

Minutes
Special Session
FIRE BOARD MEETING
Thursday September 04, 2014

(Agenda items may have been taken out of order at the discretion of the Chairman.)

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chair S. McMahon called the Fire Board Meeting to order on Thursday, September 04th, 2014, at 6:02 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 Chair Sharon McMahon, Board Clerk Jeri Coslett-Muirhead, Board Members Diana Kenson, Jack Artrip, and William Davis

Members Absent: None

Board Chair McMahon affirms quorum is present.

Administrative Staff Present: Chief Birch; Elaine Caldwell

III. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

IV. CALL TO THE PUBLIC

Skipped No public present

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.*

New Business:

A. Discussion & Possible Action re: Amending adopted budget for Fiscal Year 2014/2015 pursuant to Arizona Revised Statute 48-805.02.E

Bill Davis motions to discuss amending the adopted budget for Fiscal Year 2014/2015; Diana Kenson seconds the motion; vote taken and passed unanimously. Discussion: J. Coslett-Muirhead stated she believes the need to amend the budget is largely due to the Transwestern pipeline law suit and turning the bond payment over to the taxpayers. Chief Birch stated that is correct; but other line items have been adjusted. Expense line items affected; Line Item 101 – Admin Retirement increased by \$7756.00; due to changes in the law and how our Part-Time Fire-fighters now qualify for State retirement. Line Item 101 Volunteer Pay Per Call increased by \$6987.00 – the final pay will come from this fiscal year. Line Item 206 General Insurance increased by \$545.00. Line Item 401 Building Loan Payment decreased by \$51,180.00. Revenue line items affected; Secured Taxes line item decreased by \$13,543.00. FDAT decreased by \$2126.00. Carryover decreased by \$17,282.00. S. McMahon stated that she was not at the July 2014 regular Board Meeting and that she is not in favour of burdening the tax payers with the building loan payment, she believes that government entities always look to the taxpayer to pick up the tab; she also believes that the district is renegeing on the taxpayers with regards to the Bond, the Bond was collateral for the building loan and the taxpayer is the co-signer. S. McMahon also does not understand how \$50,000 will make or break the District. Chief Birch stated that using the

bond or not using the bond is not the only solution; at the next Regular Board meeting Chief Nichols from Daisy Mountain Fire Dept will be here to discuss an idea that he has. The Board needs to hear all ideas and scenarios to assist this District with its financial stability. Chief stated that if we do not use the bond – in two years the district will not have enough funds to staff the department as we do now. There is no room to lose personnel; volunteerism is down significantly in today's society. As a whole the District Board will need to take care of tomorrow. S. McMahon stated that she believes that she was elected to take care of tax payer's money. Chief Birch stated that this is a tough decision and that the thought process of the Board when they voted to turn the bond over to the tax payers - was for one year only; to, see how our finances are and have some breathing room to decide where the district goes from here. S. McMahon stated that this is where she gets confused; she believed that is what the board was doing when it approved the budget with the district paying the building loan. She believed the Board was waiting to see what the Brush Truck was going to do for us. Bill Davis stated that the well is pretty much dry and where will the district get the money to continue. B. Davis stated the truck has not gone out and that the Bond payment needs to be approved every year and if the funds are not needed then you do not use the bond. S. McMahon stated that once you tap into that well, it will be hard to plug it; she believes that it is human nature. J. Coslett-Muirhead stated that there is an old adage Hope for the best, plan for the worst, and take what comes and right now the Board needs to plan for the worse. J. Coslett-Muirhead stated that all of the Board Members are tax payers and that none of the Board Members want to pay more taxes and that they are not happy about this but, the brush truck has not gone out yet. J. Artrip stated that at the meeting this budget was approved, initially he voted against it, but after much discussion he realized that there wasn't much that could be done and to use the bond for one year to figure where we are headed. J. Artrip believes that next year we should have an increase in property tax revenue; we won't have the Transwestern payment. J. Artrip stated that when he joined the Board, he has been amazed and surprised at how much it costs to run the Fire District, he stated he did not realize. J. Artrip and S. McMahon both stated that Chief Birch and E. Caldwell has done a great job balancing the funds. J. Artrip stated he did not know how the Fire Department was going to provide the service the town has gotten accustomed to without the taxpayer's paying. S. McMahon stated that could be a huge weight on people with fixed incomes. All Board members agree. Chief Birch stated that if it were not for the crew that we have and the great attitude they bring, we would not be able to do this. The crew is not complaining that they haven't received raises – they understand. J. Coslett-Muirhead stated that she has talked to several tax payers in town and that the consensus is that they are angry at Transwestern, not the fire department or the school district. S. McMahon stated that ADOR and Yavapai County Board of supervisors should hold the majority of the blame; due to the way they set up there taxing regulations and Yavapai County should have realized that this could happen after the Qwest issue. D. Kenson stated that what would hurt this town more than anything is to lose this Fire Department. S. McMahon states that there are alternatives and unless something changes drastically we are facing that anyway, unfortunately.

- B. Discussion & Possible Action re: Approving a Mass Public notification regarding the Bond payment. **D. Kenson motions to approve the flier, B. Davis seconds the motions;** Open discussion regarding how, who, what and when. Chief Birch stated that the USPS has a new program, *Every Door Direct*, which is cheaper for those who do not do a lot of mass mailing; the program is user friendly. D. Kenson stated that she has used it before and that it is a good program.

Vote conducted. **MOTIONED CARRIED.**

AYES: McMahon, Kenson, Artrip, Coslett-Muirhead, Davis

NAYS: None

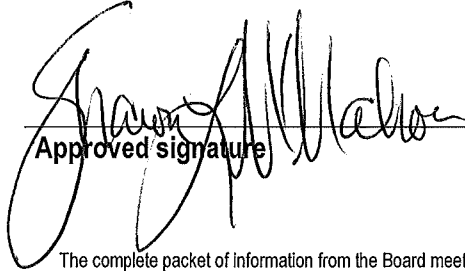
ABSTAIN: None

Board Member D. Kenson motions to adjourn the meeting; Board Member J. Artrip seconds the motion; Motion Carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 6:45 P.M.

NEXT SCHEDULED Regular BOARD MEETING

September 25th, 2014

Regular Board Meeting


Approved signature

9/25/2014
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."*