

MINUTES

AVRA VALLEY FIRE DISTRICT

REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Meeting Date: Thursday, April 25, 2024
Meeting Time: 4:30 PM
Location: 21021 E. Homestead Drive, Red Rock, AZ 85145

MEMBERS OF THE AVRA VALLEY FIRE DISTRICT WILL ATTEND EITHER IN PERSON OR BY TELEPHONE CONFERENCE CALL

The Avra Valley Fire District Governing Board may vote to go into Executive Session on any agenda item pursuant to A.R.S. section 38-431.03 (A) (3) for consultation and legal advice with the attorney for the District. Pursuant to A.R.S. section 38-431.03, executive sessions are confidential.

- 1) **Call to Order** Chairman Castaneda called the meeting to order at 4:34 PM.
- 2) **Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America**
- 3) **Roll Call and Confirmation of a Quorum**

Chairman Castaneda	Chief Delfs
Vice-Chairman Armendarez, present by phone	Assistant Chief Klein
Clerk Bren, absent/excused	Lorrie Palmquist
Director Neilson	Counsel Wencker, absent/excused
Director Goss	Captain Ricky Gillmore
- 4) **Recognition of Personnel** NONE
- 5) **Call To The Public** NONE
- 6) **Announcements, Current Events & Correspondence**
 - **Save the Date:** AFDA Summer Conference July 16-18, 2024 Glendale, AZ
- 7) **Review, Discussion and possible Action regarding the adoption of the *Minutes* from the regular meeting held on March 19, 2024.**

Director Goss motioned to adopt the *Minutes* from the regular meeting held on March 19, 2024.
Director Neilson seconded. ***Motion carried unanimously, 4:0.***
- 8) **Chief's Report**

The Fire Chief may update the Board on items of interest relating to but not limited to the following: Response times, vehicles, facilities, labor relations, personnel, finance, grants, communications and/or training. Alternatively, the Fire Chief may provide written comments in the Board Member's packets or by email. The Board Members may ask clarifying questions and they may direct the Chief to place items on future agendas for further discussion or action.

The Chief highlighted the following items from his report:

- The District has successfully applied for and already received the State allowed ambulance transport rate increase of 1.7%.
- We received a congratulatory letter along with a strong credit rating from Standard & Poor.
- The bond sale did go through successfully. We will be receiving \$1,200,000 in bond funds which we are planning to utilize for the purchase of a Type 1 Engine, a Type 6 Engine, as well as an ambulance. Our Fleet Manager is beginning to price the new engines.
- We have already deployed to 2 wildland incidents this Spring, and just received the call for another incident this afternoon.
- Per the Counties, there will be a burn ban implemented May 1 through September 30.

9) **Review, Discussion and possible Action to approve the March 2024 Financial Reports and authorize the Chairman and Clerk to sign the Certificate of Review.**

Director Goss motioned to approve the March 2024 financial reports and authorize the Chairman and Clerk to sign the *Certificate of Review*. Director Neilson seconded. **Motion carried unanimously, 4:0.**

10) **Review, Discussion and possible Action to consider the employee compensation plan**

Chief Delfs provided written documentation for the Board members to review and discuss. He commented that the District has recently suffered from retaining personnel. This plan makes some bold adjustments to our current payscale in order to get the District in a position to compensate employees commensurate with other districts in Southern Arizona. We are also recommending this same payscale for Three Points Fire District. This plan reflects a 2.5% adjustment for all Chiefs, and approximately a 20% adjustment for the suppression staff as of July 1, 2024. The budget plan will reflect an annual 2.5% increase thereafter. We have run the numbers within the 5-year budget shell, and the new payscale fits safely within desired parameters for the bottom line. Brief discussion ensued. Chairman Castaneda called for a roll call vote:

- Chairman Castaneda: Aye
- Vice-Chairman Armendarez: Aye
- Director Goss: Aye
- Director Neilson: Aye
- Director Bren: Absent/excused

Motion carried unanimously, 4:0. Captain Gillmore addressed the Board to express thanks on behalf of the suppression personnel, commenting that this is a monumental day for Avra Valley Fire and our employees.

11) **Review, Discussion and possible Action to consider the adoption of the updated Standards of Response Coverage for the Avra Valley Fire District**

Chief Delfs explained that the SORC presented includes the same standards, but with current run times. Director Goss motioned to adopt the updated *Standards of Response Coverage* for the Avra Valley Fire District. Director Neilson seconded. **Motion carried unanimously, 4:0.**

12) **Reports of Board Members and Staff**

Board members had nothing to report. Captain Gillmore expressed thanks to the Board for their immense support of the firefighters.

- 13) **Future Agenda Items** **May 23: Adopt Proposed FY25 Budget**
- June 25: Public Hearing**
- June 25: Adopt FINAL FY25 Budget**

- 14) **Date of Next Board Meeting** **May 23, 2024**

15) **Adjournment**

Director Goss motioned to adjourn the meeting. Director Neilson seconded. **Motion carried unanimously, 4:0.** Meeting adjourned at 5:02 PM.

SIGNED

DATE

Board Members

Luis Castaneda, Jr. Thomas Armendarez Cody Bren Eric Neilson Michelle Stark-Goss

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