

Minutes
Regular Session
FIRE BOARD MEETING
Thursday September 25, 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 25, 2014, at 6:00 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

There was no response to the Call to the Public

V. MINUTES

A. Discussion & Possible Action – August 28th Regular Board Meeting minutes and September 04 & 11th Special Board Meeting minutes.

Board Member D. Kenson motions to approve the minutes from August and September Board meetings, J. Artrip seconds the motion.

Vote conducted. **MOTIONED CARRIED.**

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

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: none

VI. FINANCIAL SUMMARY AND REPORTS

A. Monthly Financial Current Events Summary

None

VII. CONSENT AGENDA

A. Approval of the August 2014 Monthly Financial Report:

The Board reviewed the August 2014 Monthly Financial Report; which is attached to the official Fire Board meeting packet.

B. Approval of the August 2014 Ambulance Bookkeeping and Insurance Billing Report

The Board reviewed the August 2014 Ambulance Bookkeeping and Insurance Billing Report; which is attached to the official Fire Board meeting packet.

Diana Kenson motions to approve the Consent Agenda Items A and B; J. Artrip seconds the motion.

Public Comment: None

Vote conducted. **MOTIONED CARRIED.**

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

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None

VIII. 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 September 2014

Chief Birch reviewed his September 2014 Chiefs Report which is attached to the official Fire Board meeting packet.

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: Intergovernmental Agreement for Purchasing between Central Yavapai Fire District and Black Canyon Fire District.

Chief Birch stated that we have an IGA with Greater Yavapai Purchasing Consortium (GYPC) which is going away and Central Yavapai is taking over. Chief Birch stated that everything stays the same, but just under "new management". **Board Clerk J. Coslett-Muirhead motions to approve the IGA with Central Yavapai Fire District; Board Member J. Artrip seconds the motion,**

Vote conducted. **MOTIONED CARRIED.**

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

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None

Public Comment: None.

B. Discussion on the Districts future and information on potential options for moving forward. Chief Birch stated that we all know that because of the down turn of the economy that the District's revenue has decreased by a minimum of 62%. A new law has been passed that requires Fire Districts to look at possible financial options including a merger with another fire district if it appears that a Fire District will not be financially stable within two years. Chief stated that although we are not at that point, if the tax revenue continues to decline or does not increase significantly, this District will be in financial trouble. Chief Birch stated he would like to start looking at possible options now while the District has time to research and not in dire straits, and if the finances do take a turn for the worse then we are ready. Sitting, waiting and hoping for the best is not being proactive for the department. Chief Birch stated that he has had a few meetings with Chief Nichols from Daisy Mountain Fire Dept. and that from the beginning of these meetings Chief Nichols has been positive, understanding and willing to help. Chief

Birch stated that he has had a few meetings with the Chiefs from Mayer, Daisy and Sun City fire depts., looking at viable options for these fire departments including JPA (Joint Power of Authority). The discussions are in the infancy; but worth looking at as a possible solution.

Chief Birch introduced Chief Mark Nichols to the Fire District Board. Chief Nichols thanked the board for their time. Chief Nichols stated that do to new legislation and possible upcoming legislation acquiring more funding will be difficult. JPA's are common in California and school districts. The primary benefits from a JPA would be sharing resources and having greater buying power; such as employee health insurance, equipment, uniform, etc. Chief Nichols stated he did not have all of the answers, just some ideas he believes that are worth exploring. He believes that in the beginning each fire district board would be responsible to their community and one member of the board become part of a Board to work collectively with the other involved Fire Districts. This is not a process that would happen overnight; maybe start small with a few IGA's to see how we all work together at as a group. If it works then start moving to work together on a larger scale. Chief Nichols stated that as of January first they will be debt free. Chief Nichols stated that history shows that the economy takes a dip every 5 – 7 years; and that if the financial hit is 20% by law he can only recoup 5% - that is a large hit. He believes that there is protection in numbers. How the JPA would look and work would be up to the Board that is not a Fire Chiefs decision.

Board Clerk J. Coslett-Muirhead asked Chief Nichols if he has researched the JPA's in California and how are they working. Chief Nichols stated yes several Departments merged in Orange County after Orange County Fire Department went bankrupt and they are doing well, they have been functioning for 15 years.

Board Chair McMahon asked Chief Nichols if there is going to be future meetings. Chief Nichols replied that yes he had a meeting with Sun City Fire today and they are looking at having meetings with firefighter's labor groups, looking for concerns and how they can be addressed.

Chief Nichols stated that if the Boards were interested in this it will take a minimum of 2 years to make it happen. Board Chair McMahon stated that they are far from this decision and this is baby steps, and the District is exploring options.

Chief Nichols mentioned the various fears such as color of fire apparatus, name on back of shirt, etc. New York is a great example of many fire departments/districts working together. They have fire chiefs for each entity and one fire commissioner that oversees it all. Maybe our group can rotate Fire Chief's, every two years, to oversee it all, or hire a business manager since this is a business decision.

Chief Nichols stated that he has met with Sun City Fire, he is meeting with us tonight, and will be meeting with Mayer Fire on Tuesday, and right now it is looking favorably with the Boards.

Board Clerk J. Coslett-Muirhead asked Chief Nichols if she understood what is being said. She understands that this would initially start out as a JPA and if it works well then look at a possible merger between all involved. Chief Nichols stated yes that the group can start with IGA's and if that works then move to a JPA and if that works then a merger is a possible goal, but the Boards will need to make that decision.

Chief Nichols stated that right now Black Canyon has an IGA in place for P.M.'s and small vehicle repairs with Daisy Mountain's mechanics. The Para medicine is about to ramp up. Chief Nichols stated that this is a program that insurance companies are looking into to cut insurance cost. He stated that basically the Fire Department would work with patients on a preventative basis. Making sure the patient is taking their medication, checking BP's, etc. Another avenue is doing post care after they have been released from the hospital; again checking in on the patient making sure they are taking medications checking BP's, checking weight gain, etc. It will be cheaper to pay the fire department for pre and post monitoring than to pay for another ambulance transport and hospital stay. At this time the numbers are unknown, and Daisy Mountain is looking at doing a pilot program to come up with Hard Numbers. A JPA will make us more desirable for grants.

Board Member D. Kenson stated that it is worth looking into and having more information. Board Member J. Artrip states there is positivity such as lower healthcare costs, he is interested in obtaining more information; Board Clerk J. Coslett-Muirhead would like to continue pursuing the information and a more definitive information regarding what the districts would be interested in combining, she also stated that the insurance companies are having very good financial results with the Para medicine programs. Board member B. Davis stated that he is interested in the Para Medicine program, since a lot of our elderly fall between the cracks and do not have family nearby; B. Davis also stated that he wants to be proactive with regards to the District's finances and not wait until the District is behind the eight ball.

Board Chair S. McMahon asked the rest of the Board members if their consensus is that Chief Birch continues to pursue the information and bring it back to the Board; they all agreed.

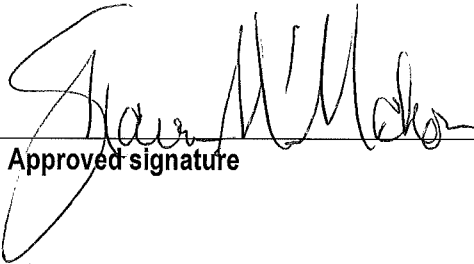
The Board all thanked Chief Nichols for his time.

Board Member J. Artrip motions to adjourn the meeting; Board Clerk J. Coslett-Muirhead seconds the motion; Motion Carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 6:53 P.M.

NEXT SCHEDULED Regular BOARD MEETING

October 30th, 2014

Regular Board Meeting


Approved signature

Date 11/19/2014

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."