vote conducted to Approve. **MOTIONED CARRIED.**

AYES: Coslett-Muirhead, Kenson, Brett, and Davis

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: none.

**VII. FINANCIAL SUMMARY AND REPORTS**

A. Monthly Financial Current Events Summary

**VIII. CONSENT AGENDA**

A. Approval of the January 2015 Monthly Financial Report:

The Board reviewed the January 2015 Monthly Financial Report.

B. Approval of the January 2015 Ambulance Bookkeeping and Insurance Billing Report

The Board reviewed the January 2015 Ambulance Bookkeeping and Insurance Billing report.

**D. Kenson motions to approve Consent Agenda A. & B; / D. Brett seconds the motion.**

*Public Comment: None*

Vote conducted. **MOTIONED CARRIED.**

AYES: Coslett-Muirhead, Kenson, Brett, and Davis

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None

**IX. CURRENT EVENTS SUMMARIES, REPORTS, AND/OR CORRESPONDENCE**

(Current Event Summaries are regarding activities of the Fire District and the status and progress relating thereto.)

**A. Fire Chief Report and Current Events Summary for January 2015**

Chief discussed Current Events as outlined in Chief's report within Board Packet. Added comments include:

- 39 calls for service during the month of January 2015
- M. Enteman has submitted a Volunteer Fire Assistance (VFA) grant through the Arizona State Land Department for \$4635. These funds would be used to replace Wildland firefighting protective gear that has reached or exceeded its 10 year life expectancy. This is a 50/50 cost share grant.
- Chief Birch has submitted a grant for \$27,000 to purchase the necessary infrastructure needed to improve the department's radio system. This is a no-match grant through the Arizona Department of Homeland Security.
- Capt. Johnson has submitted a grant proposal for \$45,000 to the Governor's Office of Highway Safety to purchase extrication equipment. This is a no-match grant as well.
- High Desert Helpers advised their sign project is on hold.
- **AZ Fire Service Bill Tracking Report has been included in Packet - Chief highly suggests reviewing as there are many Bills that are not showing positive for Fire Districts.**
  - One specifically shot down with impacts to Fire Districts was the one that could allow an override because of the 5% cap but, it was shot down. **Dave Hamilton** [Daisy Mountain Fire] shared about legislative issues.

*Public Comment: Public comment/input is welcomed after each agenda item of New and Unfinished Business; Individual comments are limited to three minutes per individual and must pertain to the specific agenda item.*

*Public Comment: None*

**New Business:**

**A. Discussion & Possible Action re: Preliminary Fiscal Year 2015/2016 Budget Workshop.**

Chief / Elaine offered a preliminary budget workshop including handouts of an overhead presentation identifying the volatility of the Five Year Forecast, including the closure of Sedona Dispatch in the next couple of months. Chief Birch reviewed the last 11 years of the district's budget and how the recession affected the property values, which in turn affected the net assessed value and the District's tax based revenue. Chief explained that the District would have been able to ride out the decrease in revenue that occurred with the recession; as the economy recovered and property values recovered the District also would have recovered, but the legislature stepped in and made changes.

One of the changes is a five percent (5 %) cap that has been place on the amount that the District can levy taxes. In other words if the assessed value increases 7.5%, the district can only recoup 5 %. Over the last 5 years property values have dropped, which affected the district's tax revenue with a cumulative decrease of

more than 62% (one year we had a decrease of 32%). With the "cap" in place it will take the District 12 plus years to get back to the 2009/2010 level and only if the assessed property values increase 5 % annually.

Another major blow to the District's revenue is Prop 117. Prop 117 was on the November 2012 general election ballot as a legislatively-referred constitutional amendment limiting the annual growth in the limited property value of locally assessed properties. The proposition passed and becomes effective for us July 1st 2015. Now our tax levy is based on the Limited Cash Value not the Full Cash Value; without prop 117 the district would have received a 3% increase in tax revenue, but now that it is based on the Limited Cash Value the District will see another decrease of 4%.

Chief advised that the Capital Reserve account had \$726,208.37 at the beginning of this fiscal year. This year the district transferred \$59,000.00 for the Transwestern re-payment to the General Fund and he is estimating that we will also need to transfer an additional \$112,215.00 to the General Fund to assist with this Fiscal Year's operation. As seen in the five year forecast, the need to use the funds in the Capital Reserve account will deplete it by fiscal year 18/19. Beginning in Fiscal Year 19/20 the District will not have enough revenue to operate at the current level service.

Chief will be looking at alternatives for moving forward. Chief will be looking to the Board for direction at the March regular Board Meeting, after they have had a chance to absorb all of the information. He encourages everyone to take strong looks into these documents.

## No unfinished business

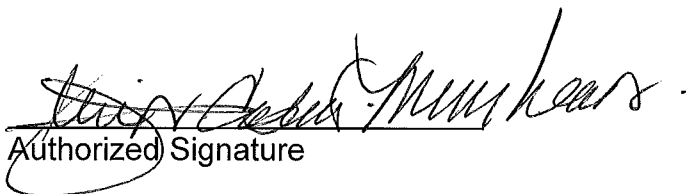
## ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:45 P.M. (D. Kenson / D. Brett)

### NEXT SCHEDULED BOARD MEETING

**Thursday March 26th, 2015**

Regular Board Meeting

  
Authorized Signature

  
Date

The complete packet of information from the Board meetings or portions thereof is available from the Administrative Office upon completion of a Public Records Request.

*The Fire District Administrative Office is accessible to the handicapped. In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), those with special needs, such as large-type face print or other reasonable accommodations may request these through the Fire District of Black Canyon City Administrative Offices (623-374-5512) at least twenty-four hours before the meeting.*

*"Black Canyon Fire Department is an  
Equal opportunity employer and provider."*